



Centralia School District

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To: Alan I. Friedman, Chair
Juvenile Services Committee
2003-2004 ORANGE COUNTY GRANT JURY

From: Bobbi Mahler, Ed.D. Superintendent
Linda Matlock, Ed.D. Executive Director, Instructional Support Services

Subject: Centralia School District's Response to 2003/04 Orange County Grand Jury Report May 20, 2004 "Combating Truancy in Orange County"

Finding 1: District's web site provides inadequate treatment of attendance matters and lacks explicit expectations for students' attendance

Recommendation 1: Each of the following school districts improves their respective Web sites with an enhanced treatment of attendance matters that includes explicit expectations for students' attendance.

District's Response: The district has added relevant information to its web site.

Finding 6 Centralia School District incentives are handled at the school site, not the district.

Recommendation 6 Centralia School District become fully aware of the attendance incentives currently in place at its schools, and provide leadership to its schools in setting standards for, and supervising, attendance-incentive programs throughout the district

District's Response The Centralia School District supports decentralized management of incentive programs for students operated at the school site by principals, teachers and parents and will continue with this practice. Decentralization does not preclude communication, and the district's administration is aware of school incentive programs.

Finding 11 The Centralia District does not collect information on habitual truancies and SAR Board referrals at the district level

Recommendation 10 Centralia School district devise a method to collect data on habitual truancies and information on referrals of habitual truants to a SAR Board, beginning with the 2004-05 school year and continuing thereafter

District's Response Method is and has been in place to collect monthly data on habitual truancies.

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

Recommendation 14: All districts become aware of the opportunities through State and federal funding for reimbursement for participating on County SAR Board

District's Response: District has participated in the County SAR Board for the past 12 years and its representatives have served as officers for many of those years. Also, District is already aware of the opportunity for reimbursement.

Finding 16 The Centralia School District has no permanent SAR Board members at the district level

Recommendation 15 Centralia School District considers adopting a district-level SAR Board and appoints permanent SAR Board members at the district level

District's Response District has already made plans to have a two-tiered system of SAR Boards including those currently operated at the sites and also a level two SAR Board for non-responsive cases at the district level. The district has had only district level SAR Boards in the past and finds that this two level system is more effective for addressing the needs of the students and families at the site level first.

Finding 18 Centralia School District stated that it does not know if it's SARB referral documentation packages are adequate because social workers at the school sites handle the paperwork.

Recommendation 17 Centralia School District assigns responsibility for the content and quality of SARB-referral documentation packages to an individual at the district level.

District's Response The preparation of SARB packages will continue to be the responsibility of the principals and social workers. The packages have been correctly completed and timely filed.

Finding 21 School Districts are not involved in Truancy Response Project become involved as a means to improve their truancy problems...

Recommendation 20
District that are not involved in the Truancy Response Project become involved as a means to significantly improve their truancy problems...

District's Response District has been involved in the Truancy Response Project since its inception including referring cases to probation, the District Attorney's office, and DA parent meetings. The district has hosted two DA meetings at District sites. The District has been and will continue to be a strong proponent of the Project.

If further information is needed regarding any of the district's responses please let us know.