



ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Student & Community Services

1401 North Handy Street • Orange, CA 92867-4334

714-628-5424 • 714-628-4061 (Fax)

www.orangeusd.org

September 11, 2023

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

Re: Orange Unified School District's Response to the 2022-23 Orange County Grand Jury Report on *School Shooting: How Prepared are Orange County Public Schools?*

To the Orange County Grand Jury:

The Orange Unified School District commends the Grand Jury for its time and attention devoted to studying this particularly important issue and publishing the Grand Jury Report dated June 9, 2023, entitled: *School Shooting: How Prepared are Orange County Public Schools?* (Report). The District is committed to serving all students and recognizes that there are unique challenges facing children and families experiencing homelessness and challenges for our District and our school personnel devoted to identifying and serving these students and families.

The District has thoroughly reviewed and considered the Findings and Recommendations in the Report. In accordance with California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Grand Jury has requested that the District respond to the Findings and Recommendations made in the Report. The District responds to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations with the following:

Finding 1

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.

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding 2

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.

The District agrees with the finding.



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Finding 3

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.

The District partially disagrees with the finding.

The District agrees that all districts in Orange County prioritize the safety of students and staff.

Orange Unified School District cannot attest to the attention and resources devoted to active shooter preparedness and response by each district. Our District has partnered with Knowledge Saves Lives, Inc. to provide site-specific lockdown training for all certificated and classified employees with our Local Law Enforcement Agencies in attendance.

Finding 4

Safety and security plans for on-campus before and after-school programs are not adequately addressed by school districts.

The District partially disagrees with the finding.

Orange Unified School District cannot attest if safety and security plans for on-campus and after-school programs are adequately addressed by each district. Our District developed a Safety Task Force and a Safety Plan to enhance our current safety and security plans.

Finding 5

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.

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding 6

Not all schools utilize a system for monitoring campus visitors.

The District partially disagrees with the finding.

Orange Unified School District cannot attest if all schools utilize a system for monitoring campus visitors in each district. Our District uses the Raptor Visitor and Volunteer Management Systems.



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Finding 7

While there is an increased awareness of the benefits of mental health counseling, not all school districts have implemented these programs in all schools.

The District partially disagrees with the finding.

Orange Unified School District cannot attest if all districts have implemented mental health programs in all schools. Our District has dramatically increased the number of counselors and support at the elementary and secondary levels. In accordance with Education Code 49428.5, each of our school sites serving students grade 6 to 12, inclusive, have displayed posters that “identify approaches and resources regarding pupil mental health.”

Finding 8

School Resource Officers (SROs) are a valuable asset for school safety, yet many cities/districts do not allocate sufficient funds to hire needed officers.

The District partially disagrees with the finding.

The District agrees that School Resource Officers are a valuable asset for school safety.

Orange Unified School District cannot attest if many cities/districts allocate sufficient funds to hire needed officers. Currently, our District has two School Resource Officers serving our schools in the city of Orange and one School Resource Officer serving our schools in the city of Villa Park.

Finding 9

Not all classrooms have window shades, tinted glass, or film to obstruct the interior view from the outside.

The District partially disagrees with the finding.

Orange Unified School District cannot attest if all classrooms across the County have window shades, tinted glass, or film to obstruct the interior view from the outside. Across our District, not all classrooms have window shades, tinted glass, or film to obstruct the interior view from the outside.

Finding 10

The camera surveillance systems utilized on many campuses require repairs, replacement, or additions.

The District partially disagrees with the finding.



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Orange Unified School District cannot attest if the camera surveillance systems utilized on many campuses across the County require repairs, replacement, or additions. Our District has cameras at all secondary school sites and is currently installing cameras at all elementary school sites.

Finding 11

Many schools do not have perimeter fencing completely enclosing their campus.

The District partially disagrees with the finding.

Orange Unified School District cannot attest if many schools across the County have perimeter fencing completely enclosing their campuses. Our District installed new perimeter fencing and privacy slats for high-risk areas on school campuses across the District.

Finding 12

A number of school districts have school site administrative offices that remain unlocked on a daily basis.

The District partially disagrees with the finding.

Orange Unified School District cannot attest if school districts have school site administrative offices unlocked on a daily basis. Our District uses the Raptor Visitor Management System which provides an extra layer of security for our day-to-day and a consistent, standardized system to track visitors. Additionally, all school sites across our District have been equipped with lock blocks for their classroom doors.

Recommendation 1

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. (F1, F10, F11)

The recommendation has been implemented.

During the summer, Orange Unified School District personnel conducts safety inspections on all school campuses. Our District has been in communication with all local law enforcement agencies within District boundaries to partake in our annual safety inspections. Because of our unique boundaries, we partner with five different agencies – Orange PD, OC Sheriff, Anaheim PD, Santa Ana PD, and Garden Grove PD. Safety inspections will commence by October 1, 2023, and annually thereafter.



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Recommendation 2

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. (F1, F3)

The recommendation has been implemented.

Our District's Communications Department monitors social media, screens for messages of concern, and manages information received. Our District uses Gaggle which is a safety management tool that helps support student safety using Google Workspace for Education. It helps ensure that students are safely and correctly using school-provided digital tools, scans for concerning behavior or content, and immediately alerts school officials for follow-up. These efforts are in coordination with local law enforcement agencies.

Recommendation 3

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. (F2)

The recommendation has been implemented.

During the 2022-23 school year, Orange Unified School District participated in two tabletop exercises with the Orange County Sheriff's Department and the Emergency Preparedness Interagency Collaborative (EPIC). Orange Unified School District will participate in a tabletop exercise on November 16, 2023, with the Emergency Preparedness Interagency Collaborative (EPIC). Our District has been in communication with all local law enforcement agencies within District boundaries to partake in annual tabletop exercises. Because of our unique boundaries, we partner with five different agencies – Orange PD, OC Sheriff, Anaheim PD, Santa Ana PD, and Garden Grove PD.

Recommendation 4

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. (F2)

The recommendation has been implemented.

On August 11 and 14, 2023 and during the week of September 11-14, 2023, all elementary school site and District personnel participated in a lockdown training which was provided by Knowledge Saves Lives, Inc. Local law enforcement agencies were in attendance. All secondary school site personnel will be trained on November 17, 2023.



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Recommendation 5

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. (F3)

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but our District will work with local law enforcement agencies to identify a casualty care training program by the end of the first semester of the 2023-24 school year.

Recommendation 6

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. (F4)

The recommendation has been implemented.

Our District developed a Safety Task Force and a Safety Plan to enhance our current safety and security plans for on-campus before and after-school programs.

Recommendation 7

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. (F5, F10)

The recommendation has been implemented.

Our District has perimeter camera systems at all secondary school sites and is currently installing cameras at all elementary school sites. The installation will be completed by July 1, 2024.

Recommendation 8

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. (F5, F12)

The recommendation has been implemented.

Our District installed new perimeter fencing and privacy slats for high-risk areas on school campuses across the District. Our District is conducting a needs assessment to have a buzzer and camera system for entry into the main/administrative offices.



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Recommendation 9

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. (F6, F11, F12)

The recommendation has been implemented.

Our District uses the Raptor Visitor and Volunteer Management Systems. Raptor enhances school security by comparing information on a visitor's driver's license (or other approved government-issued ID) against a sex offender database. Once cleared through the system, a visitor badge is produced that includes a photo, name of the visitor, date & time, and destination. Raptor provides an extra layer of security for our day-to-day and a consistent, standardized system to track visitors and volunteers.

Recommendation 10

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. (F7)

The recommendation has been implemented.

Our elementary/secondary counselors and school psychologists received Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Certification Training. Our District has been in communication with the Orange County Department of Education about providing Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) Training for school and District personnel by the 2024-25 school year.

Recommendation 11

All Orange County school districts should develop a plan to implement or enhance mental health counseling for all schools by December 31, 2024. (F7)

The recommendation has been implemented.

Our District has dramatically increased the number of counselors and support at the elementary and secondary levels.

Recommendation 12

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. (F8)

The recommendation has been implemented.



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Orange Unified School District has two School Resource Officers serving our schools in the city of Orange and one School Resource Officer serving our schools in the city of Villa Park. Our District is currently assessing the need for a School Resource Officer to serve our schools in the city of Anaheim.

Recommendation 13

All Orange County school districts should investigate and consider bullet resistant or tinted film covering for school windows by December 31, 2023. (F9)

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but our District will investigate and consider this recommendation by December 31, 2023.

Please accept the information provided herein as the District's responses to the Orange County Grand Jury's Factual Findings and Recommendation in the Report. Once again, we appreciate the time and attention that the Grand Jury devoted to this particularly important issue.

Sincerely,

Heriberto Angel
Executive Director
Office of Student & Community Services
Orange Unified School District