



**Board of Education**

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Crystal Turner, Ed.D.  
**Superintendent**

September 7, 2023

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

Dear Judge,

The Saddleback Valley Unified School District's top priority is creating and maintaining a safe and positive learning environment centered upon the safety and security of the District students, staff, and community. The District utilizes a wide array of safety and security measures to maintain safe schools. Working together with our partners in law enforcement, the District continually analyzes areas for improvement and implements changes on a regular basis. The District recognizes that safety includes both the physical school campus security measures along with student mental health supports. To this end the District places great importance upon providing a robust offering of student wellness supports year round. Safety within SVUSD is multifaceted, incorporating the campuses, infrastructure, CyberSafety, training, and student wellness. Focusing upon these areas and others, the District strives to provide a safe learning environment for all.

The District provides the following responses to each required Finding and Recommendation as requested in the Orange County Grand Jury Report dated June 14, 2023.

<b>F #</b>	<b>Finding</b>	<b>Agree/ Disagree</b>	<b>Response And Explanation (if Required)</b>
<b>F1</b>	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.	Respondent agrees with the finding.	SVUSD and local first responders have developed strong working relationships. The support of School Resource Officers (SRO), along with additional Orange County Sheriff Department (OCSD), Orange County Fire Association (OCFA), and other law enforcement, contribute to safe school environments. OCSD and OCFA collaborate with the District on the Comprehensive School Safety Plans. SVUSD is currently entered into an MOU with the OCSD that strengthens the relationship between both agencies.
<b>F2</b>	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.	Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.	SVUSD prioritizes student and staff safety. Training outlined in Deny Access, Evade, and Engage (D.E.E.) by OCSD are provided to all staff. SROs are present on campus during the training to answer questions. Additionally, lockdown drills are practiced at each site frequently to prepare staff and

			<p>students to respond to on-campus threats. These drills are conducted in accordance with California Education Code, to prepare individuals to handle dangerous situations. SVUSD cannot comment on the training and drills provided by other districts.</p>
<b>F3</b>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.</p>	<p>SVUSD prioritizes the safety of students and staff. The District allocates significant resources to active shooter drills and preparedness. The District works with OCSD and other agencies to participate in tabletop exercises depicting violent intruder scenarios. Site administrators and leadership participate in the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) to assess student threats and determine appropriate supports and responses. The District equipped all classrooms with emergency supplies and equipment, including Stop-the-Bleed style kits. SVUSD continues to refine training procedures and processes to reflect new information and protocols from law enforcement agencies and experts. SVUSD cannot comment on the resources in other school districts.</p>
<b>F4</b>	<p>Safety and security plans for on-campus before and after-school programs are not adequately addressed by school districts.</p>	<p>Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.</p>	<p>Safety before-and-after school is an important aspect to campus security. SVUSD's The Learning Connection (TLC) staff are on site before and after school to run programs. Their site leaders interface with site administration ensuring familiarity with the Comprehensive School Safety Plan (CSSP); staff participates in training and drills with the school site. TLC and afterschool programs are able to activate safety measures and communicate with site and District leadership in the event of a security risk. At the intermediate and high school level, coaches and teachers lead before-and-after school programs; these individuals, who are trained in District safety procedures and protocols, communicate with the site and District administration regarding safety issues.</p> <p>In the 2022-23 school year, SVUSD conducted site assessments at all school sites; this assessment included before and after school programs. Recommendations in the assessments were made, resulting in changes with before-and-after school safety. SVUSD continues to evaluate procedures and protocols for before-and-after school programs in order to prioritize safety for students and staff. When identified, changes will be implemented on an ongoing basis to upgrade site security.</p>



<p><b>F5</b></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>Respondent agrees with the finding.</p>	<p>SVUSD continues to upgrade and implement new safety features each year. Cameras were installed on all campuses over 10 years ago. With advancements in technology and safety protocols, upgrades and enhancements are needed on an ongoing basis. To this end, the District recently began committing funding each year for camera replacement and upgrades. Due to the increasing network infrastructure demands associated with the new camera systems, especially those equipped with Artificial Intelligence (A.I.), the safety, security, and capabilities of the District network are essential components to campus safety and required additional funding to support this expansion.</p> <p>Many schools in SVUSD were designed around the “community campus” plan, with open access and limited fencing. Following a 2022-23 safety assessment, the Board approved funding for fences to close perimeter gaps on all campuses. This work is currently underway.</p> <p>District staff remain committed to safety enhancements at all school sites including fencing, cameras, and visitor management systems. Staff continues to evaluate and implement new security measures within the given budget.</p>
<p><b>F6</b></p>	<p>Not all schools utilize a system for monitoring campus visitors.</p>	<p>Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.</p>	<p>SVUSD identifies all adults on school campuses. District Administrative Regulations require staff to wear their District issued identification badge while on campus. Contract staff wear their contractor badge and check-in at the main office. Volunteers are processed through the Human Resources Department, check-in at the school site main office, and wear a badge while on campus. All visitors to a school site are required to check-in at the main office where they receive a visitor badge and a hi-viz yellow visitor lanyard that must be worn at all times on campus. This badge is returned when they leave campus.</p> <p>The Raptor visitor management system is utilized at each school site. All visitors and volunteers must check-in via Raptor every time they arrive at school. Using a visitor’s driver’s license or state issued identification, this system scans individuals against federal databases, particularly for sex offenders. A badge with name and photo is then printed for the individual to wear while on campus. If an individual is flagged using the Raptor system,</p>

			<p>immediate notification is sent to site and District administration, as well as the site SRO.</p> <p>While SVUSD continues to improve visitor systems to ensure safe campuses, the District cannot speak for what other Orange County school districts are doing.</p>
<b>F7</b>	<p>While there is an increased awareness of the benefits of mental health counseling, not all school districts have implemented these programs in all schools.</p>	<p>Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.</p>	<p>SVUSD invests heavily in student wellness programs. Beginning in 2021, the District dramatically increased mental health counseling and programs. The District added 4 mental health specialists in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school year. It also expanded the elementary counseling program from 1 counselor in 2018-2019 to 13 full time elementary school counselors in 2023-24. The District continues to fund these positions and actively seeks grants to expand our programs.</p> <p>The District began opening student wellness centers on campuses in the 2021 school year. These wellness centers provide support to students and aim to improve student well-being. Wellness centers can be found on campuses at all grade spans. Additionally, the District expands social emotional learning programs at all levels. School counselors at all levels receive training to assist them in working with students to improve their mental health.</p> <p>SVUSD cannot comment on the resources in other school districts.</p>
<b>F8</b>	<p>School Resource Officers (SROs) are a valuable asset for school safety, yet many cities/districts do not allocate sufficient funds to hire needed officers.</p>	<p>Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.</p>	<p>SVUSD is grateful for the investment made by the cities of Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita and Laguna Hills to provide School Resource Officers (SROs) for District schools. An SRO is provided for each high school who also assists with the feeder schools in that area. These officers work with the school site to support a variety of campus activities as outlined in the SVUSD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with OCSD. Beyond the SROs, OCSD provides a wide variety of support services for SVUSD schools, including the SMART team.</p> <p>Recognizing the importance SROs play in school safety, SVUSD understands the value of additional OCSD resources within the school community. District administration works to identify partnerships or funding sources to expand the</p>



			OCS D resources within the school district. District administration works to ensure safety expenditures are allocated responsibly.
<b>F9</b>	Not all classrooms have window shades, tinted glass, or film to obstruct the interior view from the outside.	Respondent agrees with the finding.	<p>The vast majority of classrooms are equipped with tinted windows, window shades, or window films, however some windows, such as interior windows, and main office windows are not. The District is constantly working to address this by replacing window shades when needed, adding film to untinted windows, and inspecting classes annually. The safety inspections with OCS D are instrumental in determining solutions for the many unique spaces on a school campus.</p> <p>Working with OCS D and other partners, to determine solutions for each site illustrates the commitment to ensuring safety at all school sites. The District will continue to inspect campuses and make changes as necessary.</p>
<b>F10</b>	The camera surveillance systems utilized on many campuses require repairs, replacement, or additions.	Respondent agrees with the finding.	<p>SVUSD campuses utilize video surveillance systems; many of these systems were installed over 10 years ago and have been expanded since that time. The number of cameras, coverage provided, and feature sets vary by school site. These systems are designed for post-event analysis. The SVUSD administration recognizes the importance of cameras to campus safety.</p> <p>During the 2022-23 school year the District implemented budgeting for long-term replacement and upgrades to the camera systems. Additional funding is needed to fully upgrade cameras to more modern systems that implement artificial intelligence and advanced services, as well as funding to upgrade the district network to meet the increased demands caused by next generation video cameras.</p> <p>The District works with OCS D to provide access to cameras when needed for emergency response and safety. This collaboration enhances the relationship between the District and OCS D toward maintaining a safe campus environment.</p>
<b>F11</b>	Many schools do not have perimeter fencing completely enclosing their campus.	Respondent agrees with the finding.	Many schools in SVUSD were designed around the “community campus” plan, with open access and limited fencing. Following a 2022-23 safety assessment, the Board approved funding for fences to close perimeter gaps on all campuses. This work

			<p>is currently underway.</p> <p>Many school sites in SVUSD are currently fenced, but other SVUSD campuses require fencing to close “perimeter gaps” or require additional fencing to fully enclose the campus. During the 2022-23 school year the District identified this as a need. Funding was secured and perimeter fencing is being added to close perimeters at campuses. The District continues to engage in safety walks with law enforcement to identify perimeter vulnerabilities. Additional funding is needed to fully address perimeter vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Working collaboratively with law enforcement to identify areas of concern and prioritize areas for the most immediate need, while working with each campuses’ unique needs, the District is able to create a safety plan to support each site.</p>
<b>F12</b>	A number of school districts have school site administrative offices that remain unlocked on a daily basis.	Respondent agrees with the finding.	<p>Within SVUSD all classroom doors are to remain locked; interior doors may employ a “Lockblock” which allows the door to remain locked and closed quickly in the event of an emergency. Exterior facing doors are to remain locked throughout the day.</p> <p>SVUSD school offices are open to the public and unlocked during the day to create a welcoming environment for parent and community involvement. The District is piloting “buzzer” systems for main office entry at two school sites during the 2023-24 school year. This technology was installed during modernization projects for the front office. Using information from the pilot, the District will look at including this in future modernization projects.</p>

<b>R #</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>Response And Explanation (if Required)</b>
<b>R1</b>	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.	Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation.	SVUSD works collaboratively with OCSD on site safety. Each SVUSD school site maintains a Comprehensive School Safety Plan (CSSP) which is updated annually in September by school site administration in conjunction with District office administration. The SRO working with the school site reviews and makes suggestions for the CSSP annually before signing off on



			<p>it. As required by California Education Code, the CSSP receives final approval by the School Board.</p> <p>SVUSD conducted site safety audits in the 2022-23 school year with a security firm. The District approached OCIAC and OCSD multiple times for safety audits, but the agencies do not always have ample staffing to audit each school site. SVUSD, OCIAC and OCSD worked to perform an audit at three school sites in July 2023 and plan to schedule walks at all other school sites. Those site reviews will be completed as OCSD and OCIAC are able to allocate resources.</p>
<b>R2</b>	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.	Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable.	<p>SVUSD utilizes the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System for students to provide information regarding threats and harmful actions they are aware of. SVUSD does not actively monitor social media and does not plan to implement such a system as it's beyond the scope or jurisdiction of the district. The district encourages parents, friends, and the community to report any concerning threats or actions they see on social media to law enforcement and the school district.</p> <p>Through the District MOU with OCSD, the Sheriff's Department does provide information and make contact with the District regarding threatening or disturbing messages it discovers, including those it finds in social media. In these incidents, the District works with law enforcement on appropriate actions and follow up.</p>
<b>R3</b>	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.	Recommendation has been implemented.	SVUSD schools participate in tabletop exercises. Schools participated throughout the 2022-23 school year and all schools will participate annually beginning in the 2023-24 school year.
<b>R4</b>	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.	Recommendation requires further analysis.	SVUSD recognizes the difference between shelter-in-place and lockdown drills. All District schools participate in regular lockdown drills during the school year which simulate responses to a violent intruder situation without calling them

			<p>“active shooter” scenarios. SVUSD district and site administration works with OCSD and other first responders to conduct tabletop exercises regarding active shooters, and District administrators participate in active shooter drills with OCSD.</p>
<b>R5</b>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation.</p>	<p>SVUSD is implementing “Stop-the-Bleed” training in the 2023-24 school year for staff and “Stop-the-Bleed” kits, first aid backpacks and additional emergency supplies are available in each classroom. Staff participate in DEE training at the beginning of each school year as well as drills throughout the school year. SVUSD provides training for employees in utilizing the AED and Narcan; additionally there are staff at each site, including those that work with student athletes, who are First Aid and CPR certified. District nurses work with staff to identify the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, the care for individuals experiencing an allergic reaction, and instructions on administering epinephrine.</p>
<b>R6</b>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation.</p>	<p>The District conducts yearly threat analysis and makes changes based upon those findings. Changes are made upon a yearly basis. Recommendations for before and after school from last year are currently being implemented, and any findings from the 2023-24 school year will be implemented into future CSSPs as resources and funding are available.</p>
<b>R7</b>	<p>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 investigate the potential use of cameras that incorporate Artificial Intelligence to enhance threat detection and prevention.</p>	<p>Recommendation has been implemented.</p>	<p>All SVUSD campuses are equipped with perimeter cameras. The use of AI is being piloted at select sites during the 2023-24 school year. Funding is required to expand the program as well as upgrade our camera systems, many of which are more than 10 years old. Staff is reviewing site camera placement, in conjunction with site walks, site safety analysis, and camera products to evaluate and provide recommendations on camera upgrades and replacements. This assessment, in conjunction with the OCSD site walks and independent assessments, creates safe learning environment throughout the school district.</p>



<b>R8</b>	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.	Recommendation requires further analysis.	SVUSD conducted a survey of all school sites during the 2022-23 school year and is engaging with OCSD to complete school site safety surveys this school year. Perimeter fencing is being added to remaining school sites to create a single point of entry at all school sites. The buzzer system is in a pilot stage at two school sites this year. The District will evaluate and review findings from the buzzer pilot to potentially create a plan for future modernizations. Additional funding would be needed to expand this system District wide.
<b>R9</b>	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 identified access points, badges, or a similar identification procedure to be implemented by July 1, 2024.	Recommendation has been implemented.	For over 4 years, SVUSD schools sites have utilized the Raptor visitor management system. All visitors are required to check in through the main office, verify themselves through Raptor, wear a visitor sticker clearly identifying themselves, and wear a hi-viz visitor lanyard and badge. All visitors must sign-in and out when entering and leaving campus. Single entry points are designated on each campus. Using the Raptor visitor management system is one aspect SVUSD employes to create safe school campuses.
<b>R10</b>	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 requires further analysis.	<p>Currently all administrators, counselors, some teachers, and campus safety are provided training specific to identifying threat-related behaviors. Site administrators and leadership participate in the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) to assess student threats and determine appropriate supports and responses. Site administrators are trained throughout the year at leadership meetings where they are presented with real world scenario that occur on school campuses. Administrators are given the opportunity to work together to problem solve issues surrounding school safety and student behavior.</p> <p>Providing this training to all staff, both classified and certificated, requires additional funding. A procedure is in place, and all staff are familiar with it, for reporting threats and threatening behavior.</p>

<b>R11</b>	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 implemented.	SVUSD has increased the amount of mental health counseling and services throughout the district over the past 2 years. We have increased the number of elementary counselors from 1 to 13, increased the number of secondary mental support staff and opened wellness spaces on several campuses. There has been a large emphasis placed on student mental health and wellness throughout the district. The district is beginning a partnership with Hazel Mental Health Services to further support our students in need of services. Given the significant costs associated with these programs, many paid by one time funds, there is a need to secure additional long term funding to ensure continued services.
<b>R12</b>	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 not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation.	SVUSD will work with OCSd to determine the need for additional SRO support at school sites. Following that analysis the district will determine next steps.
<b>R13</b>	All Orange County school districts should investigate and consider bullet resistant or tinted film covering for school windows by December 31, 2023.	Recommendation requires further analysis.	SVUSD continues to replace and install window blinds or tinting on any exterior facing windows that are currently without, when deemed appropriate by site safety surveys. The District continues to investigate the installation of bullet resistant glass or film covering, but recognizes that additional funding is required to complete this recommendation.

The District’s top priority is to create and maintain a safe, positive, campus environment for students, staff, and community members; through the safety procedures and actions listed above the District strives to continue improving and enhancing our safety posture.

Sincerely,



Crystal Turner, Ed.D.  
 Superintendent  
 Saddleback Valley Unified School District  
 (949) 586-1234