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September 1, 2024

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

Re: Fullerton Elementary School District's Response to the 2023-2024 Orange County Grand Jury Report on *Use of Artificial Intelligence in Public Schools (K-12)*

To the Honorable Maria D. Hernandez:

The Fullerton Elementary School District (District) commends the Grand Jury for its time and attention devoted to studying this very important issue and publishing the Grand Jury Report dated June 12, 2024 entitled: *Use of Artificial Intelligence in Public Schools (K-12)* ("Report")

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 Findings and Recommendations made in the Report. The District responds to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations with the following:

Finding 1. Orange County's K-12 public schools have implemented policies and/or guidelines around the use of different AI platforms in varying and inconsistent ways. Some prohibit AI's use; others allow it; and some don't have policies or guidelines governing AI at all.

The District agrees with this finding and notes that it is the responsibility of each district to develop their own guidelines and policies related to the use of AI platforms unless and until there is legislation mandating a singular approach. The Fullerton School District does not know the approach of all of the other districts in the County. .

Finding 2. Superintendents provide varying levels of support in implementing AI policies and/or guidelines in their respective school districts.

The District disagrees partially with the Finding. Fullerton School District can only speak to the work of our Superintendent has been a leader in utilizing AI in an innovative way and encourages others to do the same. He is providing appropriate support and guidance for the District's schools. We know the County has many Superintendents who serve as strong educational leaders for their districts, and we can only assume they are also providing good levels of support in implementing AI policies and guidelines in their respective school districts.



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Finding 3. There are many resources to guide educators in using AI. Several are available at the local level through the Orange County Department of Education, Orange County Board of Education, CEO Leadership Alliance Orange County, and Orange Unified School District Technology Department, to name a few. However, utilization and even awareness of the availability of such resources is highly variable across school districts

The District agrees with the Finding. We would assume that utilization and awareness of resources on AI is highly variable, but we aren't sure as we don't work in all of the districts and we are not privy to the utilization of AI resources across districts. We have been a part of the OCDE working group on AI, so we are aware that some districts are at varying levels of awareness and utilization of the OCDE resources, but not of any of the other districts. The Orange County Board of Education does not have any resources for Artificial Intelligence, but OCDE does.

Recommendation 1. Orange County's K-12 schools should implement policies and guidelines regarding the appropriate use of AI. These may be provided at the district level or within individual schools through the adoption of an Acceptable Use Policy, Code of Ethics, or other written directives addressing the use of AI.

The Recommendation was implemented before the release of the Grand Jury report as the student Digital Responsibility Agreement has been rewritten for the 24-25 school year.

Recommendation 2: Superintendents should ensure that their schools have policies that cover, at a minimum: the scope, guiding principles, and training regarding the responsible use of AI tools by students and teachers; any prohibited uses or special considerations regarding AI tools; and related security, privacy, and safety considerations.

The Recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in two parts. By November 2024 the district will have developed model lessons for teachers at all grade levels that cover the areas listed in this recommendation as developmentally appropriate. This school year we will convene a committee to consider the items listed in this recommendation plus others we deem necessary for AI adoption and creating district-wide guidelines with guidelines created in full by May 30th, 2024.



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Recommendation 3: K-12 students should be trained on the appropriate use of AI.

The Recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. In November the district is hosting an all-teacher professional learning day based on AI. While we will be instructing these teachers on how to teach their students about the appropriate use of AI, in the earlier grades (TK-2) we will be focusing on teaching students how to ask the best questions as it would not be reasonable for students at TK-2 to use AI in the classroom. Model lessons will be developed for all grade levels and teachers will be instructed to teach these lessons before the end of the school year. As developmentally appropriate, students will be taught appropriate use of AI.

Recommendation 4: K-12 teachers should be trained on the appropriate use of AI.

The Recommendation has been partially implemented, and will be completely implemented in the future. Our district has done two mini-conferences for teachers on the use of AI in the classroom. We conducted these professional learning events for seven schools during the 23-24 school year. We are hosting a one-day professional learning event in November for all teachers and the focus of the day is Artificial Intelligence. All teachers will be given model lessons to be taught at some point during the 24-25 school year.

Recommendation 5: Schools and educators should be encouraged to collaborate with the various available AI consortiums and think tanks, such as OCDE and CLAOC, to effectively implement AI and establish basic tenets for its use.

The Recommendation has been implemented partially. The District does collaborate with the OCDE AI working group, as we attended multiple meetings this year to collaborate with other districts. We will reach out to CLAOC to see what resources they have for Tk-8 AI education. We are also establishing a teacher cohort for blended AI and Innovation starting in September. The District will continue to collaborate with the OCDE AI working group.

Please accept the information provided herein as the District's response to the Orange County Grand Jury's Factual Findings and Recommendations in the Report.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bob Pletka, District Superintendent