September 8, 2006

Nancy Wieben Stock
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Wieben Stock:

The Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) recognizes the important link between student health and learning and desires to provide a comprehensive program promoting healthy eating and physical activity for district students.

As requested and pursuant to California Penal Code § 933 and § 933.05, listed below are the responses to findings of the 2005-06 Orange County Grand Jury report “Are Schools Feeding or Fighting Obesity?”

Findings

6.1 Control Over Competitive Foods: Most school district food service directors do not have control over all food and beverages sold on school campuses. Most often excluded are competitive foods, i.e., food and beverages sold through vending machines, student stores, and fund raising events.

Response: Board Policies provide for compliance regarding competitive food sales. In addition, all vending contracts for food and beverages sold on school campus ensure compliance with enacted legislation: SB65, SB677, SB12, and SB965.

6.2 Compliance with federal and state laws: Responding Orange County food service directors indicated their school districts are either in compliance with or will be in compliance with recently enacted federal and state laws addressing child wellness and obesity.

Response: SAUSD Board of Education adopted Board Policy 5030(a), Student Wellness. The policy prescribes the building of a coordinated school health system that supports and reinforces health literacy through instruction and other related support services. Implementation plan is underway.

6.3 School nutrition programs: Some Orange County schools have developed creative nutrition programs that go beyond state and federal legislation to fight obesity.

Response: Santa Ana Unified School District continues to develop and provide creative nutrition programs to students, parents and community as listed in response 7.3.

Recommendations

7.1 Control over competitive foods: Orange County school districts should consider granting food service directors more control over sales of all food and beverages on district campuses.
**Response**: The school district has made positive changes to foods and beverages available on campus that positively impact student wellness. Sodas are not sold through cafeterias, vending machines or student stores. The food service director and the purchasing department work in conjunction to approve healthy foods that comply with enacted nutrition standards.

7.2 **Compliance with federal and state laws**: School districts should ensure compliance with legislated actions and dates addressing child wellness and obesity.

**Response**: BP 5030 includes school health council, nutrition education and physical activity goals, and nutrition guidelines for food available at school. The school district has appointed a wellness program administrator who will oversee policies and funding resources relating to student wellness.

7.3 **School nutrition programs**: To fight obesity, Orange County schools should consider researching and developing nutrition programs that go beyond state and federal legislation.

**Response**: Nutrition programs include but are not limited to:
- Annual Parent Conference and Youth Expo which provides education on combating obesity and diabetes prevention, school meals nutrition facts, and healthy eating and living.
- Monthly book club featuring guest celebrity reader of a book promoting increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables and taste testing.
- School-wide participation in “Harvest of the Month” student nutrition education program in the classroom and cafeteria stressing the importance of healthy eating and being physically active.
- Monthly “Ask the Dietitian” activity at Santa Ana farmer’s market. Santa Ana Unified School District’s Registered Dietitian provides nutrition activities, food demonstration and taste testing of healthy recipes, and provides nutrition facts and information on school meals programs.
- Nutrition fairs and nutrition booth at school carnivals.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at (714) 558-5512.

Sincerely,

Jane Russo  
Interim Superintendent  

JR/mlr  

cc: Members, Board of Education