



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."

August 11, 2017

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The Honorable Robert C. Fracchia
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
600 Union Ave.
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Judge Fracchia,

Pursuant to Penal Code §933.05, the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District is providing the following response to the 2016-2017 Civil Grand Jury Report entitled *Educational Rights of Solano County Homeless Children and Youth*.

Finding 1: District documents presented conflicting statistics in reporting the number of homeless children/youth.

The District partially disagrees with the findings. While the data sets collected about school districts throughout Solano County might have contained conflicting statistics, the data for the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District is accurate.

Recommendation 1a: All data contained in reporting documents be accurate and verifiable.

The District agrees with the recommendation. The Reporting documents for FSUSD are accurate.

Recommendation 1b: Reporting entities find more effective ways of identifying homeless children/youth.

The District agrees with the recommendation. The District has implemented an effective process for identifying homeless children/youth. The process has been shared with other Solano County Districts. The FSUSD statistics reported in the Civil Grand Jury Report suggests that the process is effective.

Finding 2: Teacher training in identifying and reporting homeless students is a low priority.

The District agrees with the finding. While teacher training in identifying and reporting homeless students is a lower priority, administrative and classified staff training in identify homeless students is a higher priority. As a result of this priority, as evidenced on page 6 of the Civil Grand Jury Report, the District identified nearly 500 additional homeless students during the 2015/16 school year.

Recommendation 2: Districts establish a high priority for teachers to receive intensive training in identifying and reporting homeless students.

The District will be implementing this recommendation at the start of the 2017/18 school year. The FSUSD Student Services Department has created a new process that the sites will follow when they identify a student as homeless. The administration and classified staff will receive training on this new process prior to the start of the 2017/18 school year. In addition, site administrators will be provided documents that will be the foundation for training with school site staff.

Superintendent

Kris Corey

Finding 3: Providing transportation is problematic in serving homeless students.

The District agrees with the findings. Transportation is one of the identified barriers that contributes to homeless children being absent from school.

Recommendation 3a: The Solano County Office of Education and School Districts within the county use established means of communication to share best practice ideas in providing transportation for the homeless students they serve.
The District has implemented this recommendation. The District representatives participate in every Countywide Homeless and Foster District Education Liaison meeting and the Foster Youth Educational Planning team meeting. The District participates in the process of sharing best practices with those in attendance.

Recommendation 3b: The Solano County Office of Education and the School Districts within the county form alliances with local transportation to meet the needs of homeless students.

The District has implemented this recommendation. As stated on page 8 of the report, "Fairfield/Suisun... found that it was not an issue." The District works closely with Fairfield and Suisun Transit, as well as the District's Transportation Department to provide transportation to meet the needs of homeless students.

Finding 4: Funding for homeless students creates an on-going challenge within the county.

The District agrees with the findings. Meeting the needs of the homeless students is an on-going challenge and there is insufficient funding to support all of the needs.

Recommendation 4: The Solano County Office of Education and School Districts establish a grant writing position to acquire funding for homeless student services.
The District has implemented this recommendation. As noted on page 8 of the report, "The state has a 4-year funding cycle and the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District's grant proposal was awarded a state grant as of last year."

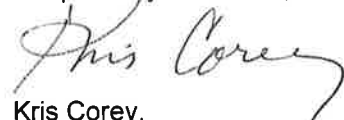
Finding 5: Emergency housing for unaccompanied youth is limited to pregnant teens.

The District agrees with the findings. Housing is one of the identified barriers that impacts the success of a homeless child in the academic setting.

Recommendation 5: The Solano County Office of Education and School Districts work with county, city administrators and local non-profits to provide emergency housing for all unaccompanied homeless teenage students.

The recommendation will not be implemented. Providing emergency housing for unaccompanied homeless teenage students is a service that school districts do not provide. While the District will not implement this recommendation, the District will continue to work with the Solano County Office of Education, city administrators, and local non-profits in identifying resources for unaccompanied homeless teenage students.

Respectfully submitted,



Kris Corey,
Superintendent

"In a safe, welcoming, and supportive learning environment, we provide innovative educational opportunities to develop resilient students who are inspired to succeed"