

September 12, 2024

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

Re: Capistrano 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 Capistrano 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 Capistrano Unified School District cannot comment on other districts' policies and/or guidelines around the use of AI platforms. As it pertains to Capistrano Unified School District, we agree with the finding.

Finding 2

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

The Capistrano Unified School 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 Capistrano Unified School District, the Superintendent has supported the formation of an AI Task Force to create district guidelines and update board policies on AI.

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 Capistrano Unified School District does not have firsthand information regarding the utilization and awareness of the availability of the AI resources across school districts. As it pertains to Capistrano Unified School District, we have provided AI resources via the Educational Technology website, and on-site and asynchronous trainings.

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 partially implemented this recommendation on May 15, 2024, by adding Board Policy 6163.5 on the malicious or otherwise inappropriate use of generative AI (Artificial Intelligence).

The District has not yet implemented AI guidelines but will implement this recommendation by June 30, 2025. CUSD's AI Task Force will provide support and create an action plan to address the guidelines.

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 not yet implemented this recommendation but plans to address it by June 30, 2025 with the guidance of the CUSD AI Taskforce. The guidelines and considerations will be continuously reviewed as AI in education evolves.

Recommendation 3

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

The District has not yet implemented this recommendation but will implement this recommendation by June 30, 2025 with the following action plan: The Educational Technology team has developed K-12 AI lessons integrated with digital citizenship lessons, required at each grade level. AI lessons from Common Sense Media will be taught to all students during the Fall of 2024, with 1-3 lessons provided per grade span.

Recommendation 4

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

The District has partially implemented this recommendation as follows: professional learning opportunities have been provided to site administrators, district office teams, and secondary departments, with ongoing sessions planned to extend to elementary school sites. By June 30, 2025, the recommendation will be implemented.

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 as follows: The Chief Technology Officer participates in the California State Board Association AI Task Force. Capistrano Unified leaders including members of the Educational Technology team and Educational Support Services Department participate in OCDE's AI Forward group, collaborating with other districts on best practices and resources.

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,



Dr. Christopher Brown
District Superintendent