



CYPRESS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

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September 15, 2023

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

To the Honorable Maria D. Hernandez:

RE: Cypress School District's Response to the 2022-23 Orange County Grand Jury Report entitled
Russian Roulette: Fentanyl in Orange County

The Cypress School District commends the Grand Jury for its time and attention devoted to studying the illicit fentanyl crisis and publishing the Grand Jury Report dated June 21, 2023, entitled *Russian Roulette: Fentanyl in Orange County*. The district is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of its students and educating them about the dangers of fentanyl and other illicit substances.

The district has thoroughly reviewed and considered the findings and recommendations in the Grand Jury's report. In accordance with California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Grand Jury has requested that the district respond to its findings and recommendations contained therein. Following is the district response to Findings 2, 7, 8, 9, and 10 and Recommendations 1, 5, and 6, as requested in the report.

Finding 2: Illicit fentanyl is a pervasive problem in Orange County.

The Cypress School District agrees with this finding.

Finding 7: Orange County will benefit by establishing a chartered multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis in Orange County.

The Cypress School District agrees with this finding.

Finding 8: As long as there is a demand, producers will find ways to supply drugs. Orange County cannot law enforce its way out of the fentanyl crisis. Education, prevention, and treatment are critical to reducing demand.

The Cypress School District agrees with this finding.

Finding 9: There is a need to increase public awareness and acknowledgment of the risks of illicit fentanyl.

The Cypress School District agrees with this finding.

We inspire and empower . . . Every student. Every moment. for Every opportunity!

Board of Trustees: Candice Kern • Sandra Lee • Brian Nakamura • Lydia Sondhi, Ph.D. • Troy Tanaka
Superintendent: Anne Silavs

Finding 10: Some educational institutions are not participating in available educational and preventative fentanyl/drug programs.

The Cypress School District partially disagrees with this finding.

The district does not have firsthand information on whether or not educational institutions are participating in available educational and preventative fentanyl drug programs and, therefore, cannot wholly agree or disagree with this finding. The district partially disagrees with this finding because it participates in educational programs that discourage student drug use. The district partially agrees with this finding because the preventative programs it participates in do not focus solely on fentanyl but rather educate students about the dangers of all illicit substances.

Recommendation 1: By January 1, 2024, the Orange County Board of Supervisors should charter a multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis. (F2, F7, F8, F9)

This recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented if such a task force is formed and the district is invited to participate. The timeline for implementation cannot be determined as it is dependent upon action from the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

Recommendation 5: By January 1, 2024, the Orange County Department of Education should develop a model fentanyl/opioid prevention educational program to be offered to all K-12 school districts in Orange County. (F2, F8, F9, F10)

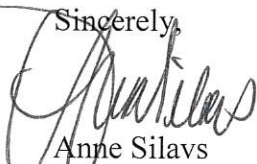
This recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented if such a program is developed and age appropriate for students attending elementary school districts. The timeline for implementation cannot be determined as it is dependent upon action from the Orange County Department of Education.

Recommendation 6: By October 1, 2023, the Orange County Department of Education should promote the use of currently established and in-place fentanyl and drug-related educational programs offered by OC agencies such as the Health Care Agency, OC Sheriff's Department, and non-governmental organizations to all K-12 school districts in Orange County. (F2, F8, F9, F10)

This recommendation has been implemented. The district participates in educational programs that educate students about the dangers of illicit drug use, including Red Ribbon Week and other programs provided by local law enforcement agencies in Cypress and La Palma.

Please accept the information provided herein as the district's response to the Orange County Grand Jury's findings and recommendations in its report entitled *Russian Roulette: Fentanyl in Orange County*. We appreciate the time and attention that the Grand Jury devoted to this issue.

Sincerely,



Anne Silavs
Superintendent