

Dear Board Member Barrera:

We thank you for meeting with representatives of Project YANO and the San Diego Chicano/Latino Concilio on Higher Education, respectively, on May 10, to discuss the evidence that the San Diego City Schools district is “auto-enrolling” students into JROTC courses. Such auto-enrollment of students in JROTC is a violation of the State of California’s Education Code, Section 51750.

We would like to summarize the discussion and conclusions from our May 10 meeting, also attended by three district staff, including the superintendent’s chief of staff. We believe there was a consensus among all present that auto-enrolling students in JROTC does indeed violate the state’s education code. There was also a consensus that the district should not endorse or allow a practice in which students enroll in JROTC because their school lacks the resources to serve all students that need physical education courses.

We also had an extensive discussion of what constitutes student and parent “consent” that enables students to enroll in JROTC. It is our contention that the district schools currently utilize a form that does not constitute authentic consent for students and parents. The district staff expressed their belief that the district should be using one, viable consent form for all schools that have a JROTC course.

Board member Barrera agreed to work with other school board members to introduce a resolution that supports the five recommendations of Project YANO and the SD Concilio:

- Initiate a districtwide review of current practices employed when enrolling students in military science courses.
- Adopt a school board policy that clearly states there shall be no enrollment of students in such courses without first obtaining fully informed consent from the student and a parent or guardian.
- Immediately initiate a protocol, including a standard consent form, that provides students and parents with the information that is necessary to elicit fully informed consent for JROTC enrollment.
- By the second month of every school year, publicly report current JROTC enrollment data broken down by school and grade level.
- Immediately cease the practice of automatically placing students in JROTC as an alternative to physical education.

The Project Yano staff provided attendees with copies of a sample district resolution that can be utilized for this purpose along with a sample consent form designed to fully inform students and parents of their rights regarding JROTC enrollment. The district staff agreed to review the

suggested consent form, adding that the district's legal staff would also need to vet the form. Board member Barrera acknowledged the complexities of implementing the requested policies and practices if our suggested resolution is adopted.

Our representatives also noted that, based on data given by the district to the New York Times, there appear to be two schools that require removal of their JROTC units at the end of this school year because they have failed for two years to meet federally mandated minimum enrollment levels ([10 U.S. Code, section 2031\(b\)\(1\)](#)).

Please let us know if any of our conclusions are erroneous. We thank you again for your engagement with this critical issue and we look forward to its timely resolution.

Sincerely,

Rick Jahnkow, Board Member  
Project YANO

Alberto Ochoa  
SD Concilio

Patrick Velasquez, Co-Chair  
SD Concilio