

OPTIONS FOR YOUTH/OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

The Hermosa Beach City School District has been asked to be the chartering agency for two programs: Options for Youth and Opportunities for Learning. These are two charter schools whose primary focus is on helping high school drop-outs to either re-enter high school or to obtain a high school diploma from the charter school. I would refer you to their website www.ofy.org for more information regarding their program.

Why does a school district have to act as the chartering agency?

Under state law all charter schools must be approved by either a school district, a county office or the California State Board of Education. In this process the requesting school has to submit a comprehensive plan to the chartering agency which has to be approved in order for the charter school to become active. The charter is renewable every five (5) years. This particular charter has been approved by several school districts but they would like to begin serving students in the Greater South Bay Region and feel that it would be better if they were chartered by a local school district.

What does it mean to become the charter approving agency?

OFY/OFL assumes responsibility for the operation of their program. This means they find the facilities, hire the staff, design the curriculum, perform the business support functions and generally operate the program. As the oversight district our responsibility is to insure that OFY/OFL operates in a legal manner using sound business practices. We will do this by using acceptable monitoring practices.

Why should Hermosa Beach City School District do this?

Even though Hermosa Beach does not directly operate any high schools, the high school drop out problem is a state wide and national issue. This is our opportunity as a community to make a contribution to the resolution of this problem and I know we all would like to be of help.

In addition Hermosa Beach City School District will receive a 1% oversight fee (based on OFY/OFL generated revenues) to act as the Local Educational Agency (LEA) for the chartering operation. This amounts to \$197,000 for Baldwin Park Unified and \$92,000 for the William S. Hart High School District. Although we will not know how this will impact the Hermosa Beach school budget, as they have to start up the program in this area, we do know we are constantly looking for additional income sources that can be utilized to support the educational programs of our schools.

Will Hermosa Beach be impacted?

No. OFY/OFL generate their own outcome information, e.g. they have their own API scores. They are also responsible for all their own business operations.

Why was Hermosa Beach asked to be the LEA?

I have known the leadership of OFY/OFL personally for over 25 years and have a great deal of trust in their integrity. Hermosa Beach was asked because of that long standing relationship and their knowledge that their efforts at drop out retrieval could also help Hermosa Beach financially.