



A Great Place to Learn!

ANAHEIM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT

Orange County Public Schools: Are They Prepared For Emergencies?

RESPONSE SUMMARY FROM THE ANAHEIM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

In accordance with California Penal Code section 933.05, a response is required from the Anaheim City School District to Findings 1-7 and Recommendations 1-5.

Finding 1:

With respect to reported constraints on emergency planning and preparation, over half of schools and almost three quarters of districts identified either limited time or funds.

The Anaheim City School District agrees with this finding. Reduced funding resulting in fewer personnel and resources creates barriers to moving forward with emergency management planning in a more effective manner.

Finding 2:

Six of 17 school districts have managed to apply for and receive relatively large grants from governmental agencies to greatly enhance their emergency planning efforts, while others have not.

The Anaheim City School District agrees that school districts should seek grant funding. The existing federal grant program will be phasing out in 2012 and other grant programs will need to be identified.

Finding 3:

Some schools anticipate responding to only a few emergency situations (e.g., earthquake and fire), while others have developed plans to respond to over a dozen different threatening situations.

The Anaheim City School District agrees with this finding. Our school district has developed information for the following emergency situations:

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Auto wreck or airplane crash | Homicide or Attempted Homicide |
| Armed Student | Hostage Situation |
| Bomb Threat | Intruders on Campus |
| Fire or Explosion | Kidnapping/Child Stealing/Lost Children |
| Flood or Heavy Rains | Lockdown Procedures |
| Gang Fight/Riot/Neighborhood Incident | Shooting |
| Hazardous Material Spill | Suicide/Death of Student or Staff |

Finding 4:

School districts develop plans with respect to a number of different but overlapping regulations and standards, including those required by the county, state, and the federal government.

The Anaheim City School District agrees with this finding. School districts have developed school safety plans under the Education Code. School districts are also required to comply with state and federal emergency management standards, Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS). Efforts should be made to make these requirements consistent with each other.

Finding 5:

Some schools reported they have not adequately anticipated the needs of students taking prescription medications, or with specialized medical needs, in the event of some emergencies, such as an extended lockdown.

The Anaheim City School District agrees that this issue should be addressed. The Anaheim City School District is focusing on how to meet all students' needs during an emergency. Currently procedures are in place to secure all student medications and individualized care plans for special needs students when students are evacuated and during lockdowns.

Finding 6:

School districts are in communication with a variety of local and county departments, agencies, and systems to help them prepare for and respond to disasters or emergencies; not all districts access the same resources.

The Anaheim City School District agrees that different districts may access different resources. It is our understanding that different districts communicate in a variety of ways with first responders, local agencies, and other agencies to support matters of emergency management.

Finding 7:

Few schools have plans or emergency preparation information available in languages other than English.

The Anaheim City School District has prepared emergency information in Spanish for our parents and community members.

Recommendation 1:

Those districts which have yet to identify disaster grant opportunities, especially from governmental agencies, investigate the availability of potential resources. Forming inter-district collaboratives, learning from districts in the county that have been successful, pooling resources, and asking for consultation from the Orange County Superintendent of Schools/OCDE may help in these efforts.

The Anaheim City School District has not received grants for emergency preparedness. In the future, our district intends to implement Recommendation 1 by identifying disaster grant opportunities and investigating the availability of potential resources.

Recommendation 2:

Districts review their plans, and the plans specific to each of their campuses, with respect to emergencies or possible disaster situations they have not anticipated.

Each of our school sites has a written safe school plan drafted and submitted by March 1st of each year. The plan is reviewed each year by staff, parents and our Board of Education and is updated annually.

Recommendation 3:

Districts review their level of compliance with various existing codes, regulations, and liability insurance issues that pertain to emergency preparedness in public schools.

The Anaheim City School District has implemented this recommendation by developing a school safety plan for each of its schools and working with federal, state and local emergency management agencies. The school district has sufficient liability insurance with respect to emergency preparedness.

Recommendation 4:

Districts review their plans, and the plans specific to each of their campuses, to ascertain whether the special medical and/or prescription medication needs of all students are adequately anticipated, especially during an extended disaster situation.

The Anaheim City School District is currently reviewing its plans with respect to the special medical and prescription medication needs of all students and is developing a plan to meet these needs, in the event of an emergency.

Recommendation 5:

Districts survey their campuses with respect to the needs of non- or limited-English-speaking parents and guardians, and develop outlines or summaries of critical emergency planning information in Spanish, Vietnamese, and other threshold languages prevalent in their local communities.

The Anaheim City School District surveys parents regarding their correspondence language. Our district publishes emergency procedures in school newsletters in Spanish to meet the community's needs.

Respectfully Submitted,



Leslie Angotti
Director, Pupil Services