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**CHARTER SCHOOL LAW GAME CHANGER**  
*Orange County Board of Education Approves Forward Thinking Policy*

**COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA (February 8, 2023)** - The Orange County Board of Education, represented by San Francisco attorney Gregory J. Rolén with Haight Brown & Bonesteel LLP, effectively changed charter school law for years to come. The Board approved the Forward Thinking Policy, authored by Gregory J. Rolén, which provides a roadmap for authorizers and levels the playing field for charter petitioners.

“The Forward Thinking Policy specifies that the Board expects authorizers to comply with the letter and spirit of AB 1505,” said Ricardo Soto, Chief Advocacy Officer and General Counsel, California Charter Schools Association (CCSA). “The policy is evenhanded and is the right thing to do. Because of the policy, thousands more students and families will have access to additional high quality public school options in their communities.”

Orange County Board Policy 400-12 was amended to specifically define terms which had otherwise been left undefined by the California State Board of Education. 400-12 defines “community,” “fiscal impact,” “substantially undermine,” and “duplicate” to reflect current realities and reflect the spirit of AB 1505.

“When determining fiscal impact, the positive impacts a charter school may bring to the community should be considered, as well as the potential financial savings it may bring to local school districts,” said Dr. Lisa Sparks, President, Orange County Board of Education. “The Orange County policy rejects a ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach to charter appeals and renewals.”

“The policy memorializes Board expectations for authorizers and petitioners alike,” said Tim Shaw, Board Trustee, Orange County Board of Education. “Our Board recognizes that charter schools are measured by educational outcomes, community impact, and the choices they can provide to families. We are proud to be in the vanguard of the school choice movement.”

Since attorney Greg J. Rolen assumed responsibilities as General Counsel to the Board, the Orange County Board of Education has been a statewide leader in offering families additional instructional options, parent rights at schools, and fiscal accountability.

“Greg J. Rolen provides strategic, ethical, and sage counsel,” said Mari Barke, Former President, Orange County Board of Education. “We could not have made these strides without him.”

**About Haight Brown & Bonesteel LLP:** From civil litigation to business transactions, Haight Brown & Bonesteel LLP provides practical and effective resolution advice to the most perplexing disputes, ranging from early mediation to complete preparation and trial. Since 1937, we have been recognized as a leading law firm in California. We provide services through more than 75 lawyers practicing in the cities of Los Angeles, Orange County, Sacramento, San Diego and San Francisco. For more information: <https://www.hbblaw.com/>

**About the California Charter Schools Association:** The vision of the California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) is to build great public schools of joy and rigor that prepare all California students for success in college, career, community, and life. The mission of CCSA is to meet parent, educator, and community need for great public school options by supporting and advocating for high quality non-profit charter schools and sharing their success throughout California’s public schools. [Learn more.](#)

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