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

Re: 2011 Grand Jury Response


To the Honorable Thomas J. Borris:

In accordance with California Penal Code section 933.05, the Orange County Grand Jury has requested that the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) respond to findings 2 and 4 and Recommendations 1 and 3 in the Grand Jury Report entitled, "Orange County Public Schools: Are They Prepared for Emergencies?"

With respect to Finding 2, OCDE will assist and encourage school districts to apply for grants to enhance their emergency planning effort. With respect to Finding 4, OCDE agrees with these findings and will assist school districts in developing 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 Systems (NIMS). Efforts should be made to make these requirements consistent with each other.

With respect to Recommendation 1, OCDE will assist districts in obtaining grants for emergency preparedness. With respect to Recommendation 3, OCDE will assist school districts in implementing this recommendation by assisting school districts with the development of school safety plans from each of their schools in conjunction with federal, state and local emergency management agencies.

Respectfully,

  
Lynn April Hartline  
Deputy Superintendent

LAH:pd