

Board of Education: Paul Lo, President; Darrell Cherf, Clerk; Dennis Jordan; Gene Stamm; Betsy Williams
Superintendent: Alan Rasmussen, Ed.D.

August 31, 2004

California Performance Review Commission
Office of the Governor - Constituent Affairs
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Commissioners:

This is to express my support for maintaining the positions of elected county superintendents of schools and county boards of education. I believe that transferring the authority of the superintendent and the board to a regional office would reduce the effectiveness of the County Office of Education in providing programs, services and support for education and youth in Merced County.

Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) functions include services to the most needy children i.e., students in court and community schools and students with disabilities. Other programs serving unique populations and needs include regional occupational programs, migrant education, environmental education, independent study and a charter school.

MCOE also works as a partner with the education community, preschool through university, as well as with local government, public service agencies, business, workforce development organizations, and parents to promote the education and welfare of youth in Merced County.

Both fiscal and academic accountability are critical functions of MCOE. District budget oversight is comprehensive. Teacher credentialing and training, administrator training and instructional resources are provided to districts.

Eliminating local elected officials, who provide direction and oversight of MCOE activities, would reduce the effectiveness, responsiveness and accountability of those functions. It is my opinion that the CPR recommendation to regionalize K-12 education be rejected.

Sincerely,



Alan Rasmussen, Ed.D.
District Superintendent