



Acalanes Union High School District

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Date: September 1, 2016

Michael Simmons, Foreperson
Contra Costa Grand Jury
725 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

From: Amy McNamara, Associate Superintendent, AUHSD

cc: Dr. John Nickerson, Superintendent

Re: Response to Report No.1604 - Are Our Schools in Compliance with the "EpiPen" Law, SB 1266?

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

John T. Nickerson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Aida Glimme
*Associate Superintendent,
Educational Services*

Amy McNamara
*Associate Superintendent,
Administrative Services*

Julie Bautista
Chief Business Official

On June 18, AUSHD received a copy of the Grand Jury Report No.1604, Are Our Schools in Compliance with the "EpiPen" Law, SB 1266? The AUHSD is required to respond to the findings and recommendations contained within the Grand Jury Report No. 1604 on or before September 12, 2016. This document contains the AUHSD response. If there are any questions, please contact me.

CCC Grand Jury Findings and AUHSD Responses:

SCHOOLS

Acalanes Adult Education
Walnut Creek

Acalanes Center for
Independent Study
Walnut Creek

Acalanes High School
Lafayette

Campolindo High School
Moraga

Las Lomas High School
Walnut Creek

Miramonte High School
Orinda

1. Finding: Mylan Specialty Division supplies Pens at no cost to public schools in the district. Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.
2. Finding: Mylan Specialty Division will replace Pens at public schools in the district that have expired at a discounted cost. Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.
3. Finding: FARE and CDC statistical information project a range of 4 percent to 7.7 percent of students (7,200 to 13,850 out of the estimated 180,000 students in Contra Costa County's eighteen school districts) that have an allergy unknown to parents and undiagnosed. Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

4. Finding: SB 1266 does not clearly address the use of Pens at off campus school activities or events. Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.
5. Finding: SB 1266 does not require follow up procedures for reporting the use of a pen. Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

CCC Grand Jury Recommendations and AUHSD Responses:

1. Recommendation: Each of the School District Boards should direct the School District Superintendent to contact all schools in their district at the start of each school year to confirm they are in compliance with the requirements of SB 1266. Response: The recommendation will not be implemented as the AUHSD already has procedures in place to maintain compliance with SB 1266. School nurses are at every site and meet each year at the start of the school year to review new legislation and requirements for school health. The AUHSD school nurses are aware of SB 1266 and maintain compliance.
2. Recommendation: Each of the School District Boards should direct the School District Superintendent to report to the board at the start of the school calendar year that the School District is in compliance with the requirements of SB 1266. Response: This recommendation is not warranted at this time, as the Associate Superintendent reports on meetings with health staff as necessary.
3. Recommendation: The School Districts should consider the practical and legal issues of supplying Pens for field trips and other off site events and working with school nurses to develop policies and procedures for their use at these events. Response: This recommendation requires further analysis. The Associate Superintendent will work with the school nurses to see if current practices and emergency procedures need to be modified to include the use of EpiPens in the emergency kits.
4. Recommendation: The School Districts should consider working with school nurses to develop policies and procedures for reporting the use of pens. Response: This recommendation requires further analysis. The Associate Superintendent will work with the school nurses to see if current reporting practices and current documentation of treatment would be sufficient.
5. Recommendation: The School Districts should consider helping parents understand the risks of anaphylaxis and the protocols in place for emergency administration of epinephrine. The School Districts should consider "identifying funds" to carry out these activities. Response: This recommendation requires further analysis. Nurses do communicate health news with parents and this is a potential fall topic for the newsletters.

4. Finding: Some districts have little communication with other school districts and the COE about best practices, common achievement goals and best data systems regarding attendance. Response: The AUHSD partially disagrees with the finding. The AUHSD has a robust SARB program and shares information regularly with other districts, particularly its partner districts. Early intervention in 9th grade is critical, and partner districts share information on target students.
5. Finding: Chronically absent or truant students who do not get back on track before age 18 are more likely to drop out of high school before graduation. Response: the respondent agrees with the finding.
6. Finding: Parent and Truancy courts offer attendance support and are one of the last opportunities to alter a student's attendance behavior. Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.
7. Finding: Attendance improvement programs used by the County's juvenile courts such as the Lincoln Child Center, ankle monitors, drug and mental health counselors, and tutoring classes lack long term funding. Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.
8. Finding: The school districts that have Truancy or Resource Officers who connect directly with students help get chronically absent or truant students back on track. Response: The respondent partially disagrees with the finding. While School Resource Officers or Truancy officers provide a resource to schools, smaller schools such as those in the AUHSD do not have such staff. In those schools administrators, counselors and school staff are able to intervene with truancy issues with success.

CCC Grand Jury Recommendations and AUHSD Responses:

1. Recommendation: All districts should consider participating in the Attendance Works Program. Response: The recommendation will not be implemented as it is not needed at this time. The AUHSD uses the Aeries information system to track attendance and identify chronically absent students, who are notified immediately. At this time it is not warranted.
2. Recommendation: School districts should raise awareness concerning how to prevent a student's school absence from affecting ADA funding or the student's truancy rate. Response: This recommendation has been implemented. In 2017-18, the AUHSD is doing parent outreach nights and offering a parenting class for parents who are struggling with their students, some of whom have attendance issues. The importance of positive, regular attendance will be highlighted at these meetings.
3. Recommendation: Each school district should consider designating staff to collect, track and analyze attendance data in order to follow up on students that appear to be at risk and identifying funds to do so. Response: This recommendation has been implemented. Every site has an attendance assistant, who tracks attendance, follows up with parents. Associate principals monitor both absences and tardiness for students, and the SART/SARB process is diligently followed.

4. Recommendation: The school district should consider incentivizing schools to seek increased ADA funding by means such as splitting the additional ADA money between the district and the school for achieving increased ADA funding. Response: This recommendation will not be implemented. AUHSD has a 95% attendance rate, with goals for increasing that by a percentage next year. These are part of the LCAP goals and schools are already working on this without the need for extra incentives.