



Orange Unified School District

1401 N Handy Street Orange, CA 92867

Student and Community Services

Our Students. Our Community. Our Best Every Day.

Ed Howard, Executive Director



May 23, 2018

Honorable Charles Margines, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

RE: Orange County Grand Jury report, Safer Schools – What Can We Do

700 Civic Center Drive West

Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Margines,

The Orange Unified School District (OUSD) has reviewed the 2017 - 2018 Orange County Grand Jury report, Safer Schools – What Can We Do? Believing that student safety is our top priority, we have prepared responses to both the findings and recommendations presented in this report in compliance with Penal Code 933.05 (a) and (b).

Grand Jury Findings with Orange Unified School District Responses

Finding 1: School safety and security are priorities in every school in the Orange County public school system.

The Orange Unified School District agrees that school safety and security are a priority and we employ a multi-department approach to keeping our schools and students safe and secure. The OUSD Student and Community Services department supports school sites with resources, trainings and serves as a liaison to law enforcement and first responders. Psychological Services department supports school sites with resources, trainings and additional personnel to not only work to prevent a situation but also supports in recovery if a situation were to take place. Information Technology department supports school sites with resources, trainings and expertise when dealing with social media and the impact that plays on school safety and cyber security. Maintenance and Operations division supports school sites by keeping our current facilities safe for students and community and as we renovate our schools, student safety is always a top consideration.

Finding 9: While every Orange County school develops a school safety plan, few schools have used an individual school security assessment to identify deficiencies or to develop the required plan.

The Orange Unified School District agrees that every school has a school safety plan and not all have been assessed by independent agencies to identify deficiencies or to develop the required plan. All Orange Unified Schools use a template for their school safety plan that has been reviewed by local law enforcement and we are in the process of having all of our schools walked and plans reviewed by local law enforcement threat assessment teams.

Grand Jury Recommendations with Orange Unified School District Responses


Recommendation 1: School districts should explore all possible funding resources that may be available in order to implement desired security measures.

The Orange Unified School District has implemented the recommendation and will continue to explore all possible funding resources as it has done in the past and is committed to spend current resources in addressing student safety and security. Examples include the installation this summer of security cameras at all of our middle and high schools. We have also invested in currently revising our district's emergency operation plan by employing a safety, security, and emergency management consultant to help us sure up our plans and procedures.

Recommendation 9: School Districts should evaluate requiring each school to perform a school security assessment to evaluate their current school safety plan.

The Orange Unified School District has implemented the recommendation by engaging our local law enforcement agencies and Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center to review and evaluate their school safety plan. We have also employed a private safety, security, and emergency management consultant to review and evaluate our District safety plan.

Sincerely,



Ed Howard
Executive Director
Student and Community Services

cc: Alexia Deligianni-Brydges, Ed.D
President of the OUSD Board of Education

Gunn Marie Hansen, Ph.D.
OUSD Superintendent of Schools

Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701