



La Habra City School District

500 North Walnut, La Habra, California 90631-3769

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October 3, 2011

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

Dear Judge Borris,

The following is our response to the 2010-11 Orange County Grand Jury report, "**Orange County Public Schools: Are They Prepared for Emergencies?**" I have attached the section of the report containing the narrative for the Findings and Recommendations.

Findings:

F1: Agree

F2: Agree

F3: Agree

F4: Agree

F5: Agree

Recommendations

R1: The recommendation has been implemented. The La Habra City School District works collaboratively with our local City Fire and Police Departments. We have a designated Administrator who works with the City Disaster Preparedness Coordinator to stay current on all NIMS/SIMS and other relevant disaster training. We coordinate with our local Police and Fire in preparing our Disaster plan and have participated in city wide simulation drills. We also work collaboratively to secure funding and support.

R2: District and site emergency preparedness plans are reviewed annually.

R3: We work with our local Police and Fire as stated in R1. We also follow the guidance of the Orange County Department of Education as well as our local risk management insurance provider to ensure that we are in compliance with various codes and regulations.

R4: We have individual health plans for all students with special medical conditions or who require medication. We also require parents/guardians provide sufficient medication so that we always have medication for an additional two days.

R5: We provide all communication in both English and Spanish which are the primary languages in the La Habra City School District.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Belenardo".

Susan Belenardo, Ed.D.
Superintendent

✓ **Cc:** Orange County Grand Jury
Enc.: Findings and Recommendations

FINDINGS

F1: 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.

F2: 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.

F3: 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.

F4: 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.

F5: 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.

F6: 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.

F7: Few schools have plans or emergency preparation information available in languages other than English.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on its study of emergency preparedness in Orange County public schools, the 2010-2011 Orange County Grand Jury makes the following recommendations. (See following section for Requirements and Instructions.)

R1: 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.

R2: 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.

R3: Districts review their level of compliance with various existing codes, regulations, and liability insurance issues that pertain to emergency preparedness in public schools.

R4: 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.

R5: 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.

REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS:

Comments to the Presiding Judge of Superior Court in compliance with Penal Code Section 933.05 are required as follows:

Responding Agency	Finding	Recommendation
Superintendent of each OC school district (27)	F1 through F7	R1 through R5
Orange Co Superintendent of Schools (OCDE)	F2, F4	R1, R3

The California Penal Code §933(c) requires any public agency which the Grand Jury has reviewed, and about which it has issued a final report, to comment to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the agency. Such comment shall be made *no later than 90 days* after the Grand Jury publishes its report (filed with the Clerk of the Court); except that in the case of a report containing findings and recommendations pertaining to a department or agency headed by an *elected* County official (e.g. District Attorney, Sheriff, etc.), such comment shall be made *within 60 days* to the Presiding Judge with an information copy sent to the Board of Supervisors.

Furthermore, California Penal Code §933.05(a), (b), (c), details, as follows, the manner in which such comment(s) are to be made:

- (a) As to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:
 - (1) The respondent agrees with the finding
 - (2) The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefor.

- (b) As to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:
 - (1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.