



FULLERTON JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Education and Assessment Services

November 1, 2024

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

Re: Fullerton Joint Union High 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 Fullerton Joint Union High School District (FJUHSD) 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.

FJUHSD agrees with the finding.

FJUHSD has not yet adopted specific board policies governing the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). However, the District has developed internal guidelines for the appropriate use of AI by both teachers and students.

Finding 2

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

FJUHSD agrees with this finding.

FJUHSD's Superintendent has approved the creation of a Coordinator of Educational Services position, which commenced on July 1, 2024. This position is dedicated to supporting advancements in Educational Technology, including the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Additionally, the Superintendent endorsed the development and implementation of district AI guidelines in the spring of 2024. The Superintendent has also directed District staff to research current practices, policies, and safety measures related to AI, with the goal of using this research to inform the development of district policies and procedures. The District will collaborate closely with the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and the California School Boards Association (CSBA) in the formulation of these policies. Finally, the Superintendent has recommended that specific District staff members (including the Superintendent) begin using ChatGPT4 to see both its benefits and flaws.

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.

FJUHSD agrees with this finding.

The establishment of the additional Coordinator of Educational Services position, which encompasses oversight of Artificial Intelligence (AI), provides a new resource for our District staff. This position will work directly with Technology Services and our educational leaders. Professional Development for site teachers and staff regarding the use of AI will be provided. Additionally, the Coordinator of Educational Services will attend trainings and conferences and work with OCDE to comply with legal requirements

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 by June 30, 2025.

FJUHSD is actively collaborating with the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR) to ensure legal compliance in the development of AI-related policies. Additionally, the District will engage with local school districts and incorporate recommendations from the California School Boards Association (CSBA) as they become available, to further inform and refine our AI policies.

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 by June 30, 2025.

FJUHSD is actively collaborating with the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR) to ensure legal compliance in the development of AI-related policies. Additionally, the District will engage with local school districts and incorporate recommendations from the California School Boards Association (CSBA) as they become available, to further inform and refine our AI policies.

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 by June 30, 2025.

FJUHSD is in the process of developing a formal training program for students on the appropriate use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Ongoing research will be conducted to explore various aspects of AI, with a focus on identifying student needs and ensuring the protection of their privacy and data.

Recommendation 4

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

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented by June 30, 2025.

FJUHSD is currently in the preliminary planning stages of developing and implementing training programs for teachers on the appropriate and effective use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). We are also conducting thorough research into the various dimensions of AI. This research will continue as we work to identify the necessary tools and knowledge teachers require to successfully integrate AI into their instructional practices. In the spring of 2024, Fullerton Joint Union High School District (FJUHSD) developed an internal AI guideline document. The District's Technology Services and Educational Services departments are collaborating to organize on-site professional development for the upcoming school year and are testing various AI technologies so that they can better understand what is currently available.

Recommendation 5

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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 not yet been implemented, but will be implemented by June 30, 2025.

FJUHSD's Coordinator of Educational Services, responsible for overseeing Educational Technology, is planning the following: participate in the Designing Schools courses on the AI Bootcamp: Orange County; serve as an AI Lead for the District in collaboration with the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and attend monthly meetings of the OC AI Network; attend monthly webinars on Educational Technology Law hosted by Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR); engage in the PowerSchool On-Demand Webinar Series titled "Are You AI Ready?"; and seek out additional AI training opportunities while collaborating with other districts and schools.

Please accept the information provided herein as FJUHSD'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,

Steve McLaughlin, Ed.D.
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Fullerton Joint Union High School District
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