

GARDEN GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Office of Child Welfare and Attendance  
10331 Stanford Avenue  
Garden Grove, CA 92840  
(714) 663-6391

August 12, 2004

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

Dear Judge Horn:

Please find listed below the responses from the Garden Grove Unified School District regarding the findings of the Grand Jury report "Combating Truancy in Orange County".

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: While the Garden Grove Unified School District recognizes that the County SAR Board does an excellent job, it has been felt that we have been successful with our own procedures. In the future, should we feel that we need additional support, we will participate in their program.

11. The Centralia, Garden Grove Unified and Laguna Beach Unified school districts do not collect information on habitual trancies and SAR Board referrals at the district levels.

Response: The Garden Grove Unified School District does collect information on SAR Board referrals at the district level. During the 2003-04 school year, sixty-one (61) students went through the SAR Board process. The district maintains a SARB log that includes date of meeting, student name, I.D. number, grade level, date of birth, school of attendance and the result of the hearing. The district did not, however, maintain a list of habitual truants at the district level at the time of the Grand Jury report. As of May 25, 2004, the district has developed a report to track all habitual truants. The information provided by the report includes all truants who meet the definition of a habitual truant, school of attendance, total number of trancies and the grade of the student. The information provided by the report will be maintained at the district office and will be reported annually to the federal government.

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: The Garden Grove Unified School District is aware of Education Code 48323; however, our decision was not based upon budgetary constraints.

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

Response: The Garden Grove Unified School District does present periodic training to school administrators in preparing SARB and Discipline Committee referral documentation packages. All new administrators to the district are provided additional support at both the elementary and secondary levels. In addition, administrators are encouraged to contact Child Welfare and Attendance with questions. Support is also provided by principals to assistant principals in presenting good documentation.

Should you need additional information regarding our SARB process, please feel free to contact me at (714) 663-6391.

Sincerely,



Bill Langan

Director, Student Services