



A Legacy of Excellence in Education

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September 15, 2023

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

Dear Judge Hernandez,

In compliance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) offers the following response to the Grand Jury findings and recommendations based on their investigation, *“School Shooting: How Prepared are Orange County Public Schools?”* (Report).

Please see below for Tustin Unified School District responses to each required Finding as requested in the Orange County Grand Jury report.

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.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding (see right for explanation)	TUSD partially disagrees with this finding. TUSD recognizes that MOUs can be effective tools to formally establish the way two entities should work together. However, TUSD has had long-term, high-functioning relationships established with all three policing agencies that support our District without MOUs. Only Tustin PD and TUSD have a current MOU in place. Irvine PD and OC Sherriff's Department do not wish to enter MOUs at this time. In our scenario, MOUs have not been necessary in past years to remain effective partners. An MOU has also not been necessary to have PDs provide trainings, help with safety planning, or to provide at least one SRO to serve each high school area within our District.

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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. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding (see right for explanation)	TUSD partially disagrees with this finding. While TUSD does not speak for other Districts, TUSD has specifically addressed armed assailants within drills conducted by every site within our District in the past year. These training was provided by either local law enforcement partners or through a consultant such as Knowledge Saves Lives.
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.	Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding	
F4	Safety and security plans for on-campus before and after-school programs are not adequately addressed by school districts.	Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding	
F5	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.	Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding	
F6	Not all schools utilize a system for monitoring campus visitors.	Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding	TUSD does monitor those visiting school campuses each day. However, there is no uniform system in place across every site.
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.	Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding	TUSD is unable to speak for the efforts of other districts. However, TUSD has a significant investment in supporting student and staff mental health that began nearly a decade ago. TUSD mental health staff include Mental Health Specialists, Social Workers, Psychologists and Counselors that have mental health support as their primary responsibility.

F8	School Resource Officers (SROs) are a valuable asset for school safety, yet many cities/districts do not allocate sufficient funds to hire needed officers.	Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding	TUSD is unable to speak for the efforts of other cities/districts. However, TUSD does currently benefit from one funded SRO from the OC Sherriff's Department, two from Tustin Police Department, and one from Irvine Police Department. It would be appreciated if the Grand Jury would support efforts to increase state or federal funding for schools/cities to specifically expand the number of SROs dedicated to serving schools each day.
F9	Not all classrooms have window shades, tinted glass, or film to obstruct the interior view from the outside.	Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding	
F10	The camera surveillance systems utilized on many campuses require repairs, replacement, or additions.	Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding	
F11	Many schools do not have perimeter fencing completely enclosing their campus.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding (see right for explanation)	TUSD is not able to speak for other school districts. However, all comprehensive TUSD school sites have perimeter fencing in place that directs visitors through a single point of entry during school hours. This single point of entry is either a securable main gate or the front office of each comprehensive TUSD campus.
F12	A number of school districts have school site administrative offices that remain unlocked on a daily basis.	Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding	

Please see below for Tustin Unified School District responses to each required Recommendation as requested in the Orange County Grand Jury report titled “School Shooting: How Prepared are Orange County Public Schools.”

R #	Recommendation	Implementation	Response And Explanation (if required)
R1	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 in the future (see right for timeline)	TUSD Student Services and Maintenance and Operations Staff, and Site Staff have conducted multiple “safety walks” on each campus with law enforcement partners and with consultants like Knowledge Saves Lives. Walks like this have taken place for several years. These safety walks include a review of site security features as well as a status check on safety plans. TUSD safety walks for this school year will begin during September 2023 and will be scheduled annually from this point forward.
R2	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 requires further analysis (see right for explanation of scope, parameters, and 6 month timeline of analysis)	TUSD has already fully implemented CatapultEMS (“WeTip”) to allow our community at large to inform administration of potential concerns at any time of day. Concerns could be on campus, off campus, involving social media, etc. These concerns are then elevated to law enforcement partners as needed. TUSD feels this effort (already in place) is in compliance with the July 1, 2024 deadline presented in this recommendation. However, TUSD has concern with using the terms “monitoring” or “screening” anything internet related, as we are not aware of any system or person who can do this reliably.

R3	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 not yet been implemented but will be in the future (see right for timeline)	TUSD Staff have participated in EPIC workshops and tabletop exercises for several years. School sites also conducted exercises / drills / training in conjunction with law enforcement partners and/or consultants like Knowledge Saves Lives within the past year. While TUSD feels these exercises would satisfy the recommendation set forth in R3, TUSD will plan to have formal tabletop exercises as a part of trainings/planning work each year starting December 31, 2023.
R4	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 has not yet been implemented but will be in the future (see right for timeline)	TUSD will plan to conduct a district-wide active shooter drill in conjunction with all three of our local policing agencies prior to the July 1, 2024 deadline.
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 not yet been implemented but will be in the future (see right for timeline)	TUSD will develop a casualty care training program (in conjunction with our liability insurance provider) for use with appropriate individuals at each district school and site prior to December 31, 2023.
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 been implemented but will be in the future (see right for timeline)	TUSD will re-assess security plans with each site and add any needed elements, within our control, that are specific to before and after-school programs prior to July 1, 2024.

<p>R7</p>	<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 requires further analysis (see right for explanation of scope, parameters, and 6 month timeline of analysis)</p>	<p>TUSD Staff is currently studying this recommendation. District Staff is actively meeting with camera and other security system component vendors, investigating neighboring districts with successful camera deployments, establishing best practices, modifying contract language for employees, and identifying potential pilot sites for test deployments of various systems. Some systems being investigated do have AI features incorporated.</p> <p>It is realistic for TUSD to pursue a pilot site and possibly better utilize the cameras already in place at various sites by the July 1, 2024 deadline. It may also be possible to establish a plan by that date for future scaling options to all sites.</p> <p>TUSD does not have a dedicated funding source in place at this time to scale a successful camera deployment to all school sites within this July 1, 2024 timeline. TUSD would also need to hire and maintain adequate staff to provide a baseline of monitoring and operation of such a security system, infrastructure improvements at all sites would likely be required, funding set aside, installations would need to happen, and staff would need to be trained on proper use. A progress goal, or a deadline in the out years is more realistic and gives districts the opportunity to pursue several funding options.</p> <p>We hope the Grand Jury will work with legislators to help districts acquire ongoing state and/or federal funding for this specific purpose.</p>
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<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 implemented</p>	<p>All TUSD comprehensive school sites currently have perimeter fencing in place that encourage a single point of entry onto school campuses. TUSD is currently exploring options for implementing additional camera systems and other technologies that could increase perimeter security. Safety walks at each site (beginning in September 2023) will involve a broader analysis of office/entry point security options including buzzer-based entry systems.</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 identified access points, badges, or a similar identification procedure to be implemented by July 1, 2024.</p>	<p>Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be in the future (see right for timeline)</p>	<p>While TUSD does not currently have mandate a uniform visitor management system across all campuses, TUSD is piloting "Raptor" visitor management systems a few sites at the present time. TUSD is also exploring the piloting of both Verkada sign-in systems as well as a "BluViolet" solution that does very similar badging and monitoring to that of Raptor, but have added options like license plate scanning and drivers licence scanning features. Piloting these "BlueViolet" and Verkada options will not be completed by July 1, 2024 due to the need to install physical upgrades on the pilot campuses. Based on current project timelines for these pilot sites, it is likely that TUSD could adequately pilot all systems, select one, train staff and implement a common solution across all school campuses by the 2025-26 school year.</p>

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 not yet been implemented but will be in the future (see right for timeline)	TUSD will implement training for all staff to help identify threat-related behaviors as well as the procedure for reporting such behaviors prior to the start of the 2024-25 school year.
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 implemented	TUSD has already implemented a significant mental health support program across the District. TUSD will continue to refine and enhance this program over time.
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 implemented	TUSD has already secured at least one SRO from each of our local policing agencies and two from Tustin PD. OC School Districts could use help from the Grand Jury in securing additional and ongoing funding from State and Federal Legislator - specifically intended for adding SROs to school campuses.
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 not yet been implemented but will be in the future (see right for timeline)	TUSD will continue to evaluate options with regard to window tints and other window coverings while conducting annual safety walks. Safety walks begin on school campuses in September of 2023.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,



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