



September 11, 2024

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

Re: Huntington Beach City 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 Huntington Beach City 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 the 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 cannot comment on other districts' policies and/or guidelines around the use of AI platforms. As it pertains to Huntington Beach City School District, the District has updated its Acceptable Use Policy, which addresses the appropriate use of AI.

#### **Finding 2**

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

The District partially disagrees because it cannot comment on the superintendent's level of support in implementing AI policies and/or guidelines in other districts. As it pertains to Huntington Beach City School District, the District leadership, under the direction of the superintendent, has discussed different AI platforms and features that district office staff could consider to conduct their work more efficiently and effectively. The superintendent has also added AI as an ongoing topic in weekly cabinet meetings for updates and discussion with district leadership.

### 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 are highly variable across school districts.**

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 Huntington Beach City School District, the District maintains representatives on the Orange County AI Forward Network to obtain best practices for use in the educational environment.

### 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 District has implemented this recommendation. The District's Acceptable Use Policy addresses the appropriate use of AI.

### 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 District has partially implemented this recommendation and determined that this recommendation requires further analysis. The District's Acceptable Use Policy



addresses the appropriate use of AI as it relates to prohibited uses and related security, privacy, and safety considerations. AI is a rapidly evolving technology and any policies established beyond security and safety may become obsolete quickly. The District's further analysis regarding this recommendation will be completed and reviewed by the District's superintendent, who will inform the governing board before December 13, 2024.

### **Recommendation 3**

#### **K-12 students should be trained on the appropriate use of AI.**

The District has not implemented this recommendation, but will consider to what extent this recommendation is feasible to implement by December 13, 2024. The District must consider the developmentally appropriate training for each age group, given that the District serves students under the age of 14 in kindergarten through eighth grade. The District's further analysis regarding this recommendation will be completed and reviewed by the District's superintendent, who will inform the governing board before December 13, 2024.

### **Recommendation 4**

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

The District has partially implemented this recommendation and determined that this recommendation requires further analysis, as some teachers have received training on the use of AI, but the recommendation has not been systematically implemented across the District. Like students, the District needs to consider what training would be appropriate for teachers at each grade span to ensure it is meaningful and effective. The District's further analysis regarding this recommendation will be completed and reviewed by the District's superintendent, who will inform the governing board before December 13, 2024.

### **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 District has implemented this recommendation. The District participates in the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) AI Forward Network and participates in available collaborations with networks such as the Think Tank for School Business

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sponsored by the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO), AI in School Business Professional Roundtable, and additional opportunities with OCDE.

We are exploring developing comprehensive AI policies and guidelines. Through our collaboration with the consortium of districts and our participation in monthly AI meetings, we are aligning our efforts with best practices and insights shared by other districts.

We are committed to enhancing our awareness and utilization of AI resources. By working closely with our district partners in the monthly AI meetings, we are continually discovering and integrating new tools and approaches that are effective across various educational settings.

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 "Leisa Winston".

Leisa Winston, Ed.D.  
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