



**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION**

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Superintendent of Schools

**FRANCES GIPSON, Ph.D.**  
Chief Academic Officer  
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**JOSÉ COLE-GUTIÉRREZ**  
Director, Charter Schools Division

**NOTICE TO CURE**  
**IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED**

June 26, 2018

**Distributed Via:**  
Email & U.S. Mail  
**RESPONSE DUE: July 3, 2018**

North Valley Military Institute  
12105 Allegheny Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352  
Attention: Dr. Mark Ryan, Superintendent and Lambert West, Board Chair

**SUBJECT: CHARGING PUPIL FEES FOR SUMMER SCHOOL**  
Charter Number: 0540 Location Code: 8106

Dear North Valley Military Institute and Governing Board Chair Lambert:

This letter serves as the Charter Schools Division's (CSD) Notice to Cure regarding charging pupil fees for summer school.

According to California *Education Code (EC)* Section 49011 subdivision (a) a pupil enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity. "Educational activity" is defined as an activity offered by a school, school district, charter school or county office of education that constitutes an integral fundamental part of elementary and secondary education, including, but not limited to, curricular and extracurricular activities.

Based on the North Valley Military Institute (NVMI) Summer School Information Roster (SSIR), "students who failed one or two classes must attend summer school every day from 8am to 12noon from June 4 through July 27." Additionally, "if students failed three or more middle school classes or one or more high school classes [they] must attend summer school every day from 8am to 12noon from June 4 through July 6 and then all day from 8am to 4pm from July 9 through July 27." Moreover, NVMI is charging pupil fees for summer school and "it costs \$50 per middle school class and \$100 per high school class." (Novamil.org, Summer School Information Roster, p. 7).

Although the SSIR does state that students are "welcome to enroll in any free ACCREDITED summer school program elsewhere" it is clear that NVMI is charging pupil fees for students to take compulsory courses, in order to earn credit, as part of students' public education. Furthermore, the SSIR asserts that "middle schoolers who failed multiple classes have been assigned to [a] special ROBOTICS program that will meet from 8am to 4pm Monday through

Friday from June 11 through July 13. Students must attend ALL TWO HUNDRED HOURS of the robotics course to make up failing grades.” (Novamil.org, Summer School Information Roster, p. 7). There is a charge for this class as well and “costs \$150.” (p.7). The CSD is concerned with this requirement because robotics programs are not readily available, especially during the summer. This requirement may pressure parents to take the robotics class at NVMI because they have no other choice, thus paying for compulsory education.

Finally, the SSIR states that students can “choose to work for the cost of summer school instead of paying cash. Students can earn \$5 per hour and parent can earn \$10 per hour for their service.” (Novamil.org, Summer School Information Roster, p. 7). Please note that work for tuition arrangements are not an appropriate alternative.

Based on the above information, the CSD is asking that NVMI either:

- 1) Refer students to other free and appropriate programs that fulfill the necessary requirements for students to make up the failing classes or;
- 2) Provide all summer school classes free of charge.

Please respond to this Notice with an explanation of how NVMI will proceed to rectify this situation.

Thank you for your timely attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Aida Tatirossian  
Specialist, CSD

cc: José Cole Gutiérrez, Director CSD  
Robert Perry, Administrative Coordinator, CSD  
René Cardona, Senior Coordinator, CSD  
James Robinson, Fiscal Administrator, CSD  
Lillian Lee, Fiscal Oversight Administrator, CSD  
Belinda Chan, Fiscal Services Manager, CSD  
Debra Duardo, Superintendent of Schools, LACOE  
Dina Wilson, Director, LACOE