



FOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 20, 2024

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

RE: Fountain Valley 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 Fountain Valley 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 Recommendation in the Report. In accordance with California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Grand Jury has requested 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 partially disagrees with the finding. The District cannot comment on other districts' policies and/or guidelines around the use of AI platforms. As it pertains to Fountain Valley School District, we have multiple existing policies that provide guidelines for the appropriate use of technology by staff and students. Although they currently lack specificity to AI, they are clear about acceptable uses of technology for both staff and students.



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Finding 2

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

The District partially disagrees in that it cannot comment on the superintendents' level of support in implementing AI policies and/or guidelines in other districts. As it pertains to Fountain Valley School District, the Superintendent has played an active leadership role in gathering information related to AI policies and/or guidelines and has engaged in numerous, ongoing conversations with the District leadership team, as well as teaching teams from various school sites.

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 Fountain Valley School District, District Staff and site teams from multiple schools attended and actively participated in the Orange County Department of Education's AI Bootcamp throughout the 2023-24 school year, and fully intend to continue participation in OCDE's AI training initiatives during the 2024-25 school year. The District has identified AI Leads that will also be actively involved in training initiatives offered through the Orange County Department of Education.

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 through the application of existing Acceptable Use Policies (BP 4040 – Employee Use of Technology/Acceptable Use Policy, BP 6163.4 - Student Use of Technology, Acceptable Use Agreement and Release of District from Liability (Students), BP 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media, 5144 –



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Discipline, BP 5131.9 – Academic Dishonesty, BP 5131 Conduct (Students), Exhibit 4219.21- Code of Ethics: Classified Employees, and Exhibit 4319.21 Professional Standards). The District is currently engaged in a three-step process of (1) gathering and reviewing research, (2) obtaining input from educational partners, and (3) reflecting on data to support decision-making to review current policies and determine if there is a need for additional policy or revisions to existing policies.

Recommendation 2

Superintendents should ensure that their schools have policies that cover, at a minimum: the scope, guiding principles, and training regarding the 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 determined that this recommendation requires further analysis as the knowledge base of staff continues to grow and AI technologies continue to quickly advance. As District staff and site teams continue to engage in professional learning related to AI, the teams will be working collaboratively to develop guiding principles and training solutions regarding the use of AI tools by teachers. The District's newly-identified AI Lead will serve as the point person in working with teachers and administrators that participate in the Orange County Department of Education's AI Bootcamp to develop this guidance and training.

Recommendation 3

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

The District determined that this recommendation requires further analysis as the knowledge base of staff continues to grow and AI technologies continue to quickly advance. As District staff and site teams continue to engage in professional learning related to AI, the teams will be working collaboratively to develop training for students regarding the use of AI tools. The District's newly-identified AI Lead will serve as the point person in working with teachers and administrators that participate in the Orange County Department of Education's AI Bootcamp to develop this guidance and training.



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Recommendation 4

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

The District determined that this recommendation requires further analysis as the knowledge base of staff continues to grow and AI technologies continue to quickly advance. As District staff and site teams continue to engage in professional learning related to AI, the teams will be working collaboratively to develop training solutions for teachers regarding the use of AI tools. The District's newly-identified AI Lead will serve as the point person in working with teachers and administrators that participate in the Orange County Department of Education's AI Bootcamp to develop this guidance and training.

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 by participating in OCDE's AI Bootcamp during the 2023-24 school year and plans to expand participation in the program during the 2024-25 school year. District staff and teachers also participate in ongoing professional growth opportunities, many of which integrated discussions associated with the implementation of AI as a component of the program (e.g. trainings related to instructional materials, instructional pedagogy, and educational leadership).

Please accept the information provided herein as the District's response to the Orange County Grand Jury's Factual Finding 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. Katherine Stopp
Superintendent
Fountain Valley School District