



"Equity and
Excellence"

Ocean View School District

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September 11, 2024

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

Re: Ocean View 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 Ocean View 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 and cannot comment on other districts' AI policies. However, the Ocean View School District has policies guiding the appropriate use of technology by staff and students. In collaboration with Dr. Sabba Quidwai, an AI expert, we will be updating them to incorporate AI guidelines to ensure alignment with the District's vision and goals.

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, particularly regarding the superintendent's role in other districts' AI policies, as we cannot comment on the level of support in implementing AI policies elsewhere. In the Ocean View School District, the Superintendent is forming a District (AI)nnovators Committee, which will join the Orange County Department of Education's *AI Forward Boot Camp* and work with experts to continue gathering information on AI policies and guidelines.

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, as it lacks specific information about the utilization and awareness of AI resources across other school districts. In the Ocean View School District, we have recently integrated CoPilot, an AI-powered tool, into various Microsoft programs for District leadership. During the 2024-25 school year, Ocean View will continue participating in the Orange County Department of Education's *AI Forward* training initiatives. Our District team will continue to evolve, with AI Leads from various departments actively engaging in these training opportunities. Additionally, the District will support ongoing professional development by attending AI-focused conferences to enhance awareness and understanding.

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 determined that this recommendation requires further analysis for the following reasons: Our collaboration with Dr. Sabba Quidwai, an AI expert, will be pivotal in the Districtwide implementation of AI tools and policies, including the *Acceptable Use Policy* for employees and students, the Code of Ethics, and other AI-related directives aligned with the District's vision. Additionally, the District will conduct research,

collaborate with educational partners and establish an (AI)nnovators Committee to use data to review current policies, determining whether additions or revisions to existing guidelines are necessary.

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 determined that this recommendation needs further analysis due to the rapid advancement of AI technologies and the expanding knowledge of our staff. As District and site teams continue to engage in professional learning and engagement with AI, they will collaborate to create guiding principles and training solutions for teachers' use of AI tools. The newly appointed AI Leads will coordinate efforts with the AI(Innovator)Team participating in the Orange County Department of Education's AI Bootcamp to develop this guidance and training.

Recommendation 3

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

The District has determined that this recommendation requires further analysis for the following reasons: Ocean View is actively exploring best practices for student use of AI and is working to create professional development opportunities for teachers that will facilitate this learning with their students. Another key goal is to engage students as stakeholders and to offer AI workshop opportunities to expand their knowledge and listen to their ideas. Additionally, Ocean View plans to integrate AI Literacy lessons through Digital Citizenship instruction, using materials provided by *Common Sense Media*, and aiEDU.

Recommendation 4

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

This recommendation requires further analysis due to the rapid advancement of AI technologies and tools. As District Leadership, administrators, and teachers continue to learn about these tools and their applications for students, site teams will collaborate to provide training for students on the use of AI tools. While the District has offered optional AI-focused professional development, staff will be encouraged to participate in AI conferences. Additionally, Ocean View will continue its partnership with *Common Sense*

Media to utilize its resources to support teacher training with lessons and tools for teaching AI, including offering self-paced courses in AI foundations for educators.

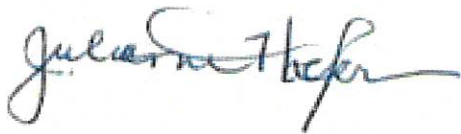
Recommendation 5

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 by participating in the Orange County Department of Education's *AI Forward Boot Camp* during the 2023-2024 school year. We plan to expand participation with a larger team in the 2024-2025 school year. District leaders and teachers are also engaging in professional development opportunities, which provide valuable learning experiences, collaboration, and discussions on applying AI in educational settings. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to integrate AI effectively into our District's programs and practices.

Please accept the information provided herein as the District's responses to the Orange County Grand Jury's Factual Findings and Recommendations 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 that reads "Julianne Hofer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julianne" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hofer".

Julianne Hofer, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent
Ocean View School District