



CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 17, 2023

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

RE: 2022-2023 Orange County Grand Jury Report
School Shootings: How Prepared are Orange County Public Schools
 Response of Capistrano Unified School District

To the Honorable Maria Hernandez:

Please see below the responses to each required Finding as requested in the Orange County Grand Jury report dated June 14, 2023.

F #	Finding	Agree/ Disagree	Response And Explanation (if Required)
F1	Law enforcement, first responders, and other stakeholders have demonstrated a strong interest in working cooperatively with Orange County public schools to mitigate the risk of an active shooter incident; establishment of MOUs between law enforcement and school districts would strengthen this cooperation.	Agree. The ... ▾	Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD) fully supports the establishment of MOUs between law enforcement and school districts. The District already has an annual MOU in place with the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD), ensuring a positive relationship with law enforcement and first responders. School Resource Officers and additional law enforcement support at school activities contribute to a safer environment. CUSD also collaborates closely with the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) and OCSD to develop Comprehensive School Site Safety Plans.

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			Together, all stakeholders are committed to mitigating the risk of an active shooter incident and ensuring the safety of all students and staff.
F2	All Orange County public schools studied by the Grand Jury stated that they conducted or have scheduled drills within the current school year on emergency procedures addressing intruders on campus, but not all have done so specifically regarding armed assailants.	Disagree Wh... ▾	CUSD prioritizes the safety of all students and staff by regularly practicing lockdown drills to prepare for potential intruders and armed assailants. The approach to lockdown training follows the principles of D.E.E. (Deny Access, Evade, Engage) to effectively respond to any direct threat on a school campus. While CUSD cannot speak for all Orange County public schools specifically addressing armed assailants, the District believes it is essential to understand that the foundational approach to safeguarding the community is through lockdown procedures. These drills, conducted in accordance with the California Education Code, equip students and staff to handle immediate danger and ensure their well-being.
F3	While all districts prioritize the safety of students and staff, the attention and resources devoted to active shooter preparedness and response vary from district to district.	Disagree Wh... ▾	<p>CUSD prioritizes the safety of all students and staff by dedicating significant attention and ample resources to active shooter preparedness. Staff's commitment to ensuring a secure environment is evident through various initiatives. The District conducts consistent table-top exercises at school sites, collaborating closely with Law Enforcement and other first responders to simulate potential scenarios and improve response strategies.</p> <p>All school site administrators, psychologists, and counselors undergo specialized training in Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG). This equips them with the necessary skills to assess threats made by students and take appropriate action to address potential risks.</p> <p>To prepare staff for any active threat on campus, the District provided</p>

			<p>comprehensive Active Threat Training through Knowledge Saves Lives Inc. This training includes classroom education and live scenarios to ensure District personnel are well-prepared to handle such situations effectively.</p> <p>In collaboration with local law enforcement, the District successfully hosted the annual School Resource Officer (SRO) summit training at a CUSD campus. SROs from various Orange County agencies participated in rigorous active threat training, involving both classroom-style education and live scenarios simulating active shooter situations.</p> <p>Looking ahead, CUSD remains committed to ensuring the safety of the District’s educational community. As part of the District’s dedication to preparedness, CUSD will offer classroom safety training during the upcoming summer Professional Development Academy. This essential training will be available to all CUSD staff, providing teachers in both elementary and secondary education with crucial procedures to swiftly lock down their classrooms in the event of a direct threat on any school campus.</p> <p>CUSD remains steadfast in its commitment to enhancing active shooter preparedness and response, fostering a safe and secure learning environment for everyone within the community.</p>
<p>F4</p>	<p>Safety and security plans for on-campus before and after-school programs are not adequately addressed by school districts.</p>	<p>Disagree Part... ▾</p>	<p>CUSD, takes the safety and security of on-campus before and after-school programs seriously. To ensure preparedness, the District maintains up-to-date contact information for all directors of these programs on District campuses. In the event of an emergency, clear communication lines are established, and the school site</p>

			<p>Comprehensive School Safety Plan (CSSP) is promptly implemented with the assistance of CUSD personnel.</p> <p>In a continuous effort to enhance safety measures, the District actively works to develop specific safety plans for each individual program. These plans will be included as part of the District's CSSP, creating a comprehensive approach to address potential risks and safeguard the well-being of all students and staff during on-campus before and after-school activities. The commitment to prioritizing safety remains unwavering, ensuring a secure environment for everyone within the school community.</p>
<p>F5</p>	<p>While many Orange County public schools have installed fences, cameras, and other methods to address the issue of active shooters on a campus, there are still opportunities for improvement.</p>	<p>Agree. The ... ▾</p>	<p>CUSD has made significant strides in enhancing campus security through the installation of fences, cameras, and other measures to address the issue of active shooters, yet acknowledge that there are still opportunities for further improvement.</p> <p>Regarding security cameras, the majority of CUSD school campuses already have them in place. However, as technology advances rapidly, these systems can become outdated relatively quickly. To ensure a robust security infrastructure, staff consistently explores ways to enhance camera coverage across all our campuses.</p> <p>It is essential to note that the original design of most school campuses in CUSD prioritized open community access. Nevertheless, staff are fully committed to continually evaluating each school's security profile. This proactive approach enables staff to identify and address any vulnerabilities in terms of low-security access points. By installing updated and state-of-the-art equipment, the District strives to create and maintain a secure environment where students and their families feel safe throughout the school day.</p>

			The District's dedication to their well-being remains unwavering.
F6	Not all schools utilize a system for monitoring campus visitors.	Disagree Wh... ▾	<p>Ensuring campus safety is of utmost importance to the District. To achieve this, CUSD recognizes the significance of accurately monitoring and identifying all adults on school premises, whether they are employees, Tier 1 or Tier 2 volunteers, or visitors.</p> <p>To maintain a comprehensive approach to identification, administrative regulations strictly enforce the use of District-approved identification badges for all employees. Visitors are required to sign in upon arrival and wear a distinctive identifying badge, as outlined in Administrative Regulation 1.9, Procedures Regarding Visitor/Outsiders. CUSD's commitment to safety is evident in the implementation of a standardized set of high visibility colored badges, enabling easy identification of volunteers, kindergarten parents, and Tier 1 and Tier 2 volunteers.</p> <p>In line with CUSD's dedication to continuously enhance security measures, the District adopted the Raptor Visitor Management System. This cutting-edge technology will be integrated into all K-8 schools, starting this academic year. The Raptor system utilizes advanced features to enhance visitor screening, particularly in identifying sex offenders during the check-in process. By scanning a person's driver's license or state-issued identification card, the system performs a thorough background check and generates a visitor's badge complete with the individual's picture and date of visit.</p> <p>One remarkable aspect of the Raptor system is its immediate notification capability. In case of a sex offender match, both administration and the School Resource Officer (SRO) will receive instant text alerts, enabling swift and appropriate</p>

			actions in response to the situation. This state-of-the-art solution adds an extra layer of security and peace of mind for everyone in the school community.
F7	While there is an increased awareness of the benefits of mental health counseling, not all school districts have implemented these programs in all schools.	Disagree Wh... ▾	<p>The Wellness and Prevention Center (WPC) which started as a school based drop-in center has evolved into a unique organization that provides mental health services in the schools and community. WPC helps to educate the community to address issues surrounding the diseases of mental health and addiction, and leads a federally funded Drug Free Community Coalition designed to bring sectors of the community together to prevent youth from engaging in unhealthy activities. Over the last year, WPC has expanded into two high schools and four middle schools.</p> <p>CUSD middle schools are actively establishing Wellness rooms to foster student well-being and provide essential support. Additionally, elementary staff members are receiving retraining to effectively utilize sensory rooms, creating nurturing environments for all students.</p> <p>To promote mindfulness and emotional well-being, staff members across the district are receiving training in implementing "mindfulness moments" during the school day. This initiative aims to help students develop coping skills and enhance overall mental health.</p> <p>All CUSD counselors are benefiting from specialized training conducted by OCDE (Orange County Department of Education) in effective mental health strategies and support. This training equips them with valuable tools and techniques to address the unique needs of students and provide the necessary assistance when dealing with mental health challenges.</p>
F8	School Resource Officers	Disagree Part... ▾	CUSD recognizes the invaluable

	<p>(SROs) are a valuable asset for school safety, yet many cities/districts do not allocate sufficient funds to hire needed officers.</p>		<p>contribution School Resource Officers (SROs) make to ensure school safety. As part of the District's commitment to creating a secure environment for students and staff, each high school, along with their feeder schools, is assigned a dedicated full-time SRO. These officers are readily available to respond to any calls for service during school hours and actively participate in school-related activities and evening events, as specified in the District's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the local law enforcement agency.</p> <p>While the District is proud to have SRO support in CUSD schools, staff acknowledges the importance of expanding this resource to further enhance safety measures. To achieve this, CUSD remains resolute in exploring and securing additional funding sources. Staff are actively seeking ways to fund more SRO positions, ensuring a comprehensive and robust security presence across the educational community. The commitment to the safety and well-being of all students and staff remains steadfast as staff works diligently to fortify security efforts through responsible and strategic allocation of resources.</p>
<p>F9</p>	<p>Not all classrooms have window shades, tinted glass, or film to obstruct the interior view from the outside.</p>	<p>Agree. The ... ▾</p>	<p>At CUSD, staff recognize the availability of window shades, tinted glass, or film in classrooms can vary from site to site. The District's commitment to ensuring a safe and secure learning environment drives staff to proactively address this issue.</p> <p>To find effective solutions tailored to the unique needs of each campus, staff are actively engaged in exploring various options. Collaboration with law enforcement partners is a key aspect of this effort. Safety walks are conducted on campus, during which staff and law partners thoroughly assess the situation and discuss potential measures that can be implemented to enhance security and privacy in classrooms.</p>

			<p>By taking this collaborative and site-specific approach, staff aim to make informed decisions and implement appropriate solutions that best suit the requirements of each individual school. The District's dedication to the safety and well-being of all students and staff remains unwavering as CUSD continuously strives to create the most conducive and secure learning environment possible.</p>
F10	<p>The camera surveillance systems utilized on many campuses require repairs, replacement, or additions.</p>	<p>Disagree Part... ▾</p>	<p>The status of surveillance systems on various campuses may vary, and some may require repairs, replacements, or additional installations. At CUSD, staff are acutely aware of the importance of maintaining a robust and functional camera surveillance network to bolster school safety.</p> <p>To ensure the efficacy of these systems, the District actively allocates resources for ongoing maintenance and necessary replacements. The commitment to providing a secure learning environment remains steadfast, and staff continuously explores funding options to enhance and modernize current surveillance infrastructure.</p> <p>In addition to these efforts, CUSD is taking proactive steps to integrate surveillance cameras with local law enforcement agency's upcoming software programs. Currently in the early stages of development, this integration will facilitate real-time access to campus views for responding law enforcement personnel during an active shooter situation. By leveraging this cutting-edge technology, the District aims to enhance emergency response capabilities and collaborate seamlessly with law enforcement to swiftly address any potential threats, and ensure the safety of all students, staff, and school communities.</p>
F11	<p>Many schools do not have</p>	<p>Disagree Part... ▾</p>	<p>It is important to acknowledge that the</p>

	<p>perimeter fencing completely enclosing their campus.</p>		<p>original design of most school campuses in CUSD emphasized open community access. However, the District’s commitment to safety prompts staff to continuously assess the security profile of each school. Through safety walks on campuses, staff proactively identifies and addresses any vulnerabilities, especially concerning low-security access points.</p> <p>While perimeter security fencing can be considered to enclose the campus completely, the District remains vigilant about the potential safety issues it might pose. Staff recognizes that, in certain scenarios, such fencing could potentially impede students and staff from escaping during an active threat situation. Hence, safety walks present opportunities to evaluate the need for fencing in vulnerable areas, striking a balance between campus security and providing safe exit routes.</p> <p>By taking this comprehensive and proactive approach to school safety, staff aim to create an environment where everyone feels secure, allowing students and staff to focus on learning and growth without undue concerns.</p>
<p>F12</p>	<p>A number of school districts have school site administrative offices that remain unlocked on a daily basis.</p>	<p>Disagree Wh... ▾</p>	<p>CUSD prioritizes the security of all school sites, including the administrative offices. To enhance safety measures, all school doors are equipped with the innovative "Lock Blok" system. This technology allows the door handle to remain locked in its default position, ensuring everyday security.</p> <p>In the event of an active threat on campus, the "Lock Blok" can be quickly disengaged, enabling the door to be securely locked without the need to search for keys or fumble with complicated locking mechanisms. This simple yet effective solution empowers employees to swiftly respond to potential threats, providing an additional layer of protection and peace of</p>

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Please see below for the responses to each required Recommendation as requested in the Orange County Grand Jury report and attached cover letter dated June 14, 2023.

R #	Recommendation	Implementation	Response And Explanation (if Required)
R1	<p>Each Orange County school district should arrange for local law enforcement to do an annual safety inspection of each school. The written safety checklist should include an audit of the integrity of site boundaries and a review of safety plans and policies. This annual safety audit should commence with the 2023-24 school year by October 1, 2023, and annually thereafter.</p>	<p>Recommendation has been im... ▾</p>	<p>CUSD has established a valuable partnership with the Orange County Sheriff's Department, which plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety of our schools. Commencing with the 2023-2024 school year, SROs will conduct comprehensive safety inspections at all school campuses on an annual basis. These inspections will thoroughly assess various aspects of school safety, including the integrity of site boundaries and the effectiveness of safety plans and policies in place.</p> <p>To enhance the commitment to safety, CUSD maintains Comprehensive School Safety Plans (CSSPs) for each school site. These plans are regularly audited by local law enforcement, ensuring they align with the latest safety standards and protocols. The CSSPs on file are subject to approval by the District's Board of Trustees.</p>

<p>R2</p>	<p>All Orange County school districts should establish a threat identification and assessment system for all school sites to monitor social media, screen for messages of concern, and manage information received in coordination with local law enforcement using MOUs, if necessary, by July 1, 2024.</p>	<p>Recommendation has been im... ▾</p>	<p>CUSD has an MOU with the Orange County Sheriff's Department and staff value this partnership. Investigators work diligently to monitor social media for concerning messages. The District's trained staff evaluates these concerns and takes appropriate action when District jurisdiction is legally allowed. CUSD will also pilot a program called Linewize Districtwide, which actively monitors student-typed content on CUSD devices for worrisome statements. Staff will provide necessary support to students when needed. Safety remains a top priority, and staff are dedicated to creating a secure learning environment for all.</p>
<p>R3</p>	<p>Each Orange County school district, in conjunction with law enforcement, should develop and implement tabletop exercises to be conducted in district schools by December 31, 2023, and annually thereafter.</p>	<p>Recommendation has been im... ▾</p>	<p>CUSD consistently partners with local law enforcement and other first responders to conduct tabletop exercises.</p>
<p>R4</p>	<p>Each Orange County school district should work with local law enforcement to plan and conduct a district-wide active shooter drill by July 1, 2024, and at least every other year thereafter.</p>	<p>Recommendation has been im... ▾</p>	<p>CUSD regularly conducts active threat lockdown drills on all school campuses. Additionally, CUSD consistently collaborates with law enforcement and other first responders, including school site administration, to conduct active shooter</p>

			tabletop exercises.
R5	All Orange County school districts should develop a casualty care training program for each school in their district, to be in place by the end of the first semester of the 2023-24 school year and provided annually thereafter.	Recommendation has been im... ▾	CUSD district nurses provide valuable training to staff members that includes First Aid/CPR with AED Certification. While this specific training is not mandatory for all CUSD staff, it is required for all staff who work with student athletes. CUSD offers training in “Stop the Bleed,” which is a course that guides you through the three methods of bleeding control using video demonstrations, interactive learning, and spontaneous quizzes. CUSD nurses provide training to all staff at the beginning of each school year in the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and how to care for a person having a severe allergic reaction, including how to administer epinephrine using an auto-injector device.
R6	Safety and security plans for on-campus before and after-school programs need to be addressed more thoroughly by school districts, by July 1, 2024.	Recommendation has not yet ... ▾	CUSD will develop Comprehensive School Safety Plans (CSSPs) to include any before and after-school programs support for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year and annually thereafter.
R7	Each Orange County school district should obtain and incorporate perimeter camera systems in all district schools by July 1, 2024, or earlier if financially able to do so, and	Recommendation requires furt... ▾	Although the majority of CUSD school sites have perimeter cameras installed, there are a few campuses where such cameras have not been

	<p>investigate the potential use of cameras that incorporate Artificial Intelligence to enhance threat detection and prevention.</p>		<p>implemented due to funding constraints, and an evaluation of the necessity based on existing fencing and barriers that already provide adequate access control.</p> <p>Ensuring the safety and security of students and staff is a top priority for CUSD. Therefore, staff are committed to continuously assessing and reevaluating security measures on all campuses. This ongoing evaluation will help the District identify and address the safety needs of each school site, providing a safe and secure learning environment for everyone involved.</p>
<p>R8</p>	<p>All Orange County school districts should review entry procedures on all campuses with an eye toward the use of perimeter fencing, the use of single point entry, and the use of a buzzer and camera system for entry into the main/administrative offices.</p>	<p>Recommendation has been im... ▾</p>	<p>CUSD places a strong emphasis on conducting regular safety assessments at all schools. Staff are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone who enters District campuses. As part of the dedication to maintaining a secure environment, staff will continue to review and enhance entry procedures to ensure the highest level of safety for all individuals accessing CUSD schools.</p>
<p>R9</p>	<p>Each Orange County school district should identify and implement a parent and visitor management system for each school site within the school district. This is to include</p>	<p>Recommendation has been im... ▾</p>	<p>Currently all CUSD schools have a required check-in system for all visitors that come onto campus. Additionally, CUSD will be</p>

	identified access points, badges, or a similar identification procedure to be implemented by July 1, 2024.		implementing the use of Raptor Visitor Check-in System in all K-8 schools for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.
R10	Each Orange County school district should implement training for all staff to identify threat-related behaviors and provide a procedure for reporting the behavior by the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.	Recommendation has been im... ▾	All CUSD site administrators, psychologists and counselors have received training in Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG). All CUSD staff, students and families can report any concerning behavior to our See Something Say Something Anonymous Reporting System. These reports are actively investigated upon report.
R11	All Orange County school districts should develop a plan to implement or enhance mental health counseling for all schools by December 31, 2024.	Recommendation has been im... ▾	CUSD has implemented a comprehensive plan to enhance mental health counseling across all schools, which includes: A Wellness and Prevention Center accessible to all students. Wellness Rooms in all middle schools to support student well-being. Staff training for conducting "mindfulness moments" sessions with students. Training for all staff by Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) on effective mental health strategies.

			The implementation of the "See Something, Say Something" Anonymous Reporting System, providing students a platform to report mental health crises.
R12	Each Orange County school district should assess the need for SROs or additional SROs, reaching out to appropriate community partners to facilitate funding by July 1, 2024.	Recommendation has been im... ▾	CUSD is assessing the need for additional SROs and staff are making efforts to connect with appropriate partners to seek additional funding for this resource.
R13	All Orange County school districts should investigate and consider bullet resistant or tinted film covering for school windows by December 31, 2023.	Recommendation has been im... ▾	Safety is a top priority at CUSD, and staff will take this recommendation into account during school site safety assessments. The District is committed to exploring all possible options to ensure the well-being of all students and staff.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Christopher Brown, Ed.D.
Superintendent

cc: Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701