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Andrew Pulver, Ed.D.
Superintendent

September 6, 2024

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

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

To the Honorable Maria D. Hernandez:

The Los Alamitos Unified 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 partially disagrees with the finding.

The District cannot comment on other districts' policies and/or guidelines around the use of AI platforms. As it pertains to Los Alamitos Unified School District, we are developing AI policies based on the guidance of Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), California IT in Education (CITE), the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), and the California Department of Education (CDE), with formal policy drafting beginning in 2024-25. The policy development process will include stakeholder input from leadership, staff, students, and parents, with a final policy to be presented to the school board for approval.

Board of Education: Megan Cutuli • Marlys Davidson • Diana D. Hill • Scott Fayette • Chris Forehan

Finding 2

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

The District partially disagrees with the finding.

The District partially disagrees in that it cannot comment on the superintendent level of support in implementing AI policies and/or guidelines in other districts. As it pertains to Los Alamitos Unified School District, the Superintendent, Andrew Pulver, Ed.D., joined the OCDE K-12 Strong Workforce Initiative to expand the use of AI in education and supported AI education implementation for staff, including AI training sessions for teachers and administrators during the 2023-24 school year. Deputy Superintendent Ondrea Reed facilitated the district's initial round of AI training sessions, with Dr. Pulver actively participating and setting the vision for AI use in the district.

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 partially disagrees with the finding.

The District does not have firsthand information regarding the utilization and awareness of the availability of AI resources across school districts. As it pertains to Los Alamitos Unified School District, we continue to explore and utilize resources provided or recommended by OCDE, CITE, CoSN, CDE, and other education organizations. During the initial round of AI training sessions, Deputy Superintendent Ondrea Reed shared and demonstrated the use of many AI resources to support the development of learning opportunities and other educator tasks. During the spring of the 2023-24 school year, the district continued to explore and share AI resources through participation in the OCDE AI Foward monthly meetings and teacher participation in training opportunities such as the OCDE World Language AI Workshop.

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 in the future.

The District has not yet implemented this recommendation but will implement this recommendation by June 30, 2025, with the following action plan: The policy development process will occur during the 2024-

25 school year, garnering input from stakeholders that include district and school leadership, staff, students, and parents, with a final policy to be presented to the school board for approval.

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 of special considerations regarding AI tools; and related security, privacy, and safety considerations.

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

The District has not yet implemented this recommendation but will implement this recommendation by June 30, 2025, with the following action plan: The district will establish an AI team to attend relevant AI trainings and workshops, including special and safety considerations detailed in the Grand Jury's recommendation. The team will be responsible for making recommendations to establish and maintain district guidelines based on new insights, aiming to continually improve AI guiding principles, implementation, and safety.

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.

The District has not yet implemented this recommendation but will implement this recommendation by June 30, 2025, with the following action plan: Training for students will begin during the 2024-25 school year as teachers are trained to integrate AI tools and resources into learning opportunities, along with guidelines and AI-specific digital citizenship lessons. The pace of this work will begin with high school students who meet the age requirements of many AI resources and proceed to lower grades as allowable under the requirements of laws protecting the data of minors. Initial training for elementary students will focus on digital citizenship, awareness, and modeling appropriate use of AI technology.

Recommendation 4

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

The recommendation has been implemented.

The District has implemented this recommendation as follows: During the 2023-34 school year, K-12 teachers, education specialists, counselors, school psychologists, and administrators were trained on the appropriate use of AI, including necessary precautions regarding ethics and data safety. Training opportunities will continue to be provided for staff during the 2024-25 school year to expand upon previous lessons and provide access for staff unable to participate in 2023-24.

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.

The District has implemented this recommendation as follows: The educational technology coordinator for Los Alamitos USD attended AI forward workshops and several AI conferences in 2023-24 to share resources and guidance from the county and other organizations with Los Alamitos Unified. This work also included teacher and student participation in OCDE-facilitated AI workshops. During the 2024-25 school year, the educational technology coordinator will continue collaborating with OCDE's AI forward group as the district's AI Lead, and teachers and students will be encouraged to participate in OCDE-facilitated and relevant AI workshops and events.

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,

Andrew Pulver, Ed.D
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