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October 24, 2023

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

Re: Correction to the Orange County Department of Education's Response to the 2022-23 Orange County Grand Jury Report on *The ABC's of Educating Children Experiencing Homelessness in Orange County*

It has come to our attention that our previous submission was missing the response of Recommendation #10 on the last page. Please accept the enclosed, our corrected response that includes the page omitted in error. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Sincerely,

Ramon Miramontes, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent
Orange County Department of Education

By October 1, 2023, a joint task force should be formed by the OCDE comprised of a district-level administrator from each Orange County school district and leadership from non-profit organizations who serve homeless families, to address absenteeism, low test scores and low graduation rates of children experiencing homelessness. (F.11, F.12, F13, F14, F15)

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

OCDE will lead a Steering Committee (referred to in R6 as “joint task force”) through the Homeless Outreach Promoting Educational Success (HOPES) Collaborative Network Meetings. This Steering Committee is embedded within the existing HOPES Collaborative, allowing information to be disseminated with minimal barriers or delay. OCDE HOPES Collaborative supports county-wide efforts to address issues specific to youth experiencing homelessness. In addition, OCDE has developed three (3) subcommittees comprised of OCDE staff, district personnel, and community partners addressing chronic absenteeism, graduation rates, and low test scores. These subcommittees will meet 1x per month beginning September 2023 through April 2024.

Each subcommittee will review current practices, evidence supporting those practices, and then share practices and findings with the Steering Committee (AKA joint task force) in April 2024. The Steering Committee is composed of district liaisons who will then disseminate within their specific LEAs.

Recommendation 10

The Orange County Superintendent of Schools should provide information from the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) to the Board of Supervisors identifying the number and describing the performance of children experiencing homelessness in Orange County public schools. This data should include the aggregate of students in each district who are experiencing homelessness, their chronic absenteeism rates, and the high school graduation rate, and the percent who meet or exceed state standards in English and Math, starting October 31, 2023, and yearly thereafter.

The recommendation requires further analysis.

The specified data cannot be obtained from the School Accountability Report Cards (SARC) for the following reasons

- The R10 verbiage indicates that the Grand Jury is requesting District level data. The SARC reports include only school-level data.
- The SARC data is reported by overall student population and does not include the requested data by the McKinney Vento (homeless) student population. (For example, they do not report chronic absenteeism rates for homeless students).

Instead, OCDE suggests that California Department of Education (CDE) Dataquest is used to report on the requested homeless student statistics for each district. OCDE also suggests that the requested data is reported in February 2024 and each year thereafter to allow time for CDE to update Dataquest with

the most recent data.

OCDE can provide this data in a Google Sheet with formatted tables for each data set.

Timeline for analysis is:

- August, 2023 - Review data contained in SARC and evaluate if this data meets the specified request in R10.
- September, 2023 - Meet with program staff and evaluation team to finalize plan for aggregation and dissemination of CDE Dataquest data.
- January and February, 2024 - Compile CDE Dataquest data and provide to OC Board of Supervisors.

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 very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Miramontes".

Ramon Miramontes, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent
Orange County Department of Education