



LAGUNA BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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550 Blumont Street
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

August 17, 2023

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

Re: Responses to the OC Grand Jury Report on Homelessness Working Group

Dear Judge Hernandez,

Laguna Beach Unified is a small, K-12 school district serving approximately 2,400 students across four schools located in the city of Laguna Beach. Our core commitments, recognized by all LBUSD staff, are: 1) Every student, every day 2) Relationships matter, and 3) Continuous improvement. Our District team strives to ensure every student is known, valued, and receives personalized supports in order to feel safe, connected, and successful. In 2022-23, LBUSD served a total of 14 students experiencing homelessness. 10 students were enrolled at the elementary level, and 4 students were enrolled at the high school level. A total of 13 students were temporarily doubled up, while 1 student stayed in a temporary shelter. LBUSD recently expanded our number of staff members providing direct services to unhoused youth to include a full-time community liaison, in addition to a full-time Coordinator of Family Engagement, who is highly trained in best practices to support students qualifying for the McKinney-Vento program and is a member of the Orange County Consortium. Our Director of Assessment and Accountability regularly collaborates with our Coordinator of Family Engagement to review district-wide housing questionnaire responses to coordinate outreach to potential McKinney-Vento Program families, plan and implement professional development for staff, and discuss the unique needs of each of our families experiencing homelessness and housing instability. It is our goal to ensure every student and family who qualifies under McKinney-Vento receives the resources, services, supports, supplemental programs, and material goods necessary to have their basic physical and social-emotional needs met, and to access high-quality educational and enrichment programs. We are committed to continuous improvement in this area, and will continue to analyze and refine our practices to best serve our unhoused student population.

Please see below for the responses to each required Finding 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.	Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.	A mandatory housing questionnaire is included in the District annual notification and data confirmation process. All LBUSD parents/guardians are required to complete this questionnaire as part of the annual enrollment process for their child/children. Based on housing questionnaire responses, the MV Liaison makes personal contact with all families who may be experiencing homelessness, to determine whether they should be included in the MV program, and to offer additional resources and support (inclusive of a one-on-one meeting with the Coordinator of Family Engagement, who serves as the MV case manager/direct support provider).
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.	Respondent agrees with the finding.	The MV Liaison provides ongoing training for school office staff (registrars, attendance clerks, counseling support staff) as well as site administrators, counselors, school social workers, and health clerks/nurses. This training emphasizes the identification of students potentially experiencing homelessness, legal requirements under MV, and resources/support available to students. LBUSD will broaden the scope of this training to develop an annual training for all school personnel to be delivered by the MV Liaison during a scheduled staff meeting by December 31, 2023
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.	Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.	LBUSD enrolled a total of 14 students experiencing homelessness in 2022-23. Each of the families identified as eligible for MV participated in a one-on-one meeting with the Director of Family Engagement, who serves as an LBUSD MV Liaison and is highly trained at the county and state level in MV requirements, services, and supports, to create an individualized plan for students inclusive of school-based counseling supports, transportation, participation in afterschool programs (such as the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program), housing support, community-based health resources,

			<p>material necessities (school supplies, clothing, personal care items), as well as food and meals (a combination of District-provided meals and community organization-provided meals). Families are connected through the District MV Liaison to Families Forward and other local organizations. The MV Liasion helps to refer families to local non-profit organizations or government agencies that may facilitate hotel vouchers with local short-term transitional housing/shelters or that can provide wraparound services as well. Through the LBUSD School Power Foundation, students identified for the MV program are also provided with backpacks/school supplies, holiday meals at Thanksgiving, and gift baskets at the holidays containing gift cards (valued at \$700/family in December 2022) as well as toys/games for the children. The Coordinator of Family Engagement, serving as an MV Liaison regularly checks in with families to offer ongoing support and assist in coordinating any other services and supports that are needed.</p>
<p>F4</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.</p>	<p>LBUSD enrolled a total of 14 students experiencing homelessness in 2022-23. Each of the families identified as eligible for MV participated in a one-on-one meeting with the Coordinator of Family Engagement, who serves as an LBUSD MV Liaison and is highly trained at the county and state level in MV requirements, services, and supports, to create an individualized plan for students inclusive of: school-based counseling supports, transportation, participation in afterschool programs (such as the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program), housing support, community-based health resources, material necessities (school supplies, clothing, personal care items), as well as food and meals (a combination of District-provided meals and community organization-provided meals). Families are connected through the District MV Liaison to Families First, and other local organizations. The MV Liasion helps to arrange for hotel vouchers for families in need, and connects families with local short-term transitional housing/shelter</p>

			<p>providers as well. Through the LBUSD School Power Foundation, students identified for the MV program are also provided with backpacks/school supplies, holiday meals at Thanksgiving, and gift baskets at the holidays containing gift cards (valued at \$800/family in December 2022) as well as toys/games for the children. The Coordinator of Family Engagement, serving as an MV Liaison regularly checks in with families to offer on-going support and assist in coordinating any other services and supports that are needed. The Director of Assessment and Accountability works closely with the Coordinator of Family Engagement to ensure the District is in compliance with all state and federal requirements under MV, and to ensure that every student receives personalized support based on their unique needs. As of August 2023, LBUSD has added a full-time Community Liaison to provide an additional layer of direct support to students and families experiencing homelessness.</p>
F5	<p>Many McKinney-Vento Liaisons lack needed experience due to a high turnover rate in those positions.</p>	<p>Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.</p>	<p>LBUSD is not experiencing a high turnover rate in positions supporting MV youth. The Coordinator of Family Engagement has worked in LBUSD for over 6 years and has positive and established relationships with each of the 14 students (12 families) experiencing homelessness or housing instability in our District.</p>
F6	<p>McKinney-Vento Act training is not mandatory for the majority of McKinney-Vento Liaisons.</p>	<p>Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.</p>	<p>Both LBUSD MV Liaisons/support personnel have attended MV training through the Orange County Department of Education. The Director of Assessment and Accountability attended the statewide homeless education conference.</p>
F7	<p>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.</p>	<p>Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.</p>	<p>LBUSD is a unified school district. This finding is not applicable.</p>
F8	<p>McKinney-Vento funds depend on school districts submitting grant proposals, but not all districts have employees trained in writing</p>	<p>Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with</p>	<p>LBUSD has access to, and allocates funding to adequately meet the needs of the small number of District students</p>

	grant applications, resulting in missed funding opportunities.	the finding.	identified as eligible for MV
F9	School districts that do not apply for grants which fund programs benefiting children experiencing homelessness miss potential revenue opportunities.	Respondent agrees with the finding.	LBUSD misses potential revenue opportunities by not applying for grants focused on McKinney-Vento youth. However, LBUSD has access to, and allocates funding to adequately meet the needs of the small number of District students identified as eligible for MV
F10	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.	Respondent agrees with the finding.	LBUSD has access to and allocates funding to adequately meet the needs of District students identified as eligible for MV. The current Title I homeless youth allocation of \$10,125 will be supplemented with general funds if not sufficient to provide for the needs of our 14 students experiencing homelessness.
F11	A lack of reliable transportation for children experiencing homelessness often results in chronic tardiness and absenteeism.	Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.	LBUSD provides transportation, at no cost, to any District student experiencing homelessness in need of this service.
F12	Chronic Absenteeism Rates of Homeless Students are disproportionately high in comparison with the Chronic Absenteeism Rates of All Students and Socio-Disadvantaged Students.	Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.	LBUSD chronic absenteeism rates are not proportionally higher for students from this student group. The MV student group consists of 14 students in total, and would not constitute a significant student group, due to low numbers, when determining a basis for comparison.
F13	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.	Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.	In 2022-23 LBUSD enrolled 14 students experiencing homelessness. Of the 14 students, 6 students were enrolled in grade levels participating in state standardized testing. This does not constitute a significant student group for comparison, due to low numbers. In 2022-23, only 1 student experiencing homelessness was enrolled in grade 12. The student met graduation criteria.
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.	Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.	In 2022-23 LBUSD enrolled 14 students experiencing homelessness. Of the 14 students, 6 students were enrolled in grade levels participating in state standardized testing. This does not constitute a significant student group for comparison, due to low numbers.
F15	There is a tendency by school districts to operate in isolation, which prevents productive collaboration on addressing the	Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with	OCDE conducts regular network meetings for Districts to have the opportunity to collaborate and exchange

	issue of children experiencing homelessness and the challenges of their education.	the finding.	ideas.
F16	A significant lack of affordable permanent housing contributes to many families being caught in the cycle of homelessness.	Respondent agrees with the finding.	The LBUSD Coordinator of Family Engagement/MV Liaison works with families experiencing homelessness to connect them to local community organizations that specialize in helping to find housing solutions for families exhibiting a need. Housing costs within the LBUSD boundaries are above the state and county average.

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 within a time frame for implementation.	Recommendation will be implemented by 12/31/2023
R2	Participation in Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) McKinney-Vento Act training programs for all Local Education Agencies (LEA) McKinney-Vento Liaisons should be mandated by October 1, 2023, and annually thereafter.	Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be within a time frame for implementation.	Recommendation will be implemented by 10/1/2023
R3	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 will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable.	The staffing allocation of two (soon to be three) trained MV support personnel is sufficient to meet the needs of the 14 students identified under MV in LBUSD.
R4	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 not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation	Recommendation will be implemented by 12/31/2023
R5	By October 1, 2023, each Orange County	Recommendation	Recommendation will be implemented

	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.	has not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation	by 10/1/2023
R6	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 experiencing homelessness.	Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be within a time frame for implementation	LBUSD supports the recommendation of OCDE in this capacity and will send a representative to join the county task force.
R8	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 not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation	LBUSD is currently developing a plan to reduce absenteeism rates of all students (homeless student group included, but is too small to constitute a significant student group), and will share it with the Governing Board through individual School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSAs) as well as the annual Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) by May 1, 2024. LBUSD will analyze attendance patterns of our 14 students experiencing homelessness to determine if there is a need for further action. Currently, all students exhibiting a pattern of truancy or chronic absenteeism participate in School Attendance Review Team meetings to identify barriers to attendance and to develop action plans for improvement (inclusive of additional school resources and support).
R9	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 not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation	LBUSD is currently developing a plan to increase achievement rates of all students and student groups, (homeless student group included, but is too small to constitute a significant student group), and will share with the Governing Board through individual School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSAs) as well as the annual Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) by May 1, 2024. LBUSD will analyze achievement data for the 14 students currently experiencing homelessness in the District to determine if there is a need for further action. Currently, achievement data is analyzed and presented to the Board for all significant

			student groups, including students from socio-economically disadvantaged homes (inclusive of students eligible for MV). All school sites are required to develop goals and action plans to address achievement and opportunity gaps evident in state and local student achievement data, encompassing a tiered intervention system.
R10	The Orange County Superintendent of Schools should provide information from the School Accountability Report (SARC) to the Board of Supervisors identifying the number and describing the performance of children experiencing homelessness in Orange County public schools. This data should include the aggregate of students in each district who are experiencing homelessness, their chronic absenteeism rates, and the high school graduation rate, and the percent who meet or exceed state standards in English and Math, starting October 31, 2023, and yearly thereafter.	Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable.	LBUSD supports the work of OCDE in this capacity. This recommendation pertains to OCDE, but not to LBUSD specifically. LBUSD will provide all needed District data to OCDE to perform this work.

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

Sincerely,

Jason Vloria, Ed.D.
 Superintendent
 Email: jvloria@lbusd.org
 (949) 497-7700 Ext.5202



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Aug 17, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING - BUSINESS MEETING
Category	10. CONSENT CALENDAR - ACTION (CONSENT)
Subject	B. Approval of Consent Calendar Items C-X
Type	Action
Recommended Action	Motion to approve Consent Calendar Items C-X.

Background

Approval includes all Consent Calendar items C-X unless an item is pulled to be voted on separately.

Motion & Voting

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Items C-R and T-X.

Motion by Kelly Osborne, second by Joan Malczewski.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Joan Malczewski, Kelly Osborne, Dee Perry, Jan Vickers
Not Present at Vote: Jim Kelly

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Item S.

Motion by Kelly Osborne, second by Joan Malczewski.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Joan Malczewski, Kelly Osborne, Dee Perry, Jan Vickers
Not Present at Vote: Jim Kelly



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Aug 17, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING - BUSINESS MEETING
Category	10. CONSENT CALENDAR - ACTION (CONSENT)
Subject	V. Approval of Staff Responses to the OC Grand Jury Report on Homelessness Working Group
Type	Consent Calendar

Background

The Orange County Grand Jury (OCGJ) recently published a report on May 25, 2023, detailing the efforts undertaken by school districts and the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) to support students and families struggling with homelessness. The report is attached as is the LBUSD response to the Grand Jury.

Per California Penal Code Section 933 933 paragraph (c) states in part "No later than 90 days after the grand jury submits a final report on the operations of any public agency subject to its reviewing authority, the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body..." Each Local Educational Agency (LEA) in Orange County is required to address the findings and recommendations outlined in the OCGJ report by August 24, 2023. It is requested that each District's Governing Board review and approve the written response to the OCGJ report.

 [The ABCs of Educating Children Experiencing Homelessness in OC.pdf \(1,435 KB\)](#)

 [LBUSD OC Grand Jury Report on Homelessness.pdf \(178 KB\)](#)

Parliamentary Procedure provides for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Board by a single motion. All matters listed under the Consent Calendar will be enacted by the Board in one motion. The Superintendent and the Staff recommend approval, and/or ratification of all Consent Calendar items. Any item may be removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of a Board member and acted on separately.