

**OUSD
LIES**

*We need to right-size
our district...*

*...by closing more
public schools in Oakland...*

*...because of declining
enrollment...*

...and a budget deficit.

*"I stand by the work of the
Blueprint for Quality Schools
and Citywide Plan because I
know that equity and the
success of ALL of our students
were at the forefront of every
decision made."*

-OUSD Superintendent, Oct 2019

FACTS

Since 2004, **OUSD has closed 19 schools, and converted 14 of them into charter schools**, which are privately operated with public funds. Now, OUSD management is executing more rounds of school closures, under what they call the "Blueprint for Quality Schools" and the "Citywide Plan". Our schools have class sizes that are way too large to properly serve our kids, not enough teachers and staff, and not enough student support. We need more, not less space!

Enrollment has been increasing for years and is expected to continue to increase. Both OUSD and third-party research have confirmed that **closing schools does not save money**. The financial excuse for school closures is a lie. The district ended 5 of the last 6 years with a significant budget surplus. And state funding to the District has increased by 46% since 2013.

OUSD does have a big financial problem: the budgeting priorities of its upper management. OUSD has exhibited egregious fiscal mismanagement for many years. **The District spent about \$95 million more on non-classroom costs** than the median among 37 Bay Area districts (2017-18). Charter schools in Oakland are causing a waste of \$57 million a year in funding. If that wasn't enough, the added cost to public schools of serving the high-needs students that charters regularly avoid runs up to \$51 million a year (2016-17).

The real agenda of the current OUSD Board is not to create quality schools or support our kids, but to hand our public education to the corporations and billionaires who funded their election campaigns. **They are turning public education into a business for profit.**

These are not simply school closures – this is privatization.