September 6, 2024

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

To the Honorable Maria D. Hernandez:

Re: Cypress School District's Response to the 2023-24 Orange County Grand Jury Report on *Use of Artificial Intelligence in Public Schools (K-12)*

The Cypress School District appreciates the time and attention devoted to studying this issue and publishing the Grand Jury Report dated June 12, 2024, entitled *Use of Artificial Intelligence in Public Schools (K-12)*.

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, following is the district's response.

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 Cypress School District partially disagrees with the finding. The district does not have direct knowledge of the policies and/or guidelines other school districts have in place concerning the use of AI platforms and, therefore, cannot agree or wholly disagree with this finding. As it pertains to the Cypress School District, while the district does not have an AI-specific Board Policy, it has a Student Use of Technology Policy (BP 6163.4) and an Acceptable Use Agreement for the safe and responsible use of technology. Given that AI is a form of technology, its use is governed by these documents.

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

The Cypress School District partially disagrees with the finding. The district does not have direct knowledge of how other superintendents support AI policies and/or guidelines in their school districts and, therefore, cannot agree or wholly disagree with this finding. As it pertains to the Cypress School District, the superintendent is responsible for implementing all Board Policies and Administrative Regulations, including those on the safe and responsible use of technology. Additionally, the superintendent and district-level administrators participated in a countywide *AI Forward* initiative

sponsored by the Orange County Department of Education in 2023/24. The purpose of the program is to increase understanding of AI, its potential uses, and its implications for education. A district team will continue participation in this program during the 2024/25 school year.

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 Cypress School District partially disagrees with this finding. The district does not have direct knowledge of each district's awareness or utilization of available resources to guide educators in using AI and, therefore, cannot agree or wholly disagree with this finding. As it pertains to the Cypress School District and described previously, a team of district administrators is continuing to participate in the *AI Forward* initiative sponsored by the Orange County Department of Education. However, as an elementary school district, the use of AI tools and resources must be age-appropriate for the children we serve.

Recommendation 1: By June 30, 2025, 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 has not yet been implemented but will be implemented during the 2025/26 school year through revisions to the district's Acceptable Use Agreement as well as its staff and student/family handbooks.

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 during the 2025/26 school year through revisions to the district's Acceptable Use Agreement as well as its staff and student/family handbooks. However, as an elementary school district, the use of AI tools and resources must be age-appropriate for the children we serve. Student training will be integrated into the district's digital citizenship program. Teacher training will be introduced through logical entry points that support the district's current goals, instructional initiatives, and adopted curriculum, as well as support student mastery of grade-level content standards.

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 during the 2025/26 school year. As an elementary school district, student training will be age-appropriate and integrated within the district's digital citizenship student training program.

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

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented during the 2025/26 school year. Teacher training will be introduced through logical entry points that support the district's current goals, instructional initiatives, and adopted curriculum, as well as support student mastery of grade-level content standards.

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.

This recommendation has been implemented. The district participates in AI initiatives and collaboratives sponsored by the Orange County Department of Education.

Please accept the information provided herein as the district's responses to the Orange County Grand Jury's report.

Sincerely,

Anne Silavs
Superintendent