



**PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

1301 E. Orangethorpe Avenue  
Placentia, CA 92870  
www.pylusd.org

Alex Cherniss, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Board of Education  
Marilyn Anderson  
Leandra Blades  
Carrie Buck  
Todd Frazier  
Shawn Youngblood

August 1, 2023

The Honorable Maria D. Hernandez  
Presiding Judge  
Orange County Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District's Response to the 2022-23 Orange County Grand Jury Report on "School Shootings: How Prepared Are Orange County Public Schools?"

To the Honorable Maria D. Hernandez:

In accordance with California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Orange County Grand Jury has requested that the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District respond to findings and recommendations in the 2022-2023 Orange County Grand Jury report entitled: "School Shootings: How Prepared Are Orange County Public Schools?" published on June 14, 2023. Below are the responses of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District.

**Finding 1: Law enforcement, first responders, and other stakeholders have demonstrated a strong interest in working cooperatively with Orange County public schools to mitigate the risk of an active shooter incident; establishment of MOUs between law enforcement and school districts would strengthen this cooperation.**

**Response to Finding 1:**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding.

**Finding 2: All Orange County public schools studied by the Grand Jury stated that they conducted or have scheduled drills within the current school year on emergency procedures addressing intruders on campus, but not all have done so specifically regarding armed assailants.**

**Response to Finding 2:**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding.

**Finding 3: While all districts prioritize the safety of students and staff, the attention and resources devoted to active shooter preparedness and response vary from district to district.**

**Response to Finding 3:**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding.

**Finding 4: Safety and security plans for on-campus before and after-school programs are not adequately addressed by school districts.**

**Response to Finding 4:**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding.

**Finding 5: While many Orange County public schools have installed fences, cameras, and other methods to address the issue of active shooters on a campus, there are still opportunities for improvement.**

**Response to Finding 5:**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding.

**Finding 6: Not all schools utilize a system for monitoring campus visitors.**

**Response to Finding 6:**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding.

**Finding 7: While there is an increased awareness of the benefits of mental health counseling, not all school districts have implemented these programs in all schools.**

**Response to Finding 7:**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding.

**Finding 8: School Resource Officers (SROs) are a valuable asset for school safety, yet many cities/districts do not allocate sufficient funds to hire needed officers.**

**Response to Finding 8:**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding.

**Finding 9: Not all classrooms have window shades, tinted glass, or film to obstruct the interior view from the outside.**

**Response to Finding 9:**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding.

**Finding 10: The camera surveillance systems utilized on many campuses require repairs, replacement, or additions.**

**Response to Finding 10:**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding.

**Finding 11: Many schools do not have perimeter fencing completely enclosing their campus.**

**Response to Finding 11:**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding.

**Finding 12: A number of school districts have school site administrative offices that remain unlocked on a daily basis.**

**Response to Finding 12:**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding.

**Recommendation 1: Each Orange County school district should arrange for local law enforcement to do an annual safety inspection of each school. The written safety checklist should include an audit of the integrity of site boundaries and a review of safety plans and policies. This annual safety audit should commence with the 2023-24 school year by October 1, 2023, and annually thereafter. (F1, F10, F11)**

**Response to Recommendation 1:**

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

This recommendation will be implemented during the 2023-24 school year. Safety plans will be reviewed by law enforcement prior to March 1 for the following school year. School safety walks are conducted on an annual basis by a combination of District staff, school administration and law enforcement personnel.

**Recommendation 2: All Orange County school districts should establish a threat identification and assessment system for all school sites to monitor social media, screen for messages of concern, and manage information received in coordination with local law enforcement using MOUs, if necessary, by July 1, 2024. (F1, F3)**

**Response to Recommendation 2:**

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

School districts are not in a position to monitor social media. Parents are in the best position to monitor what their children are posting and viewing online. Law enforcement personnel do have a mechanism in place to help monitor postings, which indicate homicidal and suicidal threats.

**Recommendation 3: Each Orange County school district, in conjunction with law enforcement, should develop and implement tabletop exercises to be conducted in district schools by December 31, 2023, and annually thereafter. (F2)**

**Response to Recommendation 3:**

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

The District would like to participate in tabletop exercises as they are offered. We look forward to this support and partnership.

**Recommendation 4: Each Orange County school district should work with local law enforcement to plan and conduct a district-wide active shooter drill by July 1, 2024, and at least every other year thereafter. (F2)**

**Response to Recommendation 4:**

The recommendation has been implemented.

An active shooter drill was conducted last August in partnership with the Orange County Sheriff's Department. Schools also conduct a lockdown drill on an annual basis. We look forward to continuing this initiative each year.

**Recommendation 5: All Orange County school districts should develop a casualty care training program for each school in their district, to be in place by the end of the first semester of the 2023-24 school year and provided annually thereafter. (F3)**

**Response to Recommendation 5:**

The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.

This initiative would require further conversation with law enforcement officials to determine what type of response is needed from staff. In an active shooter event, school staff will be focused on evading the potential threat and not on providing medical care to impacted students. We need more analysis in this area to determine what is needed and the scope of training required based on recommendations from law enforcement.

**Recommendation 6: Safety and security plans for on-campus before and after-school programs need to be addressed more thoroughly by school districts, by July 1, 2024. (F4)**

**Response to Recommendation 6:**

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented by the end of the 1st semester of the 2023-24 school year.

**Recommendation 7: Each Orange County school district should obtain and incorporate perimeter camera systems in all district schools by July 1, 2024, or earlier if financially able to do so, and investigate the potential use of cameras that incorporate Artificial Intelligence to enhance threat detection and prevention. (F5, F10)**

**Response to Recommendation 7:**

The recommendation has been implemented.

This recommendation has been partially implemented. All middle and high schools are equipped with a perimeter camera system. There is currently no plan to add a camera system at the elementary school level.

**Recommendation 8: All Orange County school districts should review entry procedures on all campuses with an eye toward the use of perimeter fencing, the use of single point entry, and the use of a buzzer and camera system for entry into the main/administrative offices. (F5, F12)**

**Response to Recommendation 8:**

The recommendation has been implemented.

This recommendation has been partially implemented. Entry procedures have been reviewed on all campuses and a procedure for visitor check in has been established. There is no plan to add a buzzer system for access into the main office.

**Recommendation 9: Each Orange County school district should identify and implement a parent and visitor management system for each school site within the school district. This is to include identified access points, badges, or a similar identification procedure to be implemented by July 1, 2024. (F6, F11, F12)**

**Response to Recommendation 9:**

The recommendation has been implemented.

The District currently uses the Raptor system for parent and visitor management. It has been in place for several years.

**Recommendation 10: Each Orange County school district should implement training for all staff to identify threat-related behaviors and provide a procedure for reporting the behavior by the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. (F7)**

**Response to Recommendation 10:**

The recommendation has been implemented.

Staff are trained on suicide prevention and know to refer threat related concerns to the appropriate staff.

**Recommendation 11: All Orange County school districts should develop a plan to implement or enhance mental health counseling for all schools by December 31, 2024. (F7)**

**Response to Recommendation 11:**

The recommendation has been implemented.

The District has added 25 full-time counselors and wellness specialists to help address the mental health needs of students at every grade level. Starting in the 2023-24 school year, the district plans to contract with Hazel Health to provide telehealth counseling services to students with no out of pocket cost to our families.

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**Recommendation 12: Each Orange County School District should assess the need for SROs or additional SROs, reaching out to appropriate community partners to facilitate funding by July 1, 2024. (F8)**

**Response to Recommendation 12:**

The recommendation has been implemented.

The District currently contracts with the cities of Placentia and Yorba Linda for three full time SROs and plans to add a fourth SRO in the fall of 2023 with the city of Anaheim.

**Recommendation 13: All Orange County school districts should investigate and consider bullet resistant or tinted film covering for school windows by December 31, 2023. (F9)**

**Response to Recommendation 13:**

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

The District investigated and considered this recommendation and is not moving forward with the recommendation at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard McAlindin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard McAlindin  
Assistant Superintendent, Executive Services