

# Laguna Beach Unified School District

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*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

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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, "Combating Truancy in Orange County".

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 cursive script, 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 May 26, 2004  
Combating Truancy in Orange County

**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.

**FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Finding # 2. (pg. JS-33) While the websites for the following school districts provide attendance expectations for individual schools: (Laguna Beach Unified) there are no statements of attendance expectations for the District as a whole.

Recommendation #2 Each school district add to their websites, statements of attendance expectations for the district as a whole.

*District Response: This is a District Goal for 2004-2005.*

Finding # 8 (pg. JS-34) In 2002-2003, only 10 of the 27 school districts were represented on the County (Department of Education) SAR Board. In 2003-2004, 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.

Recommendation #8 The Orange County Superintendent of Schools/Department of Education strongly encourage each of the school districts in Orange County – even those without School Attendance Review Boards – to appoint a representative to the County SAR Board activities.

*District Response: Laguna Beach High School will send a representative to County SAR Board Meetings.*

Finding #11 (pg. JS-34) The Centralia, Garden Grove Unified and Laguna Beach Unified school districts do not collect information on habitual truancies and SAR Board referrals at the district levels.

Recommendation #11 Centralia, Garden Grove Unified and Laguna Beach Unified school districts each devise a method to collect data on habitual truancies and information on referrals of habitual truants to a SAR Board, beginning with the 2004-2005 school year and continuing thereafter.

*District Response: Each school site has an Effective Behavior Support team which sets specific behavioral expectations, including attendance expectations, and which provides and tracks a continuum of consequences. Attendance data are collected and used for decision making and tracking progress at each school site.*

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Finding #15 (pg. JS-35) 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*.

Recommendation #15 All Orange County school districts become aware of the opportunity for reimbursement through State or federal funding afforded by *California Education Code § 48323*, for participating on the County SAR Board.

***District Response: Laguna Beach Unified School District is now aware.***

Finding # 19 (pg. JS-35) Periodic training of school administrators in preparing SARB-referral documentation packages would be beneficial.

Recommendation #19 The District Attorney provide for the periodic training of school administrators in preparing SARB-referral documentation packages.

***District Response: Laguna Beach Unified School District staff has participated. Laguna Beach Unified School District will send additional staff members to available trainings.***

Finding #24 (pg. JS-36) A need exists among the school districts that do not have their own SAR Boards for an operating SAR Board (not just an advisory or networking SAR Board) at the County level.

Recommendation #24 The Department of Education formulate a plan whereby all school districts provide equitable financial support to the Probation Department and the District Attorney's Office to ensure that these agencies are able to continue the truancy-abatement services for which the districts are the financial beneficiaries.

***District Response: Laguna Beach Unified School District will consider participating if the opportunity is available.***