



# 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](http://www.orangeusd.org)

September 11, 2023

The Honorable Maria D. Hernandez  
Presiding Judge  
Orange County Superior Court  
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 *Russian Roulette: Fentanyl in Orange County*.

To the Honorable Maria D. Hernandez:

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 21, 2023, entitled: *Russian Roulette: Fentanyl in Orange County*. (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 2**

**Illicit fentanyl is a pervasive problem in Orange County.**

The District agrees with the finding.

## **Finding 7**

**Orange County will benefit by establishing a chartered multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis in Orange County.**

The District agrees with the finding.



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## Finding 8

**As long as there is a demand, producers will find ways to supply drugs. Orange County cannot law enforce its way out of the fentanyl crisis. Education, prevention, and treatment are critical to reducing demand.**

The District agrees with the finding.

## Finding 9

**There is a need to increase public awareness and acknowledgement of the risks of illicit fentanyl.**

The District agrees with the finding.

## Finding 10

**Some educational institutions are not participating in available educational and preventive fentanyl/drug programs.**

The District partially disagrees with the finding.

Orange Unified School District cannot attest to whether some educational institutions are not participating in available educational and preventative fentanyl/drug programs. At the end of the 2022-23 school year, our District along with the OC Health Care Agency, City of Orange Fire Department, and Orange Police Department co-sponsored a Fentanyl & Opioid Town Hall at Santiago Canyon College which was presented by Chairman Donald P. Wagner of the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Additionally, the City of Orange Fire Department provided Fentanyl and Naloxone informational sessions to our community and school site administrators and nurses across our District. Lastly, our District developed an annual process for volunteers to be trained in the administration of Naloxone Hydrochloride pursuant to Education Code §49414.3.

## Recommendation 1

**By January 1, 2024, the Orange County Board of Supervisors should charter a multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis. (F2, F7, F8, F9)**

The recommendation was directed for the Orange County Board of Supervisors; however, this has been implemented in our District.

During the 2022-23 school year, our District developed a Safety Task Force composed of District and school administrators, certificated and classified personnel, community members, and students. Additionally, our District is in constant communication with the OC Health Care Agency, OC Department of Education, City of Orange Fire Department, and all local law enforcement agencies within District boundaries. Because of our



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unique boundaries, we partner with five different agencies – Orange PD, OC Sheriff, Anaheim PD, Santa Ana PD, and Garden Grove PD.

## Recommendation 5

**By January 1, 2024, the Orange County Department of Education should develop a model fentanyl/opioid educational program to be offered to all K-12 school districts in Orange County. (F2, F8, F9, F10)**

The recommendation was directed for the Orange County Department of Education; however, this has been implemented in our District.

The City of Orange Fire Department provided Fentanyl and Naloxone informational sessions to our community and school site administrators and nurses across our District. Additionally, our District developed an annual process for volunteers to be trained in the administration of Naloxone Hydrochloride pursuant to Education Code §49414.3.

## Recommendation 6

**By October 1, 2023, the Orange County Department of Education should promote the use of currently established and in-place fentanyl and drug-related educational programs offered by OC agencies such as the OC Health Care Agency, OC Sheriff's Department, and non-governmental organizations to all K-12 school districts in Orange County. (F2, F8, F9, F10)**

The recommendation was directed for the Orange County Department of Education; however, this has been implemented in our District.

At the end of the 2022-23 school year, our District along with the OC Health Care Agency, City of Orange Fire Department, and Orange Police Department co-sponsored a Fentanyl & Opioid Town Hall at Santiago Canyon College which was presented by Chairman Donald P. Wagner of the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Additionally, our District is in constant communication with the OC Health Care Agency, OC Department of Education, City of Orange Fire Department, and all local law enforcement agencies within District boundaries. Because of our unique boundaries, we partner with five different agencies – Orange PD, OC Sheriff, Anaheim PD, Santa Ana PD, and Garden Grove PD.



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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