



Santa Ana Unified School District

Stefanie P. Phillips, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

June 26, 2017

Carrie L. Carmody
Foreperson
Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Ms. Carmody,

I am writing to you in response to your letter dated May 5, 2017 regarding the Orange County Grand Jury report, *Ouch!-Now That Didn't Hurt: The Implementation of the Vaccination Bill SB277 in Orange County Schools*. The required responses to each finding and recommendation are listed below.

Grand Jury Findings on Impact of SB277 on school districts and District responses:

F.1 The impact of SB 277 on school districts in Orange County was minimal. Districts were prepared and staffed with well trained personnel. ***Santa Ana Unified agrees with the finding.***

F.2 There were very few problems that arose with the medical exemptions for vaccinations. Health clerks and school nurses were able to handle any discrepancies. ***Santa Ana Unified agrees with the finding.***

F.3 Personal Belief exemptions that were grandfathered in are professionally tracked with timely notifications to parents as to when the vaccinations are due to be completed. ***Santa Ana Unified agrees with the finding.***

F.4 Orange County school districts made every effort to make vaccination information available using social media, direct mailings, and links on school websites to clinics in the area. ***Santa Ana Unified agrees with the finding.***

F. 5 School nurses, LVN's and health clerks directly notified parents of students with vaccination lapses and those requiring boosters for pre-K, kindergarten and 7th grade well in advance of the due dates. ***Santa Ana Unified agrees with the finding.***

Grand Jury Recommendation:

R.1 School districts should continue to track students with grandfathered personal belief exemptions to ensure these students have the required vaccinations before they reach the next reporting levels.

1601 East Chestnut Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92701-6322 (714) 558-5501

BOARD OF EDUCATION

John Palacio, President • Valerie Amezcua, Vice President
Cecilia "Ceci" Iglesias, Clerk • Alfonso Alvarez, Ed.D., Member • Rigo Rodriguez, Ph.D., Member

District Response:

Recommendation has been implemented with the following action steps:

1. Parents of incoming Kinder students are notified of immunization requirements, including the effect of SB277 on personal belief exemptions, during Kindergarten enrollment (typically in March) prior to fall entry.
2. Parents of 6th grade students with grandfathered Personal Beliefs exemptions are notified at the beginning of the school year regarding the 7th grade checkpoint and the need to have all required immunizations prior to entering 7th grade the following year.
3. Parents of all 6th grade students are notified at the beginning of the school year regarding the required Tdap immunization upon entering 7th grade the following year.
4. Front office staff, LVN's, and School Nurses follow up with the parents at regular intervals to ensure adequate compliance with SB277 and provide assistance for access to medical providers throughout the school year.

Grand Jury Recommendation:

R.2 Districts should continue to monitor student vaccination percentages to maintain the threshold defined by the CDPH.

District Response:

Recommendation has been implemented with the following action steps:

1. Student vaccination status is monitored monthly by School Nurses to ensure maintenance of vaccination percentage threshold and to provide follow up for any students who were admitted on a conditional basis.
2. District-wide vaccination status is monitored yearly when the annual Immunization Assessment Report is completed for the California Department of Public Health.

Thank you for your outreach on the status of vaccinations for school-aged students. Please contact the Superintendent's Office at 714-558-5512 if you have additional questions or wish further discussion on this topic.

Sincerely,



Doreen Lohnes

Assistant Superintendent
Special Education/SELPA