



August 16, 2023

The Honorable Maria Hernandez  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive  
Santa Ana, CA. 92701

SUBJECT: 2022-2023 Orange County Grand Jury Inquiry  
Response of Irvine Unified School District

Dear Judge Hernandez,

In a letter dated June 16, 2023, the Orange County Grand Jury sent a copy of a report, entitled, **Russian Roulette: Fentanyl in Orange County**. In this same letter, the OC Grand Jury requires that the Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) provide a response to each of the findings and recommendations of the report that is directed to our office. Below are the responses to Findings 2, 7, 8, 9, and 10, and responses to Recommendations 1, 5, 6 that are required in compliance with *Penal Code* 933.05(a) and (b).

## Findings

### **Finding 2: Illicit fentanyl is a pervasive problem in Orange County.**

The Irvine Unified School District agrees with this finding.

### **Finding 7: Orange County will benefit by establishing a chartered multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis in Orange County.**

The Irvine Unified School District agrees with this finding.

### **Finding 8: As long as there is a demand, producers will find ways to supply drugs. Orange County cannot law enforce its way out of the fentanyl crisis. Education, prevention, and treatment are critical to reducing demand.**

The Irvine Unified School District agrees with this finding.

### **Finding 9: There is a need to increase public awareness and acknowledgement of the risks of illicit fentanyl.**

The Irvine Unified School District agrees with this finding.

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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IUSD . . . providing the highest quality educational experience we can envision.

**Finding 10: Some educational institutions are not participating in available educational and preventive fentanyl/drug programs.**

The Irvine Unified School District disagrees partially with the finding, insofar as there isn't enough knowledge or evidence on what other educational institutions are currently doing, to support the claim based on the information available to our District.

**Recommendations:**

**Recommendation 1: By January 1, 2024, the Orange County Board of Supervisors should charter a multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis.**

The recommendation is not yet implemented. The Irvine Unified School District cannot speak to the status of implementation of the Task Force on behalf of the Orange County Board of Supervisors. However, the District is committed to participate in the Task Force as soon as it is convened.

Currently, the Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) partners with the Irvine Police Department to provide education and training on an annual basis, to district and school site administrators on the risks of fentanyl use, current trends, and proper safety procedures when conducting student searches.

Furthermore, the Orange County Probation department discusses fentanyl use with parents during the Parent/District Attorney truancy meetings. Fentanyl use is also discussed during parent education nights, which are offered periodically throughout the school year, which also address vaping and the use of other controlled substances.

**Recommendation 5: By January 1, 2024, the Orange County Department of Education should develop a model fentanyl/opioid prevention educational program to be offered to all K-12 school districts in Orange County.**

The recommendation is not yet implemented. The Irvine Unified School District cannot speak to the status of a model fentanyl/opioid prevention educational program on behalf of the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE). However, the District is committed to considering an OCDE fentanyl/opioid educational program as soon as it is available.

Although not specific to fentanyl, IUSD is currently implementing and referring identified students/families to the following drug/alcohol prevention and intervention programs: Juvenile Alcohol & Drug Education (JADE) Program, Brief Intervention (BI), and vaping cessation services through the New Lung program.

**Recommendation 6: By October 1, 2023, the Orange County Department of Education should promote the use of currently established and in-place fentanyl and drug-related educational programs offered by OC agencies such as Health Care Agency, OC Sheriff's Department, and non-governmental organizations to all K-12 school districts in Orange County.**

The recommendation is not yet implemented. The Irvine Unified School District cannot speak on behalf of the Orange County Department of Education to promote fentanyl and drug-related educational programs offered by Orange County (OC) agencies.

IUSD and its education partners are currently providing parent and staff education on the dangers and risks associated with fentanyl use. Additionally, IUSD has adopted Board Policy 5141.21: Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions, which allows the storage (and use if needed) of Naloxone (Narcan) in the Health Office at all IUSD schools.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Terry L. Walker".

Terry L. Walker  
Superintendent of Schools  
Irvine Unified School District

Cc: Orange County Grand Jury  
700 Civic Center Drive West,  
Santa Ana, CA 92701