



September 18, 2023

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

To the Honorable Maria Hernandez:

Please see below for the Newport Mesa Unified School District responses to each required Finding (2,7,8, 9, and 10) as requested in the Orange County Grand Jury report dated June 14, 2023.

F #	Finding	Agree/ Disagree	Response And Explanation (if Required)
F2	Illicit fentanyl is a pervasive problem in Orange County.	Agree.	Newport Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) agrees with this finding.
F7	Orange County will benefit by establishing a chartered multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis in Orange County.	Agree.	NMUSD agrees with this finding.
F8	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.	Agree.	NMUSD agrees with this finding.
F9	There is a need to increase public awareness and acknowledgement of the risks of illicit fentanyl.	Agree.	NMUSD agrees with the finding
F10	Some educational institutions are not participating in available educational and preventive fentanyl/drug programs.	Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding (see right for explanation)	NMUSD disagrees with the finding as it relates to the school sites within our district. The District has revised Board Policy 5141.21 to have naloxone available and approved to be used as an emergency medical aid. NMUSD has participated in educational and preventive fentanyl/drug training opportunities. All schools are equipped with naloxone, an FDA-approved medication designed to swiftly reverse opioid overdoses.

			Several key staff members at each school campus are trained to administer this medication if an overdose occurs. NMUSD has taken several steps to increase awareness and prevention of fentanyl and other drugs through partnerships with the OC Sheriff, OCDE, and contracts with non-profit organizations including Waymakers, and NBPD Step-Up.
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Please see below for the responses to each required Recommendation (1, 5, and 6) as requested in the Orange County Grand Jury report and attached cover letter dated June 14, 2023.

R #	Recommendation	Implementation	Response And Explanation (if Required)
R1	By January 1, 2024, the Orange County Board of Supervisors should charter a multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis.	Recommendation has not yet been implemented.	Once a multi-agency task force is developed to address the fentanyl crisis, NMUSD will participate in the group.
R5	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.	Recommendation has not yet been implemented.	When this educational program has been developed and offered to school districts, this program will be reviewed and considered for implementation in the district.
R6	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 Health Care Agency, OC Sheriff's Department, and non-governmental organizations to all K-12 school districts in Orange County.	Recommendation has not yet been implemented.	NMUSD acknowledges and supports the recommendation to promote currently established and in-place fentanyl and drug-related educational programs offered by various Orange County agencies to all K-12 school districts in Orange County. Drug education programs are essential in addressing drug-related concerns in a comprehensive manner.

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

Sincerely,



Sara Jocham, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent, Special Services
Newport Mesa Unified School District
sjocham@nmusd.us
714-424-5058



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