

# GARDEN GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 23, 2006

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Betty Flick, Foreperson  
Orange County Grand Jury  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, Ca. 92701

Re: Response to "Are Schools Feeding or Fighting Obesity?"

Per your request the Garden Grove Unified School District (GGUSD) is responding to Recommendations 7.1 through 7.3 in the 2005-06 Orange County Grand Jury report, "Are Schools Feeding or Fighting Obesity".

7.1 Control over competitive foods: Orange County school districts should consider granting food service directors more control over sales of all food and beverages on district campuses.  
*Response: The GGUSD does grant the food service director control over food and beverages sold or offered on school campuses through the school nutrition programs (breakfast, lunch, after-school snack, and summer food service programs) and all secondary school vending machines accessible to students on school campuses. Since 2004, the district's Food Services Department manages the vending machines for school campuses, including bringing the food items and drinks into compliance with recent legislated actions. School district board policy already limits competitive food sales on campus by student groups (ASB- associated student body and clubs, International Food Days) and adult groups (PTA's, PTSO's, parent boosters), but enforcement of existing policy often is a challenge for the site principal and/or the food service director. Once we discover that there is an inappropriate food sale planned, the administrative supervisor for the school (Assistant Superintendent of Elementary or Secondary Education) is informed of the situation, and asks the school site administrator to cancel the sale or find another fund-raising alternative.*

7.2 Compliance with federal and state laws: School districts should ensure compliance with legislated actions and dates addressing child wellness and obesity.  
*Response: It is the intent of GGUSD to be in full compliance of all legislated actions and dates addressing child wellness and obesity.*

*SB 65 Food and Beverage Contracts Act (by 1/1/2004): GGUSD has no exclusive beverage or junk food contracts and is in compliance.*

*SB 677 California Childhood and Obesity Prevention Act (by 7/1/2004): GGUSD is in compliance. This act sets nutrition standards for all beverages sold to students in grades K-8.*

*SB 567 Pupil Nutrition School Wellness Policy (by 7/1/2006): GGUSD is in compliance. The school board adopted a wellness policy before 7/1/2006.*

Orange County Grand Jury

Re: **Response to "Are Schools Feeding or Fighting Obesity?"**

August 25, 2006

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*SB 12 School Nutrition Standards Act (by 7/1/2007): GGUSD is working toward compliance in the non-Food Services Department areas. District is reviewing competitive food standards with individually sold snacks and entrees, and removing or replacing non-compliant foods as necessary. The district's Food Services Department is in full compliance. In the 2006/07 school year, we will continue to get the message out to the other groups that have food sales on campus during the school day (ASB's, PTA's, PTSO's, parent boosters) and bring these groups into compliance by 7/1/2007.*

*SB 965 Healthy Beverage Act (by 7/1/2007 – 50% compliance) (by 7/1/2009 – 100% compliance): GGUSD is in compliance with the 7/1/2007 deadline, where half of the beverages sold to students during the school day must satisfy certain requirements, and will be 100% compliant by the 7/1/2009 effective date.*

7.3 School nutrition programs: To fight obesity, Orange County schools should consider researching and developing nutrition programs that go beyond state and federal legislation.

*Response: GGUSD participates in the California Fresh Start Program which promotes the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables by school age children. The district also participates in the California Nutrition Network at a few sites. The district Food Services Department also is very helpful in disseminating information to the instructional services departments to adopt methods within the curriculum to promote healthy school/home nutrition environments and to adopt healthy lifestyles. These discretionary strategies are often in competition with authorized and mandated district instructional curriculum to improve student performance and test scores in the basic subjects of reading, language arts, math, science, and history. We find that school districts can follow the rules and legislated actions. However, much of the dietary habits developed by children and families within our communities are beyond a school's control because they are greatly influenced by cultural eating habits, saturation of well-funded advertisements in various media promoting poor food and beverage choices, as well as availability of low-priced junk food and beverages in fast-food establishments, city-sponsored soda vending machines and convenience stores.*

*Proactive measures that the district's Food Services Department has taken to promote healthy nutrition programs is implementation of the district web site that gives free access to those who want to learn about healthy eating and living habits. Go to [www.ggusd.us](http://www.ggusd.us) → Department → Food Services → Menus for Health-e Living. This site provides simple nutrition lessons, meal planners, and nutrient information for interested students, parents, and community members.*

It is the goal of the GGUSD Food Services Department to provide adequate nourishment and to serve as a model of good nutrition. Should you have any questions about our programs, please feel free to contact me (714) 663-6446 or Karen Papilli, Food Services Director (714) 663-6155.

Sincerely,



Sue McCann, Ed.D., R.D.

Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

C: Karen Papilli, Director of Food Services  
Laura Schwalm, Superintendent