

I am Joe Watkins, the Vice President of External Relations for Point Loma Nazarene University and a board member of Charter School of San Diego. Having had the opportunity to frequently teach courses in the university's School of Business, I have come to appreciate the reality that students learn in a variety of ways and that traditional programs can exclude significant numbers of students from having opportunities for educational success. One of the reasons I invest my time with the Charter School of San Diego is that I have personally seen how The Charter School of San Diego and its alternative approach to instruction creates access for students who have, for a variety of reasons, become critically disengaged from their comprehensive school setting and have fallen behind academically. For this reason it is important that educational options that offer a variety of instructional delivery models be readily available to all students.

Due to the community's commitment to providing educational facilities for student success via Prop Z and the need for innovation and creativity to meet the needs of all students, the Prop Z committee has the opportunity to embrace expanded access and student success by adopting a funding model that supports the broadest number of students possible. To limit funding to certain types of instructional design will hamper educational achievement for students who have not found success in traditional classroom based environments but who are experiencing academic achievement in an innovative learning environment. This is why I strongly urge the Prop Z committee to embrace the power of innovative instructional designs and adopt a funding model that does not penalize instructional models that move beyond traditional classroom based designs.

Creating funding guidelines that move schools and districts to create a portfolio of schools with a broad diversity of school types and that focus on student outcomes makes it possible for the community to recognize that their educational leaders are seeking to serve the greatest number of students and families possible.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the San Diego community, our students and schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Watkins, Ph.D.
VP for External Relations
Point Loma Nazarene University