

# BUENA PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

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L. Carole Jensen, Clerk/President Pro Tem

Brian Chambers, Member

Helen Lee, Member

Patsy Marshall, Member

July 14, 2011

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

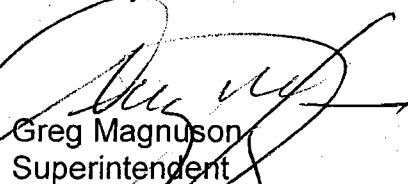
Re: "Orange County Public Schools: Are They Prepared for Emergencies" Response

Dear Judge Borris:

As requested, attached is Buena Park School District's response to the above Grand Jury Report.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Greg Magnuson  
Superintendent

cc: Orange County Grand Jury

attach.

## ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT

### ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: ARE THEY PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES?

#### RESPONSE SUMMARY FROM THE BUENA PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

In accordance with California Penal Code section 933.05, a response is required from the Buena Park 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 Buena Park School District agrees with this finding.

##### **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 Buena Park School District agrees with this finding.

##### **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 Buena Park School District agrees with this finding.

##### **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 Buena Park School District agrees with this finding.

#### **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 Buena Park School District agrees with this finding.

#### **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 Buena Park School District agrees with this finding.

#### **Finding 7:**

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

The Buena Park School District agrees with this finding.

#### **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 recommendation has not yet been implemented. District intends to implement Recommendation 1 by identifying disaster grant opportunities and investigating the availability of potential resources as they may become available. This will be an on-going process.

#### **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.**

The recommendation is already implemented. Each of our school sites has a written safe school plan drafted and submitted by March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The plan is reviewed each year and 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 recommendation is already implemented. The Buena Park 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 recommendation has not yet been implemented. The Buena Park 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. We will implement the recommendation in fiscal year 2011-12.

### **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 recommendation has not yet been implemented. Our district has not surveyed campuses with respect to the needs of non or limited English speaking parents and guardians nor have we developed a summary of critical emergency planning information in their native language, but it is our intention to do both in fiscal year 2011-12.