

Once again a campaign of misinformation is being waged in Los Angeles about charter public schools, and CCSA's efforts to engage in open educational outreach and advocacy on behalf of charter schools and their communities.

The California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) has no position on unionization of charter schools in general. However, UTLA has a long history of opposing charter schools in general and even Alliance schools in particular. The Alliance is one of the highest performing group of charter schools in the State, and is also a leader in teacher compensation, professional development, and maintaining an open, collaborative working environment. Therefore, we are perplexed and concerned about UTLA's efforts targeting the Alliance, and are skeptical of their claims to now desire collaboration.

We are particularly concerned about ensuring that the community likely to be impacted by the organizing effort has access to information to ensure that they understand all the facts surrounding unionization as well as UTLA's long history of being opposed to charter schools and supporting board members who routinely vote against charter related matters. Recently, UTLA went so far as to delete several dozen documents and posts from their website that clearly articulated their opposition to charter schools. And we understand that UTLA has engaged aggressively with parents as well as other members of the Alliance community.

CCSA has independently hired less than ten alumni (former students over the age of 18 who ascribe their success to

their former Alliance teachers and schools, no current students) to share information with the Alliance community about UTLA's well documented opposition to charter public schools. Anne Lee works for CCSA. There is no such thing as secret emails or leaked documents. CCSA openly and publicly advertised for these positions thru a variety of mechanisms online, via email and in the community. The outreach is to the public, including the parents and the community, and not the teachers who are weighing their options. No one is asking parents or students to pressure teachers into any decision. No one is asking anyone to keep this information or the calls secret. We contacted Alliance to ensure that our information was accurate about the Alliance so as to not misrepresent the Alliance. CCSA routinely provides legally vetted information, conducts outreach and provides advocacy to schools and their communities on matters that impact charter public schools. In doing so, CCSA works and engages with charter school students, alumni, parents/families, teachers, leaders, board members, supporters, funders, community and business leaders, elected officials and the general public.

Any third-party or separate organization can participate in an informational effort to ensure that members of a community have accurate information about charter public schools, their students' academic performance, an organizing entity's position on charters, and the potential impact of an organizing effort on the school, its students, their families and the community.

Clearly those opposed to charter schools do not want this open dialogue about how the schools are serving students

and their communities and about their own well documented position on charters.