



CENTRALIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

6625 La Palma Avenue
Buena Park CA, 90620
714.228.3100 phone/fax
www.cesd.us



August 18, 2023

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

RE: Centralia Elementary School District's Response to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Report on ***School Shootings: How Prepared are Orange County Public Schools?***

Dear Orange County Grand Jury,

Centralia Elementary School District (CESD) commends the Orange County Grand Jury for its time and attention devoted to studying the very important issue of school safety and publishing the June 14, 2023, Grand Jury Report entitled; ***School Shootings: How Prepared are Orange County Public Schools?*** CESD is committed to the safety of all students and staff. CESD continuously evaluates and adjusts safety procedures and plans to improve safety for our CESD community.

CESD has thoroughly reviewed and considered the Findings and Recommendations in the Grand Jury Report. Please find CESD's responses to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations outlined in the report, ***School Shootings: How Prepared are Orange County Public Schools?***

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Norma E. Martinez
Superintendent
Centralia Elementary School District

Superintendent Norma E. Martinez

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Henry Charoen – Art Montez – Elizabeth A. Gonzalez – Lamiya A. Hoque – Luis Flores

The Honorable Maria D. Hernandez
Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
August 18, 2023
Page 2

Centralia Elementary School District
Response to Findings and Recommendations
2022-2023 Orange County Grand Jury Report
School Shootings: How Prepared are Orange County Public Schools?

Findings:

F1: 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: CESD disagrees partially with this finding. Our district is served by three law enforcement agencies and 2 fire authorities. We have a strong cooperative relationship with all of them without having an MOU with the agencies.

F2: 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 intruder on campus, but not all have done so specifically regarding armed assaults.

Response: CESD disagrees partially with this finding. Our schools have conducted scheduled drills within the current school year on emergency procedures addressing lockdowns on campus. CESD received a federal grant, STOP School Violence program in collaboration with the Orange County Department of Education and our local law enforcement to bolster and increase trainings of armed assault.

F3: 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: CESD disagrees partially with this finding. CESD is consistent in its practices concerning safety across the district. We can only respond to practices in our district, not about other districts.

F4: Safety and security plans for on-campus before and after-school programs are not adequately addressed by school districts.

Response: CESD wholly disagrees with this finding. CESD continues to strengthen its security plans for on-campus before and after-school programs.

The Honorable Maria D. Hernandez
Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
August 18, 2023
Page 3

F5: 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: CESD wholly agree with this finding. CESD is a closed campus district with perimeter fencing at all school sites. A single point of entry and procedures for non-employees on campus are followed at all sites. Cameras are strategically placed to monitor outside activity at all sites. CESD is always focused on opportunities for improvement for safety. CESD is continuously reviewing and revising safety protocols.

F6: Not all schools utilize a system for monitoring campus visitors.

Response: CESD wholly disagrees with this finding. All CESD schools use districtwide practices to monitor campus visitors.

F7: 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: CESD wholly disagrees with this finding. CESD has allocated a mental health professional position at all sites in the district. We can only respond to practices in our district, not about other districts.

F8 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: CESD wholly disagrees with this finding. CESD is an elementary school district. When an SRO is needed, we are able to call in for support. Again, we have positive relationship with all law enforcement agencies and when needed we have law enforcement officers or SROs support our campuses.

F9: Not all classrooms have window shades, tinted glass, or film to obstruct the interior view from the outside.

Response: We disagree wholly with this finding. Classrooms have window shades, tinted glass, or film to obstruct the interior view from the outside.

F10: The camera surveillance systems utilized on many campuses require repairs, replacement, or additions.

Response: CESD wholly disagrees with this finding. Technology repairs, replacements, or additions are requested and fulfilled as needed as part of our work-order system within the district.

F11: Many schools do not have perimeter fencing completely enclosing their campus.

The Honorable Maria D. Hernandez
Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
August 18, 2023
Page 4

Response: CESD wholly disagrees with this finding. All CESD schools have perimeter fencing enclosing the campus.

F12: A number of school districts have school site administrative offices that remain unlocked on a daily basis.

Response: CESD wholly disagrees with this finding. All CESD school site administrative office doors remain in locked positions on a daily basis.

Recommendations:

R1: 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: The recommendation has been implemented. The Centralia Elementary School District's Maintenance and Operations Department conducts a safety inspection at each school site annually. The inspection includes perimeter/boundary inspections. The school principals along with the School Site Council write a safety plan for the school site and annually present to local law enforcement for review and feedback.

R2: 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: CESD serves a 12 and under population. Under the law, children under 13 do not have a social media presence. However, we work closely with law enforcement agencies in the case a threat is identified.

R3: 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: The recommendation has been implemented with the focus in the coming year to be more systematic regarding the training by providing tabletop exercises to provide real-world applications for safety at the school site.

R4: 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)

The Honorable Maria D. Hernandez
Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
August 18, 2023
Page 5

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. Centralia Elementary School District is participant of a Federal Grant, STOP School Violence Program, that will schedule 4 active shooter drills over the next few years, 2023-2025.

R5: 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: The recommendation has been implemented. CESD has established disaster response teams, such as first aid and search and locate teams who are trained in their role to implement support.

R6: 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: The recommendation has been implemented. Centralia Elementary School District school sites align the safety practices throughout the day which includes before and after-school programs.

R7: Each Orange County school district should obtain and incorporate perimeter camera systems in all 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: The recommendation has been implemented. All Centralia Elementary School District school sites have strategically placed camera systems.

R8: 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: The recommendation has been implemented. All Centralia Elementary School District school sites have a single point of entry system that uses a buzzer and camera system, as well as perimeter fencing to enclose the school.

R9: 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: The recommendation has been implemented. All Centralia Elementary School District school sites use the Raptor system as a visitor management system for parents, visitors, and volunteers.

The Honorable Maria D. Hernandez
Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
August 18, 2023
Page 6

R10: 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: The recommendation has been implemented. Centralia Elementary School District is a participant of a Federal Grant, STOP School Violence Program, that will provide threat assessment training along with a management system to report, monitor, and analyze behaviors. The training is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2023.

R11: 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: The recommendation has been implemented. Centralia Elementary School District has allocated mental health professional positions for each of the school sites to enhance mental health counseling, awareness, and case management.

R12: 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: CESD is an elementary school district. Our district is served by three law enforcement agencies and two fire authorities. We have a strong cooperative relationship with all of them. When the need arises, the district receives SRO support.

R13: All Orange County school districts should investigate and consider bullet resistant or tinted film covering for school windows by December 31, 2023. (F9)

Response: The recommendation has been partially implemented. CESD is in the middle of window replacements project across all district sites.