

California State Senate

COMMITTEES

EDUCATION
VICE CHAIR

APPROPRIATIONS

LABOR & INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS

VETERAN AFFAIRS

SACRAMENTO OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4017
FAX (916) 445-4662

ANTELOPE VALLEY OFFICE
848 W. LANCASTER BLVD., SUITE 101
LANCASTER, CA 93534
TEL (661) 729-6232
FAX (661) 729-1683

VICTOR VALLEY OFFICE
14343 CIVIC DRIVE, FIRST FLOOR
VICTORVILLE, CA 92392
TEL (760) 843-8414
FAX (760) 843-8348

SANTA CLARITA OFFICE
23920 VALENCIA BLVD., SUITE 250
SANTA CLARITA, CA 91355
TEL (661) 286-1471
TEL (661) 286-1472
FAX (661) 286-2543



SENATOR SHARON RUNNER
SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

September 26, 2012

Saugus Union School District
Board of Trustees
Ms. Rose Koscielny, President
24930 Avenue Stanford
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

RE: ALBERT EINSTEIN ACADEMY – SAUGUS: CHARTER APPLICATION

• SUPPORT •

Dear President Koscielny & Board Members:

I am pleased to write a letter of support for the Albert Einstein Academy for Letters, Arts & Sciences. Scheduled to open next fall for the 2013-14 school year, the Einstein Academy will offer both academic and extracurricular programs for approximately 530 students in grades K through 6. This newest Einstein Academy will be located in Saugus and will be run by the Albert Einstein Academy for Letters Arts & Sciences Foundation and overseen by the Saugus Union School District.

After reviewing their application, reading background on their current operations, and speaking to members of the management team, I am confident that the Foundation is fully capable of and committed to promoting and maintaining its high academic standards and excellent fiscal practices at Einstein Academy-Saugus. Indeed, it is clear from multiple sources including the Foundation's track record of academic, operational, and fiscal excellence at Einstein Academy-Hart, overwhelming parental support for the proposed K-6 campus, and the 1000 students on the waitlist that Einstein Academy-Saugus would be another exceptional, high quality public school in the Santa Clarita Valley.

As both Vice-Chair of the Senate Education Committee and co-founder of Desert Christian Schools in Lancaster, I am impressed with the proposed charter school's vision to serve all student populations including students with special needs and English learners. I am also impressed by their commitment to preparing all students for success in subsequent academic environments and to developing foreign language proficiency. The school will actively recruit a diverse population of students in order to represent the ethnic and social diversity of the Saugus Union School District.

As you are well aware, all charter school petitions must address 16 requirements as set forth under California Charter School Law, in addition to proving fiscal solvency. While there has been some opposition, I believe the Foundation has fulfilled its duty to provide a comprehensive description of each of the 16 requirements. As such, I am hopeful the petition will be approved by the Board, thereby allowing the Einstein Academy to operate in the district.

I fully support the Albert Einstein Academy for Letters, Arts & Sciences petition to become an independent K-6 charter school. I applaud their efforts and urge the Saugus Union School District Board of Trustees to consider their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Runner".

Sharon Runner
Senator, 17th District