



July 26, 2011

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

Your Honor:

Enclosed is the requested response to the recommendations of the 2010-2011 Orange County Grand Jury report, "**Orange County Public Schools: Are They Prepared for Emergencies?**" 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. The following are responses from the Tustin Unified School District.

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.

(1) The respondent agrees with the finding

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.

(1) The respondent agrees with the finding

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.

(1) The respondent agrees with the finding

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 federal government.

(1) The respondent agrees with the finding

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 extended lockdowns.

(1) The respondent agrees with the finding

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.

(1) The respondent agrees with the finding

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

- (1) The respondent agrees with the finding

RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

- (1) The recommendation has been implemented. Tustin Unified researched and received a REMS grant in 2010 and has pooled resources with the Orange County Department of Education.

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.

- (1) The recommendation has been implemented. Tustin Unified regularly reviews plans for each campus with respect to emergencies or possible disasters.

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

- (1) The recommendation has been implemented. Tustin Unified regularly reviews the level of compliance with various existing codes, regulations, and liability insurance issues that pertain to emergency preparedness.

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.

- (1) The recommendation has been implemented. Tustin Unified regularly reviews the special medical and prescription medication needs of all students and adequately anticipated extended disaster situations.

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.

- (1) The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented during the 2011-2012 school year in the languages prevalent in our community.

Sincerely,



Michael Barker, Ed.D.
Director, Secondary Education

c: Gregory A. Franklin, Ed.D., Superintendent
Kathie Nielsen, Chief Academic Officer
Ray Chacon, Coordinator, Student Services