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August 30, 2004

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

Dear Orange County Grand Jury and Judge Horn:

While the Tustin Unified School District wishes to be cooperative with the Orange County Grand Jury and respond to its findings, the Tustin Unified School District believes that the Grand Jury lacks jurisdiction over the issue of truancy as indicated by the California Attorney General in a 1995 opinion. See, 78 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.290 (1995). However, the following is the response from Tustin Unified School District to the Orange County Grand Jury report "Combating Truancy in Orange County," Findings #8, #15, and #19, as requested.

Response to Finding #8:

The Tustin Unified School District agrees with the Grand Jury's recommendation that school districts would benefit by participation on the County (Department of Education) SAR Board. For the 2004-05 school year, we will discuss and explore ways in which to add our membership to the County SAR Board.

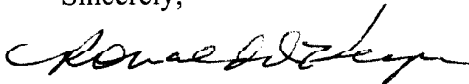
Response to Finding #15:

Serious budget cuts have hampered school districts, as well as county agencies, the past few years. Consequently, we are always looking for new sources of revenue for programs. We will certainly look into the possibility of additional state and/or federal funding to assist the activities of the County SAR Board.

Response to Finding #19:

We agree that periodic training of school administrators would be beneficial in preparing SARB-referral documentation packages. The County SAR Board has indicated they are planning a workshop to provide such training to school administrators. Our district will be in attendance at that workshop.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ronald D. Heape  
Coordinator, Child Welfare and Attendance

RDH/bas

c: Peter C. Gorman, Ed.D., Superintendent, Tustin Unified School District  
Stephanie Paggi, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent, Tustin Unified School District

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