

# Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District

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"Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District is a premier learning community that empowers each student to thrive in an ever-changing world."

### **Governing Board**

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The Honorable Alesia F. Jones Presiding Judge of the Superior Court Solano County Civil Grand Jury 600 Union Ave. Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Judge Jones,

Pursuant to Penal Code §933.05, as Superintendent of Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, I am providing the following response to the 2024-25 Civil Grand Jury Report entitled: School Resource Officers.

### <u>Superintendent</u>

Jennifer Sachs

# Finding 1:

SROs are called away frequently from their assigned campuses to cover calls from non-staffed schools and to respond to external, non-school-related, calls which require extra police presence.

The District agrees with this finding.

#### **Recommendation 1:**

Increase staffing to expand SRO coverage for absences to accommodate health, training, outside assistance calls, and afterschool events.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable due to budgetary constraints. While the District recognizes the value of increasing SRO staffing to provide more consistent coverage, current fiscal limitations prevent the District from allocating additional funding for this purpose. The District values the safety and security of students and staff, yet also does not want to place undue strain on existing police resources. The District is committed to collaborating with law enforcement partners to maximize available resources and explore opportunities for

grants or other funding sources that may support expanded SRO coverage in the future, contingent upon impacts on Police Department labor agreements and staffing protocols.

### Finding 2:

The current four-day, ten-hour staffing schedule results in frequent coverage gaps.

The District agrees with this finding.

#### **Recommendation 2:**

Change SRO scheduling from four ten-hour shifts to five eight-hour shifts to improve coverage and minimize staffing gaps.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable due to the District not having jurisdiction or control over labor and staffing agreements within the Fairfield Police Department. However, the Police Department already has shifts in place to handle coverage gaps, by committing to schedule half of the SROs to work Monday through Thursday, and scheduling the other half work Tuesday through Friday.

# Finding 3:

SRO assignments prioritize high school campuses and have limited coverage of other schools.

The District agrees with this finding.

#### **Recommendation 3:**

- 1. Assign SROs to all middle school campuses
- 2. Provide for easier on-call access to elementary schools
- 3. Allow for roving assignments, including part-time; and
- 4. Add a Community Services Officer (CSO) to each district to assist with Diversion Programs and home visits.

The following recommendations will not be implemented because they are not reasonable:

- 1. Assign SROs to all middle school campuses
- 3. Allow for roving assignments, including part-time; and
- 4. Add a Community Services Officer (CSO) to each district to assist with Diversion Programs and home visits.

The District is unable to implement these recommendations due to budgetary constraints, and additionally due to a combination of factors connected to Fairfield

Police Department labor agreements and staffing limitations. However, regarding the first recommendation, Grange Middle School does have an assigned SRO.

The following recommendation has been implemented:

2. Provide for easier on-call access to elementary schools

Our leadership, including both district and school administrators, have direct contact phone numbers for multiple SROs, as well as Police Department leadership. These direct lines of contact provide easy on-call access to elementary schools.

The District remains committed to collaborating with law enforcement partners to maximize available resources and explore opportunities for grants or other funding sources that may support expanded SRO coverage in the future, within the confines of Police Department staffing requirements and labor agreements.

# Finding 4:

SROs and school staff need more joint training.

The District agrees with this finding.

#### **Recommendation 4:**

Expand joint training between SROs and school staff to:

- 1. Enable SROs to better interact with students and become more integrated with school staff; and
- 2. Provide active-attacker training between staff and SROs.

The recommendation has been implemented, as educational communities always benefit from expanded joint training in this area. There is a scheduled active-attacker training with Fairfield Police Department planned for November 12, 2025, to include all site administrators. Each school's Comprehensive School Safety Plan (CSSP) is reviewed and updated annually according to California law (Education Code 35294.6). School sites also participate in mandated safety drills, as required by law. The CSSPs ensure a coordinated approach to school safety and contain assessments of each site's needs, as well as appropriate strategies and programs that will provide or maintain a high level of school safety, including collaboration and training with law enforcement partners.

In regards to recommendation number one (1) – under overall Recommendation four (4) – the District works with the Fairfield Police Department to ensure that all joint training opportunities focus on relationship-building to enable SROs to better interact with students and become more integrated with school staff.

In regards to recommendation two (2) — under overall Recommendation four (4) — the District considers active-attacker training to be a critical safety priority and coordinates with law enforcement to ensure staff and SROs are prepared to respond effectively. The District is committed to strengthening collaboration between staff and SROs, and has a procedure to ensure all schools who want to plan additional training are able to efficiently do so. The District prioritizes opportunities to integrate these trainings into ongoing professional development whenever feasible. Overall implementation depends on the availability of police personnel and training resources.

# Finding 5:

Social media, widely-used by students, is not fully leveraged by SROs or administrators to combat misinformation.

The District agrees with this finding.

### **Recommendation 5:**

Conduct more social media outreach to:

- 1. combat misinformation regarding school threats and keep family members from flooding campuses; and
- 2. disseminate useful information about resources and activities.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District recognizes the importance of timely, accurate communication to combat misinformation during potential school threats and to keep families appropriately informed, and implements the use of social media to the degree that it meets the circumstances and context of the situation. The District also recognizes that not all families have access to social media, which is only utilized by approximately 8,800 followers on Facebook, and 1,800 on Instagram, many of which are not current families. The District will continue to utilize its primary messaging system, ParentSquare, which is accessed by approximately 22,000 current families and 3,000 District staff, while also working to expand the use of its social media platforms to provide clear, proactive messaging in coordination with law enforcement when appropriate. In addition, social media will continue to be used to share information about resources, programs, and activities that support students and families.

Respectfully submitted,

Superintendent

Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District

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