

CENTRALIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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November 18, 2024 (REVISED RESPONSE to the September 9, 2024 letter)

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

Re: Centralia Elementary School District's Response to the 2023-24 Orange County Grand Jury Report on *Use of Artificial Intelligence in Public Schools (K-12)* - revised response to OC Grand Jury letter dated October 4, 2024 from Susan Segal, Foreperson Pro Tem regarding Centralia Elementary School District's response to the Grand Jury report, regarding Recommendations 2, 3, and 4.

To the Honorable Maria D. Hernandez:

The Centralia Elementary School District (District) is hereby amending our response to the Recommendations 2, 3 and 4 and is including all other pertinent responses so as to keep one continuous document for your review. We commend 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 cannot comment on other districts' policies and/or guidelines around the use of AI platforms. As it pertains to Centralia Elementary School District, the District agrees with the finding. The District has assembled an Artificial Intelligence task force made up of key personnel. This task force will review key policy issues and bring a recommendation to the Governing Body within the 2024-25 school year.

Finding 2

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

The District cannot comment on other districts' policies and/or guidelines around the use of AI platforms. As it pertains to Centralia Elementary School District, the Superintendent has been providing strong support in AI implementation, participating in the Orange County Department of Education's AI Trainings along with the District AI Team members. The Board of Education has participated in Study Sessions regarding this matter and the District has moved forward with an AI Taskforce. The Superintendent is part of this Taskforce and is very supportive of the work being done in this area.

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 does not have firsthand information regarding the utilization and awareness of the availability of the AI resources across school districts. As it pertains to Centralia Elementary School District, the District agrees with the finding. The District's AI Team Leaders are currently exploring resources available to guide educators in using AI and collaborating with Orange County Department of Education. Being a TK-6th grade district, the district is mindful of utilizing and searching for tools that are specific to the age group we serve. As of this response, there are significantly more tools and resources for older students (jr. High and High school) than there are

for PreK-5th grade. The District's AI Task Force is actively searching for training tools that can be used to serve the population 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 District has implemented this recommendation as follows: The district has an Acceptable Use Policy that outlines future technology usage. The district will remain vigilant in updating guidelines and policies as necessary. The District's AI Task Force will have an opportunity to review such documents and provide input to the Governing Body, with ultimate policy making authority being the purview of our Board of Education.

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.

Original Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Teachers and students will be trained beginning in the 2024-25 school year utilizing an AI implementation scope and guiding principles regarding the responsible use of AI tools, including prohibited uses of special considerations regarding AI tools; and related security, privacy, and safety considerations. The District's AI Task force will play a key role in the identification of the scope of work and possible trainings, commencing with staff.

AMENDED RESPONSE: *In our initial response, dated September 9, 2024, the recommendation was not yet implemented. Since our initial response, we have made significant progress, and we anticipate implementation by June 30, 2025. The District's AI Task Force will play a key role in identifying the scope of work, outlining training content, and planning the rollout of the program while making sure the AI tools and resources are age-appropriate for our elementary grade-level students. The focus has commenced with staff training, followed by student*

engagement. We are committed to ensuring that all stakeholders are well-equipped to handle AI technologies responsibly and ethically.

Recommendation 3

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

Original Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The District's AI Taskforce has been established to determine grade appropriate use of AI. This will be followed up with policy direction from the Board of Education.

AMENDED RESPONSE:

In our initial response, dated September 9, 2024, the recommendation was not yet implemented. Since our initial response, we have made significant progress, and have begun implementation. Students are being trained in a developmentally appropriate and deliberate manner. The District has established an AI Taskforce to determine grade-appropriate uses of AI tools, ensuring that the training is tailored to the developmental needs and technological proficiency of students across different grade levels. Training for students is ongoing effective the 2024-25 school year.

Recommendation 4

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

Original Response: The recommendation is not yet implemented but is in the planning stages for implementation in the 2024-25 school year. An AI Taskforce, including select teacher leaders is already in existence. This AI Taskforce is supporting the implementation of Recommendation 4.

AMENDED RESPONSE: In our initial response, dated September 9, 2024, the recommendation was not yet implemented. Since our initial response, the recommendation is being implemented. Teachers have been and will continue to be provided with opportunities to be trained on the appropriate use of AI. An AI Taskforce, which includes select teacher leaders, supports the implementation of Recommendation 4. This Taskforce is actively working to ensure that AI is integrated into our educational programs responsibly, with a focus on grade-appropriate usage and training for both teachers and students.

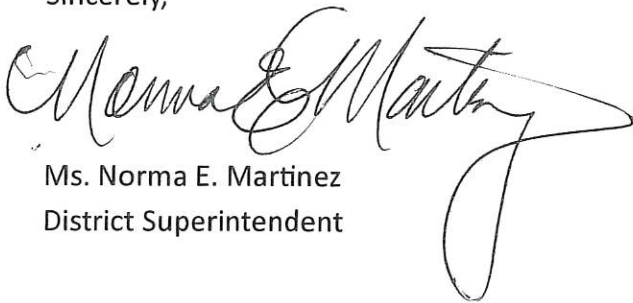
Recommendation 5

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 of its use.

The recommendation has been implemented. CESD is part of OCDE's OC AI Forward Network. Through this network, staff have the opportunity to learn from industry experts as well as collaborate with other districts' AI leadership teams to gauge implementation levels across the county.

Please accept the information provided herein as the Centralia Elementary School District's responses to the Orange County Grand Jury's Factual Findings and Recommendation. This report has been provided to our Governing Body. Please note that the Grand Jury report was shared with our Governing Body upon receipt. Our Board of Education is aware that a response to the Grand Jury is required by the Superintendent. This response has also been shared with our Governing Body, with an understanding that once our District Task Force has more time to address this matter, recommendations will be shared with our Board understanding that information is apt to change in response to availability of new knowledge, new technologies, and the creation of policies. Once again, we appreciate the time and attention that the Grand Jury devoted to this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norma E. Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Ms. Norma E. Martinez
District Superintendent

C: Dr. Stacy Chang, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services
Mr. Isidro Guerra, Assistant Superintendent, Business and Administrative Services
Centralia Elementary School District Board of Education