



ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educational Services Division
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September 3, 2025

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

Re: Orange Unified School District's Response to the Orange County Grand Jury Report on Use of Artificial Intelligence in Public Schools (K-12)

To the Honorable Maria D. Hernandez:

The Orange Unified School 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 the 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 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 Orange Unified School District, we have developed comprehensive AI guidelines that will ensure a consistent approach across our schools.

Finding 2

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

The District partially disagrees with the finding,

The District cannot comment on superintendents' level of support in implementing AI policies and/or guidelines in other districts. As it pertains to Orange Unified School District, Superintendents have demonstrated strong support through participation in AI Forward, development of an AI team, formation of an AI Committee and regular information sharing with district Cabinet members and the board.



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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 agrees with this finding.

As it pertains to Orange Unified School District, we utilize a variety of resources including professional development sessions, district-wide PD sessions, AI guidelines development, and shared AI resources such as Common Sense Media AI lessons, M IT RAISE AI resources, AI EDU resources, and Orange County Department of Education AI resources.

Recommendation 1

By June 30, 2025, Orange County's K-12 schools should implement policies and guidelines regarding their 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 been implemented.

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 been implemented.

Recommendation 3

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

The recommendation has been implemented.

The District has implemented this recommendation as follows: AI lessons from Common Sense Media are integrated into the Digital Citizenship curriculum for every student by October 31. This curriculum includes comprehensive discussion about AI for grades 2-12 and increasing digital literacy for grades K-1.

Recommendation 4

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

The recommendation has been implemented.



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The District has implemented this recommendation as follows: During the district-wide convocation on August 16, 2025 we released the AI guidelines and provided hands-on training on AI usage to all district teachers. Additionally, we offer ongoing PD throughout the year, including quarterly online webinars, utilizing county PD sessions, and train instructional specialists to support and guide teachers effectively.

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 recommendation has been implemented.

The District has implemented this recommendation as follows: We participate in AI Forward County Meetings, leverage consultants like Designing Schools, and engage with vendors and nonprofit organizations such as Common Sense Media, School AI, Khanmigo, CUE, CITE, and ACSA. These collaborations enhance teacher training, improve AI integration, and provide access to advanced AI resources.

Please accept the information provided herein as the District's responses to the Orange County Grant Jury's Factual Findings and Recommendations in the Report. Once again, we appreciate the time and attention that the Grand Jury devoted to this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Matthew L. Witmer
Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Orange Unified School District

