



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

DAVID LONG, Ph.D.
SECRETARY

State of California

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

1121 L STREET, SUITE 600
SACRAMENTO 95814

TELEPHONE
(916) 323-0611
FAX
(916) 323-7132

September 16, 2008

Dear Superintendent:

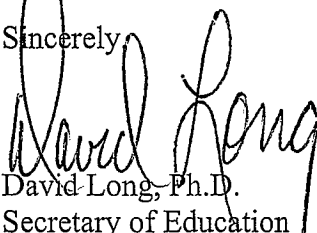
I am writing to inform you, if you are not already aware, that Governor Schwarzenegger has launched a new Web site to help parents make informed decisions about the education of their children. Governor Schwarzenegger launched the California School Finder Web site (www.schoolfinder.ca.gov) in July of this year, honoring his promise to California's parents and students to make school data more accessible. The School Finder Web site allows parents to easily find and compare California public schools side-by-side using data such as graduation rates, Academic Performance Index (API) scores, as well as information on student support services and advanced placement courses, all in a one-stop, easy-to-navigate format.

The School Finder Web site streamlines current data collected and housed with the California Department of Education (CDE). The data represented on the Web site is reported directly from school districts to CDE. This data is then uploaded and reformatted by the School Finder Web site for easy access. The site provides information on public schools throughout California, from elementary to high school. In addition to traditional schools, the site also includes alternative, adult education, and charter schools.

In an effort to increase awareness of the School Finder Web site I would like to ask you to please provide a link from your County Office of Education Web site to the School Finder site. I would also like to ask that you encourage your school districts and schools to also provide a link to the School Finder site on their individual Web sites, to the extent that they are available.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kearsten Shepherd, Director of Communications at 916.327.1088, or via email at kshepherd@ose.ca.gov. Questions and comments can also be submitted directly through the School Finder Web site by using the "contact us" email function. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,



David Long, Ph.D.
Secretary of Education