

Ocean View School District  
 17200 Pinehurst Ln  
 Huntington Beach, CA 92647  
 Attn: Dr. Michael Conroy

August 16, 2023

The Honorable Maria Hernandez  
 Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
 700 Civic Center Drive West  
 Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Hernandez,

The Ocean View School District has reviewed *The ABC's of Educating Children Experiencing Homelessness in Orange County* provided by the Grand Jury and appreciates the time invested into research, interviews, and publication in order to assist students experiencing homelessness. The Findings and Recommendations were used to construct the responses to the required Findings that were reviewed by the Ocean View School District Board of Trustees on August 15, 2023, as an informational item, and is respectfully submitted below as requested in the Orange County Grand Jury report and attached cover letter dated May 19, 2023.

F #	Finding	Agree/ Disagree	Response And Explanation (if Required)
F1	Many children experiencing homelessness are not identified as such, and therefore do not receive the support and benefits authorized by the McKinney-Vento Act.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	Ocean View School District identifies homelessness during the student Re-Registration process before the beginning of every school year. Families who find themselves in a homeless situation during the school year are assisted with updating the student information system with this new information.
F2	The lack of mandatory McKinney-Vento Act training of school site office staff, counselors, and teachers contributes to a failure to identify children experiencing homelessness.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	Ocean View School District provides school training on the identification and rights of students experiencing homelessness. Additionally, Ocean View School District identifies homelessness during the student Re-Registration process before the beginning of every school year. Families who find themselves in a homeless situation during the school year are assisted with updating the student information system with this new information.

F3	There is disparity in the application of McKinney-Vento regulations across Orange County public school districts which results in unequal access to educational benefits for children experiencing homelessness.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	Ocean View School District schools consistently utilize the process of identifying homeless youth. Annually, all schools identify homeless youth during the Re-Registration process and throughout the school year as needed. Ocean View School District is unaware of the protocols used in other Orange County districts.
F4	The majority of McKinney-Vento Liaisons are in full-time positions, but because their work includes multiple non-McKinney-Vento responsibilities, most do not have sufficient time to do the work required by the McKinney-Vento Act.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	Ocean View School District has two Licensed Clinical Social Workers who serve as District Homeless Liaisons. Part of the position as Licensed Clinical Social Workers is to serve as District Homeless Liaisons. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the District will have four Licensed Clinical Social Workers to share the Homeless Liaison responsibilities.
F5	Many McKinney-Vento Liaisons lack needed experience due to a high turnover rate in those positions.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	Ocean View School District Licensed Clinical Social Workers who serve as Homeless Liaisons have been doing so since being hired in OVSD and continue to update skill and knowledge in part through Homeless Liaison training provided by Orange County Department of Education.
F6	McKinney-Vento Act training is not mandatory for the majority of McKinney-Vento Liaisons.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	Ocean View School District Homeless Liaisons participate in regular on-going training with the assistance of the Orange County Department of Education and through the review of District policies and practices.
F7	Students experiencing homelessness who are enrolled in an elementary district often do not continue to receive McKinney-Vento benefits when they move to a high school district because the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prevents the sharing of this information between districts.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	Ocean View School District has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Huntington Beach Union High School District to share student information which parents consent to during the annual Re-Registration process.
F8	McKinney-Vento funds depend on school districts submitting grant proposals, but not all districts have employees trained in writing grant applications, resulting in	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or	Ocean View School District has staff who write grants to support student achievement and will continue to do so to secure additional funding.

	missed funding opportunities.	partially with the finding	Ocean View School District is unaware of the protocols of other Orange County Districts.
<b>F9</b>	School districts that do not apply for grants which fund programs benefiting children experiencing homelessness miss potential revenue opportunities.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	Ocean View School District has staff who write grants to support student achievement and will continue to do so to secure additional funding. Ocean View School District is unaware of the protocols of other Orange County Districts.
<b>F10</b>	McKinney-Vento is an unfunded federally mandated program; however, school districts which qualify and apply for Title I, Part A funds may obtain revenues that can be used for children experiencing homelessness. These funds are insufficient to meet the needs of the school districts supporting children experiencing homelessness.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	Due to the support from local agencies and the Orange County Department of Education combined with Title I Part A money, Ocean View School District is able to meet the needs of students experiencing homelessness.
<b>F11</b>	A lack of reliable transportation for children experiencing homelessness often results in chronic tardiness and absenteeism.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	Ocean View School District provides LEA-funded bus passes for students and adults, in conjunction with bus passes provided by the Orange County Department of Education and Orange County Transit Authority (OCTA).
<b>F12</b>	Chronic Absenteeism Rates of Homeless Students are disproportionately high in comparison with the Chronic Absenteeism Rates of All Students and Socio-Disadvantaged Students.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	Ocean View School District, like most school districts, has experienced higher rates of Chronic Absenteeism as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the pandemic, students experiencing homelessness do not have a disproportionately higher rate than other student groups.
<b>F13</b>	Children experiencing homelessness in Orange County perform at a lower level on standardized tests and have a lower graduation rate than All Students and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	Ocean View School District serves a small percentage of students in grades TK-8 who live in Orange County and do not have access to student information in other districts nor does Ocean View School District have access to achievement results or graduation rates for students who matriculate into high school. Students experiencing homelessness are not achieving at a lower level on

			standardized tests than other student groups.
F14	The percent of Homeless Students graduating who failed to meet state standards on English Language Arts and Math tests is significantly higher than it is for All Students and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	Ocean View School District serves students in grades TK-8 and does not have access to achievement results for students who matriculate into high school.
F15	There is a tendency by school districts to operate in isolation, which prevents productive collaboration on addressing the issue of children experiencing homelessness and the challenges of their education.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	Ocean View School District works collaboratively with the Orange County Department of Education and community agencies such as the Family Resource Center to support students and families experiencing homelessness.
F16	A significant lack of affordable permanent housing contributes to many families being caught in the cycle of homelessness.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	Families experiencing homelessness have voluntarily shared a variety of reasons for homelessness such as mental health, addiction, job loss, and economic reasons. The role of the District Homeless Liaison is to identify the support students experiencing homelessness need to remain in school. It is not their role to determine the cause of the family situation.

Please see below for the responses to each required Recommendation as requested in the Orange County Grand Jury report and attached cover letter dated May 19, 2023.

R #	Recommendation	Implementation	Response And Explanation (if Required)
R1	All Orange County school districts should develop a "Back to School" plan which includes mandatory McKinney-Vento Act training for all district and school administrators, teachers, office staff, and counselors by December 31, 2023, and annually thereafter.	Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be in the future	By December 31, 2023, Ocean View School District will have a calendar of scheduled Homeless Youth training for all staff to complete annually. Ocean View School District Homeless Liaisons will continue to be trained by the Orange County Department of Education.
R2	Participation in Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) McKinney-Vento Act training programs for all Local Education Agencies (LEA)	Recommendation has been implemented	Ocean View School District's Homeless Liaisons regularly attend training and meetings offered by the Orange County Department of

	McKinney-Vento Liaisons should be mandated by October 1, 2023, and annually thereafter.		Education and additionally are trained through the review of District policies and practices.
<b>R3</b>	Given that most LEA McKinney-Vento Liaisons are responsible for a number of other duties, and do not have sufficient time to do their McKinney-Vento required work, school districts should identify ways to increase support and/or staff to address the numerous tasks of the Liaisons by October 1, 2023.	Recommendation has been implemented	Ocean View School District's Homeless Liaisons are Licensed Clinical Social Workers who provide mental health support to students and provide community resources to families. The District Licensed Clinical Social Workers/Homeless Liaisons provide the same services to students and families experiencing homelessness. For the 2023-2024 school year, Ocean View School District hired two additional Licensed Clinical Social Workers to support student mental health and serve as Homeless Liaisons.
<b>R4</b>	By January 1, 2024, for children experiencing homelessness to receive uninterrupted McKinney-Vento benefits, Orange County school districts should add a section to their mandatory enrollment school form enabling parents/guardians to give permission for their school to share information regarding their child's McKinney-Vento status with other districts that their child may be attending.	Recommendation has been implemented	Ocean View School District has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Huntington Beach Union High School District to share student information which parents consent to during the annual Re-Registration process.
<b>R5</b>	By October 1, 2023, each Orange County school district should develop and maintain a centralized list of district employees with grant application writing capability so that they are prepared to apply for available grants to assist in educating children experiencing homelessness.	Recommendation has been implemented	Ocean View School District is aware of the Educational Services Division staff who write grants to support student achievement and will continue to do so to secure additional funding.
<b>R6</b>	By October 1, 2023, a joint task force should be formed by the OCDE comprised of a district-level administrator from each Orange County school district and leadership from non-profit organizations who serve homeless families, to address absenteeism, low test scores, and low graduation rates of children	Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be in the future	Ocean View School District will participate in and/or take guidance from the Joint Task Force sponsored, planned, and scheduled by the Orange County Department of Education.

	experiencing homelessness.		
<b>R8</b>	By May 1, 2024, each Orange County school district administration should develop, and present to the District Board of Education, a plan to lower the Absenteeism Rates of homeless students.	Recommendation has been implemented	Annually, Ocean View School District staff present a plan outlined in the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) to the Board of Trustees to address chronic absenteeism for all students, including students experiencing homelessness.
<b>R9</b>	By May 1, 2024, each Orange County school district administration should develop, and present to the District Board of Education, a plan to improve the performance of homeless students in English Language Arts and Math.	Recommendation has been implemented	Annually, Ocean View School District staff present a plan outlined in the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) to the Board of Trustees to improve the academic performance for all students, including students experiencing homelessness.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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