



WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
1108 Bissell Avenue
Richmond, CA 94801-3135

Matthew Duffy
Superintendent

Telephone: (510) 231-1101
FAX: (510) 236-6784

September 7, 2018

Anita Santos
Judge of the Superior Court
Contra Costa County
725 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Dear Honorable Judge Santos:

The West Contra Costa Unified School District (District) is in receipt of Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 1810, "Chronic Absenteeism in West Contra Costa School Districts" (Report).

The District is proud of its relationship with various community partners. All are working collaboratively to provide programs and services within school sites to reduce chronic absenteeism, including much of the work at our Full Services Community Schools. Our community schools concept addresses the needs of the whole child and his or her family. To that end, the majority of our schools have access to medical and dental clinics, mental health counseling services, violence and bullying prevention efforts, and parent education programs. We have found that by offering these services to our students and their families on campus, additional student absences are reduced and increases engagement with our neighborhood schools. As of October 2017, a Bilingual staff member was added to the Student Welfare and Attendance Team (SWAT) to work with school sites to identify students who are chronically absent, and increase communication with our Spanish speaking population. In addition, partnerships with community organizations offer more support and additional resources at School Attendance Review Board (SARB) hearings, and many of these partners also volunteer their time as SARB panel members. Further, SWAT staff work directly with school sites to strategize and identify chronically absent students at the earliest stages of truancy. As of December 2017, through the acquisition of the Prop 47 grant, we have increased staff providing services for socio-economically disadvantaged students. With a streamlined focus on specific students reported as chronic absentees, we hope to reduce chronic absenteeism in the 2018-2019 school year. Reducing chronic absenteeism districtwide continues to be a goal for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Grand Jury has required the District to respond to Findings 1-8.

In accordance with California Penal Code §933.05(a), the District's response to each of the above Findings is as follows:

F1. The District agrees with the Finding.

F2. The District agrees with the Finding.

F3. The District agrees with the Finding.

F4. The District agrees with the Finding.

F6. The District agrees with the Finding.

F7. The District agrees with the Finding.

F8. The District agrees with the Finding.

In addition, the Grand Jury has required the District to respond to Recommendations 1, 2, and 3.

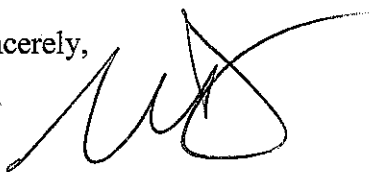
In accordance with California Penal Code §933.05(b), the District's response to each of the above Recommendations is as follows:

R1. The Recommendation requires further analysis, including discussion with the District Local Control Accountability Plan group (DLCAP) to create a new attendance goal and a system to collect, track, and analyze attendance data. The timeframe shall not exceed six months.

R2. The Recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented by November 1, 2018.

R3. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. By January 30, 2019, the District will product data to more deeply understand the connection between Parent University and student attendance.

Sincerely,



Matthew Duffy
Superintendent

cc: Michael Simmons, Grand Jury Foreperson
epant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov
ctadmin@contracosta.courts.ca.gov
Phillip Johnson, Director, Student Services