

October 16, 2006

Nancy Wieben Stock
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA. 92701

Subject: Orange County Grand Jury Request for Information Related to Student Obesity

Dear Judge Stock:

The following information is submitted in response to a letter from the Orange County Grand Jury dated June 12, 2006, in which information is requested from all Orange County Superintendents.

Finding 6.1: Control over competitive foods

Most school district food service directors do not have control over all food and beverages sold on school campuses. Most often excluded are competitive foods, i.e., food and beverages sold through vending machines, student stores, and fund raising events.

Recommendation 7.1

Orange County school districts should consider granting food service directors more control over sales of all food and beverages on district campuses.

Response:

The Nutrition Services Director works closely with site administrators to help ensure that food and beverage sales, during the school day, are in compliance with state and federal regulations. In addition, all vending contracts for food and beverages sold on campus ensure compliance with enacted legislation.

Finding 6.2: Compliance with federal and state laws

Responding Orange County food service directors indicated their school districts are either in compliance with or will be in compliance with recently enacted federal and state laws addressing child wellness and obesity.

Recommendation 7.2

School districts should ensure compliance with legislated actions and dates addressing child wellness and obesity.

Response

Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) is in compliance with state and federal regulations addressing child wellness and obesity: SB65, SB677, SB12, and SB965.

Finding 6.3: School nutrition programs

Some Orange County schools have developed creative nutrition programs that go beyond state and federal legislation to fight obesity.

Recommendation 7.3

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

Response:

TUSD Nutrition Services Department has taken steps beyond state and federal legislation to fight obesity. TUSD participates in the California Fresh Start Program which promotes the consumption of fresh fruits by school age children. Nutrition Services has been focusing on increasing healthier food choices on the breakfast and lunch menus. For example, entree salads were added and expanded to all age groups, eliminated all carbonated drinks, decreased portion sizes for food items, and converted the elementary and middle school-based menus to nutrient-standard menus.

Please contact me at 714.730.7305 if you have any further questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Bray
Superintendent

RB/cmc

Attachments