



CALIFORNIA
VIRTUAL ACADEMIESSM

2360 Shasta Way
Suite A
Simi Valley, CA 93065
Phone 805.581.0202
Fax 805.581.0330
www.caliva.org

December 15, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the families who have chosen to enroll their children in the California Virtual Academy at Kern, we are appalled and we strongly oppose the California Charter School Association (CCSA) advocating for the closure of our public charter school. CCSA developed a flawed metric to judge our charter school's academic success without any input from the academic experts here at our school. CCSA's metric does not include important factors that our parents care about such as school safety, curriculum, and our focus on individualized learning. In addition, we are proud that parent satisfaction at our school is very high which is a true indicator of our school's success.

The metrics used by CCSA unfairly punishes CAVA at Kern, who has a high student mobility rate and who, unlike most California public schools, serve students Kindergarten through 12th grade. The California Department of Education understands this and granted us a waiver this year due to our high student mobility. Our administration pointed out these flaws to CCSA after the release of this accountability scheme and they admitted that their metrics were flawed, however, they decided to tarnish our school with their rush to judgment. The same scheme CCSA is promoting today was rejected by the legislature and the California Department of Education earlier this year. CCSA is supposed to support charter schools, instead they have launched an unfair and flawed attack which unjustly affected our school.

We at CAVA at Kern believe schools should be judged locally by their sponsoring districts, based on their missions and charter school petitions. Schools throughout California serve different student populations and demographics and they need to be looked at on an individual basis. In addition, as an organization, CCSA should be offering assistance and help to schools that are in need of academic support; not advocating for their closure.

We, the board of the California Virtual Academy at Kern, demand that CCSA cease attacking member schools with their flawed and unfair accountability scheme.

Sincerely,

Mici Orona, Board Member