



A Great Place to Learn!

**ANAHEIM  
CITY  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT**

INTERIM  
SUPERINTENDENT  
Christopher King, Ph.D.

^

BOARD OF  
EDUCATION  
Sandy Blumberg  
Jeff Cole  
Dr. José F. Moreno  
Susan Preus  
James Vanderbilt

1001 S. East Street  
Anaheim, CA 92805-5749

^

Phone: 714-517-7500  
Fax: 714-517-8538

^

[www.acsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.acsd.k12.ca.us)

Date: August 20, 2012

The Honorable Thomas J. Borris  
Presiding Judge  
Orange County Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Anaheim City School District's Response to 2011-12 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Anti-Bullying Programs in Orange County Schools"

To the Honorable Thomas J. Borris:

The Orange County Grand Jury has requested that the Anaheim City School District (ACSD) respond to Findings 1-4 and Recommendations 1-3, 6-7 in the 2011-12 Orange County Grand Jury Report entitled, "Anti-Bullying Programs in Orange County Schools." Please find our responses below:

**Finding 1: Not all Orange County schools use the same technology, procedures and codes to record bullying or harassment incidents.**

**Response to Finding 1:** ACSD agrees with this finding. Each District within Orange County may use different student data information systems and procedures to track and document bullying or harassment incidents. Regardless of the system used to record bullying or harassment, all incidents prior to July 1, 2012, should have been coded under Education Code section 48900(r). With the implementation of AB 1156, Education Code section 48900(r) provides a common definition of the term "bullying" and therefore enables districts to accurately and consistently identify and document incidences of bullying. Consequently, data across districts will be more easily compared.

**Finding 2: New legislation takes effect July 1, 2012, and broadens the definition of "Bullying."**

**Response to Finding 2:** The Anaheim City School District agrees that AB 1156 provides a broader and more specific definition of "bullying" than was provided in previous legislation.

**Finding 3: Education Code section 234.1 requiring posting of anti-bullying/anti-harassment policies in prescribed areas was not evident in all schools visited.**

**Response to Finding 3:** The Anaheim City School District disagrees with this finding as it relates to our district. Prior to July 1, 2012, all ACSD schools consistently posted anti-discrimination/anti-harassment policies in required areas. In response to the implementation of Education Code 234.1, all ACSD schools had anti-bullying/harassment

policies posted in all school offices in English and Spanish, all classrooms, staff lounges and pupil government meeting rooms by July 1, 2012.

**Finding 4: Based on witness testimony, confidentiality was not maintained in a bullying incident as prescribed in California Education Code section 234.1**

**Response to Finding 4:** Though the Grand Jury did find that confidentiality was breached regarding a bullying incident in an unidentified school district, The Anaheim City School District regularly provides training to all administrators regarding investigation of harassment and all disciplinary incidents as well as the importance of maintaining confidentiality of students involved. The most recent training was held August 14, 2012. Awareness and prevention of bullying is a priority for all schools. Each school will receive on-going training and support to fully implement the new bullying policy.

**Recommendation 1: Recommend a county-wide compatible information system for reporting incidents of bullying be explored by all school districts.**

**Response to Recommendation 1:** Should the OCDE spearhead a conversation among districts regarding the feasibility of transitioning to a county-wide compatible information system, The Anaheim City School District will certainly participate in that discussion. As a cost saving measure, perhaps an investigation into how we can use our current data systems to accurately report incidents of bullying and gather data across districts would be preferable.

The Anaheim City School District currently uses the AERIES student data system to document and track incidents of bullying and harassment. Investigations are documented by site administrators, and by the District Complaint Officer when an allegation is brought to the district level.

**Recommendation 2: Recommend all county-wide schools agree upon the same definition of bullying.**

**Response to Recommendation 2:** The Anaheim City School District is required by law to apply the definition of "bullying" contained in Education Code section 48900(r) in suspending and expelling students. The District has also committed to using this definition of "bullying" for investigating and tracking complaints of bullying that are sustained.

**Recommendation 3: Each district review standardized procedures to protect a bully, victim and bystanders' confidentiality as stated in Education Code section 234.1**

**Response to Recommendation 3:** The Anaheim City School District implemented this recommendation on July 16, 2012 by assigning each employee of the district an online video course requiring the review of Board Policy 5131.2 and the accompanying Administrative Regulations. The AR states, in part, "The Principal/Coordinator shall keep the complaint and allegations confidential except as necessary to carry out the investigation or take other subsequent action." Additionally, all school site administrators were trained in July and August 2012 by the District Coordinator regarding investigation of allegations and the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Site Administrators were then directed to train their entire school staff and student population and provide documentation that the training occurred. A review of the bullying policy, confidential investigative techniques, prevention strategies and intervention resources will take place a minimum of once per trimester.

**Recommendation 6: Recommend each district explore the development of a county-wide standard information system for recording incidents of bullying.**

**Response to Recommendation 6:** Should a county-wide system of reporting incidents of bullying be explored, The Anaheim City School District will participate in the planning process. Currently, ACSD utilizes

the AERIES student data system to document and track incidents of bullying and harassment. Investigations and resolutions are documented by site administrators, and by the District Complaint Officer when an allegation is brought to the district level.

**Recommendation 7: All schools post anti-bullying/anti-harassment policy in offices, staff lounges and student government meeting areas as prescribed in Education Code section 234.1**

**Response to Recommendation 7:** The District has implemented this recommendation as of July 1, 2012. Each school was provided posters for each classroom, office, staff lounge and student government meeting room. All site administrators were provided an electronic file for their use to replace posters when needed due to damage.

If you have any further questions or need additional information, please contact Leslie Angotti, Director of Pupil Services at (714) 517-7526.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christopher King". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "K".

Dr. Christopher King  
Interim Superintendent