



# Lowell Joint School District

*A Tradition of Excellence Since 1906*

*"Home of Scholars and Champions"*



Date: June 14, 2023

The Honorable Maria D. Hernandez  
Presiding Judge  
Orange County Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Lowell Joint School District's Response to the 2022-23 Orange County Grand Jury Report:  
"Russian Roulette: Fentanyl in Orange County"

To the Honorable Maria D. Hernandez:

In accordance with California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Orange County Grand Jury has requested that the Lowell Joint School District respond to findings and recommendations in the 2022-2023 Orange County Grand Jury report entitled "Russian Roulette: Fentanyl in Orange County," published on June 21, 2023. Below are the responses of the Lowell Joint School District, as approved by the Board of Education on September 11, 2023.

## **FINDINGS:**

**Finding 2: Illicit fentanyl is a pervasive problem in Orange County.**

### **Response to Finding 2:**

The Lowell Joint School District agrees with this finding.

**Finding 7: Orange County will benefit by establishing a chartered multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis in Orange County.**

### **Response to Finding 7:**

The Lowell Joint School District agrees with this finding.

**Finding 8: As long as there is a demand, producers will find ways to supply drugs. Orange County cannot law enforce its way out of the fentanyl crisis. Education, prevention, and treatment are critical to reducing demand.**

### **Response to Finding 8:**

The Lowell Joint School District agrees with this finding.

Superintendent of Schools: Jim Coombs

Board of Trustees: Karen L. Shaw, Anastasia M. Shackelford, Anthony A. Zegarra, Christine J. Berg, Melissa A. Salinas

**Finding 9:** There is a need to increase public awareness and acknowledgement of the risks of illicit fentanyl.

**Response to Finding 9:**

The Lowell Joint School District agrees with this finding.

**Finding 10:** Some educational institutions are not participating in available educational and preventive fentanyl/drug programs.

**Response to Finding 10:**

The Lowell Joint School District agrees with this finding.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Recommendation 1:** By January 1, 2024, the Orange County Board of Supervisors should charter a multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis. (F2, F7, F8, F9)

**Response to Recommendation 1:**

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation. The Lowell Joint School District will participate should the Orange County Board of Supervisors form a charter a multi-agency task force to address the fentanyl crisis and should the Lowell Joint School District be invited to join the task force.

**Recommendation 5:** By January 1, 2024, the Orange County Department of Education should develop a model fentanyl/opioid prevention educational program to be offered to all K-12 school districts in Orange County. (F2, F8, F9, F10)

**Response to Recommendation 5:**

The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action. The Lowell Joint School District would accept an offer from the Orange County Department of Education should it develop a model fentanyl/opioid educational program and offer it to K-12 school districts in Orange County.

**Recommendation 6:** By October 1, 2023, the Orange County Department of Education should promote the use of currently established and in-place fentanyl and drug-related educational programs offered by OC agencies such as Health Care Agency, OC Sheriff's Department, and non-governmental organizations to all K-12 school districts in Orange County. (F2, F8, F9, F10)



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## **Response to Recommendation 6:**

The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action. The Lowell Joint School District would be receptive should the Orange County Department of Education promote the use of currently established and in-place fentanyl and drug-related educational programs offered by OC agencies and non-governmental organizations to all K-12 school districts in Orange County.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jim Coombs  
Superintendent of Schools

**Superintendent of Schools:** Jim Coombs

**Board of Trustees:** Karen L. Shaw, Anastasia M. Shackelford, Anthony A. Zegarra, Christine J. Berg, Melissa A. Salinas

