

ANAHEIM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

1001 South East Street, Anaheim, CA 92805 • Tel 714-517-7500 • Fax 714-517-8538

SUPERINTENDENT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sandra Barry Sandy Blumberg • Don Garcia • Barbara Gonzalez • Susan Preus • Jerry Silverman



A Great Place to Learn!

July 2, 2004

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

Dear Judge Horn:

The following represents Anaheim City School District's (ACSD) response to the Grand Jury report, "Combating Truancy in Orange County." This district has a strong commitment to work with students to ensure regular school attendance and has had a longstanding collaboration with Anaheim Police Department to combat truancy.

ACSD was required to respond to findings 1, 8, 15, and 19.

Finding 1: "The Web sites of the following school districts provide an inadequate treatment of attendance matters and lack explicit expectations for students' attendance."

Response: *By November 2004, the Anaheim City School District Web page will be updated to include specific attendance expectations.*

Finding 8: "In 2002-03, only 10 of the 27 school districts were represented on the County (Department of Education) SAR Board. In 2003-04, that number has increased by one to 11. Membership on the County SAR Board is open to all County school districts, and all school districts—even those without SAR Boards – would benefit by their participation."

Response: *Anaheim City School District will have a representative on the County School Attendance Review Board.*

Finding 15: "School districts that limit or curtail their participation on the County SAR Board because of budgetary constraints may not be aware of the opportunity for reimbursement, through State or federal funding, afforded by *Education Code 48323.*"

Response: *Anaheim City School District is aware of the opportunity for reimbursement from State funding and is part of the State mandated costs program.*

The Honorable Frederick P. Horn
Page 2
July 2, 2004

Finding 19: "Periodic training of school administrators in preparing SARB-referral documentation packages would be beneficial."

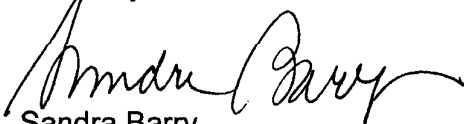
***Response:** Administrators will be trained annually to accurately review documentation submitted to them for SARB referrals. Currently, attendance clerks are trained annually on preparation of SARB referral documentation packages; this information is submitted to each school administrator for review and approval prior to placing any student on the SARB agenda.*

Training for administrators is scheduled for July 22, 2004.

ACSD staff are proud of the systems in place to help students achieve the goal of regular school attendance and are committed to utilize a variety of strategies to work with students and families to achieve this goal.

If further information is needed regarding the above responses, please contact Phyllis Reed, director of pupil services, at (714) 517-7526.

Sincerely,



Sandra Barry
Superintendent

SEB:taj

c:\mydata\worddocs\letters\grandjury-truancy.doc

cc: Orange County Grand Jury ✓