

Laguna Beach Unified School District

550 Blumont Street, Laguna Beach, California 92651

Theresa A. Daem, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools

Telephone (949) 497-7700 Ext. 202 – FAX (949) 497-6021

E-mail: tdaem@lagunabeachschools.org

Our Mission is to maximize each student's potential to learn and make a positive contribution to our world.



Board of Education

El Hathaway, President

Jan Vickers, Clerk

Robert J. Whalen, Member

Betsy Jenkins, Member

Kathryn A. Turner, Member

Thursday, August 19, 2004

Honorable Frederick P. Horn
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Horn:

Enclosed please find the Laguna Beach Unified School District's required response to the Orange County Grand Jury report, "Childhood and Adolescent Obesity: Making the Orange County Schools Part of the Solution".

The district has responded to each of the findings and recommendations in the report and has described the implementation status for each.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa A. Daem".

Theresa A. Daem, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

TAD/dr

Cc: LBUSD Board of Education
T.W. Staple, M.D., Foreman, Orange County Grand Jury
William M. Habermehl, Orange County Superintendent of Schools

LBUSD Response to Grand Jury Report dated June 1, 2004
"Childhood and Adolescent Obesity: Making Orange County Schools part of the Solution"

DIRECTIVE:

It is required that the District provide a response to **each** of the findings and recommendations of this report directed to your office in compliance with *Penal Code* 933.05(a) and (b), copy attached. For each Grand Jury recommendation, be sure to describe the implementation status, as well as provide a schedule for future implementation.

Responses to Findings 1, 2, 3, and 5 through 8 are requested from the Superintendents of Schools for all school districts in Orange County.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding # 1 State Senate Bill 19, partly amended by the California Childhood Obesity Prevention Act, authorized school districts to establish a Child Nutrition and Physical Activity Committee to help coordinate functions and activities that address students' obesity problems.

Recommendation #1 Each Orange County school district establish a Child Nutrition and Physical Activity Committee to help coordinate functions and activities that address students' obesity problems.

District Response: Laguna Beach Unified School District has a Quest for Excellence (QAE) High Levels of Wellness Committee which has been in place for three years. This topic is one of its areas of focus.

Finding # 2 All food and beverages prepared by school food services in Orange County schools, or supplied under contract by outside vendors and served on the school campuses, are regulated by federal and state requirements.

Recommendation #2 School districts in Orange County continue to ensure that food and beverages served on school campuses meet federal and state requirements.

District Response: Laguna Beach Unified School District does ensure that food and beverages served on school campuses meet federal and state requirements and will continue to do so.

Finding #3 A study in Poway has shown that the greatest improvement in the physical fitness of students occurred when the physical education program was supervised by a Physical Education Specialist.

Recommendation #3 Orange County school districts appoint nutrition and physical education specialist who can train classroom teachers in the essentials of their specialties.

District Response: Laguna Beach Unified School District has fitness education specialists at all school sites.

LBUSD Response to Grand Jury Report dated June 1, 2004
"Childhood and Adolescent Obesity: Making Orange County Schools part of the Solution"

Finding #5 Various government grants are available to the schools to help finance and improve the schools' nutrition and physical education programs.

Recommendation #5 Orange County school districts apply for state and federal grants available for improving physical education and nutrition programs.

District Response: Laguna Beach Unified School District applies whenever the grants are appropriate and the District is eligible.

Finding # 6 Most school districts, faced with budgetary cuts and greater priority on higher academic standards, have gradually decreased their emphasis on physical education.

Recommendation #6 Orange County school districts make available their playgrounds and outdoor facilities before and after school hours for their students under the supervision of interested faculty members and parents.

District Response: Laguna Beach Unified School District grounds and facilities are continuously available and used.

Finding #7 Food items provided by the schools' food services are not labeled with their caloric values and nutritional composition; nor is such information posted in the food-service area.

Recommendation #7 Orange County school districts ensure that either food items sold on their campuses be labeled with the caloric values and nutritional composition or that such information be posted in the food-serving areas.

District Response: Laguna Beach Unified School District includes such information daily with its menus. It is also posted at all schools.

Finding #8 Body Mass Index is not fully utilized as an assessment tool by schools' nutrition and physical education programs, but is used as appropriate by school nurses for clinical purposes.

Recommendation #8 Orange County school districts incorporate instruction on the Body Mass Index into the nutrition and physical education programs and encourage students to share this information with their families.

District Response: Laguna Beach Unified School District middle school staff have integrated this into the curriculum. Further staff training is in progress.