



Paul A. Cordeiro
District Superintendent
Lucinda L. Abbott
Assistant Superintendent
Business Services

Board Members
Terry Hickey Banks
Grace Donnelly
Sally Hinton
Lou Panizzon
Andy Sheaffer

Carpinteria Unified School District

September 1, 2011

Carpinteria Unified School District's Response to the Grand Jury Report, "Where is the Truancy Program in Santa Barbara County?"

"Where is the Truancy Program in Santa Barbara County?"

Finding 1

The only truancy programs in use today in the County of Santa Barbara are those independently developed and managed by individual school districts.

Response

CUSD agrees with the finding.

Recommendation 1a

That the Santa Barbara County District Attorney immediately reinstate the initial letter portion of the prior truancy program for all secondary schools until a new program is developed.

Response

CUSD agrees with this recommendation; however, absent the "teeth" of the SARB process, a letter only will not, long-term, reduce truancy.

Recommendation 1b

That the Santa Barbara County Office of the District Attorney report the results quarterly of the truancy intervention letters data, to the Santa Barbara County Education Office and all Santa Barbara County school districts.

Response

CUSD agrees with this recommendation as a way of centrally monitoring truancy-totals county-wide.

Recommendation 1c

That the Santa Barbara County Education Office in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Office of the District Attorney, Santa Barbara County elementary, secondary, and unified school districts, immediately develop a countywide program to reduce truancy, by reinstating the School Attendance Review Boards.

1400 Linden Avenue • Carpinteria, California 93013 • (805) 684-4511 FAX (805) 684-0218

Committed to quality education for all.

Aliso School • Canalino School • Summerland School • Carpinteria Family School • Carpinteria Middle School
Carpinteria High School • Rincon High School • Foothill High School

Response

CUSD agrees with this recommendation *only to the extent* that districts incur no undue financial burden. “Immediately” would have to follow extended discussions/negotiations between the District Attorney’s office, Santa Barbara County Education Office and client districts on how a new SARB would function and, equally, important, how it would be funded. Moreover, those discussions/negotiations would have to yield, minimally, memoranda of understanding for any new program that takes effect.

Recommendation 1d

That the Santa Barbara County Office of the District Attorney, working with the Santa Barbara County Education Office, and the Santa Barbara County school districts, implement truancy enforcement countywide for all Santa Barbara County schools.

Response

“Enforcement” assumes creation of a new program. See response to Recommendation 1c above.

Finding 2

There currently is no available federal or state funding for truancy programs.

Response

CUSD agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 2b

That each Santa Barbara County school district provide in its budget a proportional share, based on the number of students, to the Santa Barbara County Office of the District Attorney to assist in funding an enforceable truancy program for all Santa Barbara County schools.

Response

CUSD disagrees with this recommendation because it: (1) sets no funding limits (only that a proportional share is budgeted), and (2) assumes school districts have the funds to support an enforceable program. In the last two years alone, CUSD has suffered budget reductions totaling over \$1.7M.

- b. The implementation of this recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable.



Paul Cordeiro, Superintendent
Carpinteria Unified School District