



**PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

1301 E. Orangethorpe Avenue  
Placentia, CA 92870

Alex Cherniss, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Board of Education  
Marilyn Anderson  
Leandra Blades  
Carrie Buck  
Todd Frazier  
Shawn Youngblood

August 5, 2024

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

Re: Placentia-Yorba Linda 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 Placentia-Yorba Linda 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 District cannot comment on other districts' policies and/or guidelines around the use of AI platforms. As it pertains to Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified 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 District partially disagrees in that it cannot comment on the superintendent's level of support in implementing AI policies and/or guidelines in other districts. As it pertains to Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, the Superintendent agrees with this finding.

### 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 the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, we agree with this finding.

#### 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's further analysis regarding this recommendation will be completed and reviewed by the District's superintendent, who will inform the governing board before December 13, 2024.

#### 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's further analysis regarding this recommendation will be completed and reviewed by the District's superintendent, who will inform the governing board before December 13, 2024.

#### Recommendation 3

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

The District's further analysis regarding this recommendation will be completed and reviewed by the District's superintendent, who will inform the governing board before December 13, 2024.

#### Recommendation 4

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

The District's further analysis regarding this recommendation will be completed and reviewed by the District's superintendent, who will inform the governing board before December 13, 2024.

## 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: participating in the OCDE AI Forward Collaborative and Ed Tech meetings as well as attendance at various AI trainings and webinars.

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. Alex Cherniss  
Superintendent of Schools  
Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District