



July 5, 2004

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

Dear Judge Horn:

Please find below responses to the findings and recommendations of the Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Combating Truancy in Orange County", designated specifically to the Irvine Unified School District.

Finding #5

The Irvine Unified School District is happy to share with any interested district the various attendance incentives we use at the site level to reinforce positive school attendance.

Finding #8

The Irvine Unified School District has been a member of the Orange County Department of Education School Attendance Review Board for a number of years, and has found the experience to be a very valuable one. The County SARB provides member districts an opportunity for shared understanding of the purpose and intent of SARB at the local level, as well as a forum for joint decision-making and problem-solving as it pertains to meeting the needs of students who demonstrate ongoing problems with school attendance and behavior. For the last several years, the County SARB has served as the guiding force in a coordinated effort toward successful implementation of the Truancy Response Project.

Finding #15

See response to #8 above. The Irvine Unified School District considers representation on the County SAR Board a part of normal operating responsibilities, and costs incurred in this regard are considered to be part of normal operating procedures. The District does keep the appropriate records for mandated costs reimbursement, as provided by law.

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Finding #19

The Coordinator of Student Services for the Irvine Unified School District meets on an annual basis with school administrators, as well as site attendance clerks, to provide ongoing staff development with regard to the process and procedures for referring students to the School Attendance Review Board. In addition, the Irvine Unified School District has made a concerted effort to work collaboratively with our IT department, so that we may take advantage of the District's student information system to improve upon the efficiency, accuracy, and ability to monitor students who have a demonstrated history of attendance or behavior problems.

Recommendation #5

The Irvine Unified School District is happy to share with any interested district the various attendance incentives we use at the site level to reinforce positive school attendance.

Recommendation #14

The Irvine Unified School District considers representation on the County SARB a part of normal operating responsibilities, and costs incurred in this regard are considered to be part of normal operating procedures. The District does keep the appropriate records for mandated costs reimbursement, as provided by law.

Sincerely,



Karen Brown, Coordinator
Student Services
Superintendent's Designee

Cc: Dr. Dean Waldfogel, Superintendent
Leah Laule, Assistant Superintendent