



A Great Place to Learn!

**ANAHEIM
CITY
SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

SUPERINTENDENT
José L. Banda

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**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**
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November 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached please find the Anaheim City School District's revised report to the Orange County Grand Jury regarding public school readiness for emergencies.

Sincerely,

Leslie Angotti
Director of Pupil Services



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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:

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. Each school in ACSD has developed a Safe School Plans as Education Code requires.

- Annual training is provided to assist schools in updating their plan and communicating it to the school community.
- Quarterly Safety Committee meetings are held at each school site to review safety concerns regarding emergency preparedness and potential hazardous conditions on campus. The Safety Committee members are comprised of administrators, classified staff, teachers and parents. Reports from these meetings are sent to the district office for review.
- Our District Safety Committee works collaboratively with the County of Orange Emergency Management Organization to ensure procedures are in place to handle any type of emergency and that we are connected with county agencies for assistance.

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. Lockdown or Intruder situations present a special set of circumstances as students and medications may be locked down in separate areas. We are currently collaborating with nursing staff and Anaheim Police Department to ensure that police escorts are provided for students with serious medical needs such as insulin dependent diabetics.

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. ACSD works closely with the Anaheim Police Department, Anaheim Fire Authority and Orange County Emergency Management Organization to ensure that our emergency procedures are well implemented in accordance with best practices.

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. Should populations of additional languages increase we are prepared to offer additional translations for our community.

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. We are currently working with OCDE to provide training for emergency teams to ensure that all staff has updated and current training in how to respond to emergency situations so that our students and staff have the support they will need in an emergency situation. We work closely with the Orange County Emergency Management Organization and CERT personnel to ensure that ACSD is prepared for emergency situations.

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. Training for administrators will take place in December to ensure that updates of the Safe School Plan are in accordance with the law.
- Additionally, each school site has a District Crisis Response Resource Manual that serves as a guide to developing their site emergency plans. District-wide training is provided for administrators, who then train their site personnel. Currently, all sites and district office buildings are reviewing and strengthening their emergency plans, as directed by our Superintendent and district safety officer. Plans were reviewed by the district in October and are to be reviewed again in February to ensure that areas of identified improvement are addressed and rectified.
- Additional training for each emergency team (First Aid, Search & Locate, Damage Assessment, Emergency Operations Center, Support, Student Release, and Student Supervision) will be provided in January 2012 to ensure that each school site and district office building has well trained teams in place for possible emergency situations.
- Each school site and district building is required to have one fire drill per month and at least one earthquake or lockdown drill each quarter.
- The District Emergency Preparedness Team is currently updating lockdown procedures in response to identified areas of change as a result of recent lockdowns at school sites due to police activity.
- A district-wide computerized system has been developed to facilitate quick accountability of students and staff in a lockdown situation. Each classroom teacher, all administrators, classified staff and district office employees have been trained to use this system to report all persons in their presence during a lockdown. Persons not accounted for will be reported to first responders. This system enables us to give valuable information to police in an emergency situation.

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. All medication and specialized health care plans are evacuated with students for earthquake situations. District nurses ensure that students have a minimum of a one week supply of medication at the school site for an extended disaster situation.

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

ANAHEIM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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