



**SOLANO COUNTY  
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

2022-2023

**SOLANO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
POST-PANDEMIC AND SAFETY MEASURES**

1 **Solano County Public Schools**  
2 **Post-pandemic protocols and safety measures**

3 Solano County Civil Grand Jury 2022-2023  
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6 **I. SUMMARY**  
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8 The 2022-2023 Solano County Civil Grand Jury (Jury) investigated multiple aspects of how  
9 Post-COVID-19 in-person instruction impacted mental health, safety, public school staff, and  
10 students. The Jury found that while many schools had strong access, lock, and camera policies,  
11 they were not uniformly enforced. One of the purposes of the Jury’s report was to learn what  
12 actions were taken to create a successful and safe return for students. The Jury examined how the  
13 Solano County school systems are implementing the necessary changes to meet its post-COVID-  
14 19 needs. School administrators on individual campuses addressed mental health care by various  
15 methods as deemed necessary. County schools are continually addressing staffing issues  
16 effectively and creatively.  
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19 **II. INTRODUCTION**  
20

21 The Jury interviewed several superintendents and principals within the Solano County school  
22 system. The jury toured numerous elementary, middle, and high school facilities. The current  
23 enrollment for Solano County public schools is slightly over 60,000 students. The COVID-19  
24 outbreak caused Solano County schools to halt in-person instruction on March 16, 2020. Some  
25 students began returning to classrooms in March of 2021, with many parents deciding to keep  
26 their children in distance learning. Before and after the schools returned to full-time instruction,  
27 schools faced issues caused by the long absence of students from the classroom. The in-class  
28 instruction resumed for almost all students in the current 2022-2023 school year. Districts are  
29 addressing concerns about student anxiety and school safety due to the country’s growing  
30 number of campus shootings. These strategies and changes work hand-in-hand with the  
31 involvement, awareness, and participation of all school employees, public safety partners,  
32 students, parents, and guardians.  
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35 **III. METHODOLOGY**  
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37 **Toured Facilities**  
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- 39 ○ Benicia High School
- 40 ○ Benicia Unified School District
- 41 ○ Cooper Elementary School
- 42 ○ Fairfield Suisun Unified School District Office
- 43 ○ Grange Middle School
- 44 ○ Public Safety Academy
- 45 ○ Rolling Hills Elementary School
- 46 ○ Vacaville High School
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48 Reviewed Documents  
49  
50 Dixon Unified School District Budget  
51 Solano Community College Budget  
52 Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) Budget  
53 Vacaville Unified School District Budget  
54 Vallejo Unified School District Budget  
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56 News Articles;  
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59 [hear-updates-school-bond-projects-other-programs/](https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/fairfield/fairfield-suisun-trustees-to-hear-updates-school-bond-projects-other-programs/), August 24, 2022 - Daily Republic -  
60 [Fairfield-Suisun school trustees to hear updates on bond projects, other programs](https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/fairfield/fairfield-suisun-trustees-to-hear-updates-school-bond-projects-other-programs/)  
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62 [https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/fairfield/solano-college-police-red-](https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/fairfield/solano-college-police-red-cross-announce-active-shooter-emergency-preparedness-training/)  
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64 [Republic - Solano College police, Red Cross announce active shooter training](https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/fairfield/solano-college-police-red-cross-announce-active-shooter-emergency-preparedness-training/)  
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66 [https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/vacaville/travis-school-district-reaps-](https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/vacaville/travis-school-district-reaps-benefit-of-fees-charged-to-developers/)  
67 [benefit-of-fees-charged-to-developers/](https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/vacaville/travis-school-district-reaps-benefit-of-fees-charged-to-developers/), September 16, 2022 - Daily Republic - School district  
68 [reaps benefit of fees charged to developers](https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/vacaville/travis-school-district-reaps-benefit-of-fees-charged-to-developers/)  
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70 [https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/vacaville/santopadre-brings-24-years-](https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/vacaville/santopadre-brings-24-years-of-service-as-next-vaca-schools-superintendent/)  
71 [of-service-as-next-vaca-schools-superintendent/](https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/vacaville/santopadre-brings-24-years-of-service-as-next-vaca-schools-superintendent/), October 9, 2022 - Daily Republic - Santopadre  
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74 [https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/fairfield/fairfield-suisun-school-](https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/fairfield/fairfield-suisun-school-trustees-to-hear-updates-on-financial-matters/)  
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76 [Suisun school trustees to hear updates on financial matters](https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/fairfield/fairfield-suisun-school-trustees-to-hear-updates-on-financial-matters/)  
77  
78 Resources  
79 Other Resources  
80 2022 SCOE Spotlight Our Virtual Reality Vol 2 Issue 1 2019-20  
81 SCOE Spotlight / The Whole Student Vol 2 Issue 2 September 2021  
82 SCOE Spotlight / School Safety and Student Wellness Vol 3 Issue 2 January 2022  
83 SCOE Spotlight /Annual Report Vol 4 Issue 1 August 2022  
84  
85 Websites  
86 Benicia Unified School District: No Link  
87 Dixon Unified School District 2022-2023 45-Day revise Budget [2021-2022 45 Day Revise.pdf -](#)  
88 [Google Drive](#)  
89 Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District 2022-2023 Budge [2022-2023 Budget.pdf](#)  
90 [\(boarddocs.com\)](#)  
91 Solano Community College District [2022\\_23 Adopted Budget .pdf \(solano.edu\)](#)

92 Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) [complete2.pdf \(legistarweb-](#)  
93 [production.s3.amazonaws.com\)](#)  
94 [Vacaville Unified School District 2022-23 Budget Adoption Report.pdf \(sharpschool.com\)](#)  
95  
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97 **IV. STATEMENT OF FACTS**  
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99 Solano County schools face many major challenges due to the use of various safety systems in  
100 this post-COVID-19 era.  
101

102 **A. Safety**  
103

104 Physical security includes many options: locks, fencing, and cameras among them. The default  
105 lock policy is rooms remain locked during school hours. Some of the classroom doors observed  
106 were open or unlocked. Some schools have upgraded to “Columbine-style” locks that can be  
107 locked from inside. One school used internal slider style locks that are keyless.  
108

109 Campus access varies from a fully fenced campus perimeter to fences between buildings. Many  
110 schools, particularly elementary schools, have a single point of entry with locked gates. Camera  
111 use varies among schools. Some have systems that can view the entire campus, others have  
112 systems that have only partial views. Access to camera systems is restricted to administrative  
113 personnel. Most camera systems within the school districts are independently installed and  
114 monitored by principals or their front office staff. The Solano County school districts have the  
115 following number of cameras:  
116

- 117 ○ Benicia – 198
- 118 ○ Dixon – 136
- 119 ○ Fairfield/Suisun – 550
- 120 ○ Travis - 164
- 121 ○ Vacaville – 149
- 122 ○ Vallejo – 345
- 123

124 Raptor is one of the security technologies used in most schools to screen campus visitors. This  
125 program checks against the sex offender registry. Envoy is another which collects a photo ID and  
126 emails it to the classrooms. ParentSquare and Class Dojo are applications used by teachers to  
127 communicate directly with all the parents. School campus communication systems vary from  
128 classroom phones to public address systems (some with LED message boards) to radios to cell  
129 phones.  
130

131 Messages go from classrooms to the Administrative offices, then to the Police Department or  
132 School Resource Officer (SRO). An SRO is a sworn officer assigned to a school on a long-term  
133 basis trained to perform three major roles: law enforcement officer, law related-counselor, and  
134 law-related educator. SRO coverage varies on campuses. Some schools have them on site, others  
135 have them on call. Their presence increases from elementary to middle to high school.  
136

137 Federal COVID-19 funds paid for upgrades for individual classroom HEPA filters and upgrades  
138 to HVAC systems. Individual school principals determined how to spend their portion of the  
139 funds. As COVID-19 money has now been expended, districts are maintaining the numerous  
140 COVID-19 improvements at their own expense. These include air purifiers, water filters,  
141 sanitizing stations, behavioral programs (i.e., wellness centers).  
142 In-classroom instruction at Solano County’s schools has dropped Post-COVID-19.

143  
144 The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) coordinated with Solano County Office of  
145 Emergency Services (OES) to serve as a liaison and support between Solano Public Health  
146 (SPH) and Solano private and public schools. SCOE developed streamlined systems of  
147 communication to facilitate answers to the numerous COVID-19 related questions that schools  
148 face. A partnership with SPH to assist educators and families crafted webpages that consolidated  
149 COVID-19 guidance information related to schools for educators and community members.

### 150 151 **B. Mental Health**

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153 School administrators supported mental health facilities generally, but they see an increased need  
154 for these services post-COVID-19. Schools have access to SCOE’s mobile crisis response team  
155 in cases that require mental health assistance by trained professionals. Schools use varying  
156 methods and techniques for mental health and behavioral issues. Most schools employ a tiered  
157 response moving from: in-classroom intervention with the teacher; outside of the classroom;  
158 front office counselor; to calling the Mobile Crisis Unit.

159  
160 Availability of mental health care varies from scheduled visits on campus throughout the week to  
161 on call support from mental health professionals. Where some schools have no nurse available,  
162 the district assigns Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN) health clerks. Some schools use external  
163 resources such as Care Solace, a mental health care coordination service, to inform parents of  
164 additional health resources.

165  
166 Another method to address mental health for students is using quiet spaces within or outside of  
167 classrooms. Mindfulness Corners in classrooms and separate Wellness Centers are areas where  
168 students can regain focus and composure without disrupting classroom instruction. Not all  
169 schools offer these options. Quiet room staffing varies from a few that have full-time trained  
170 counselors to others using interns from local community colleges; some have student volunteers.  
171 Most of the facilities that do not have a Wellness Center or a quiet room share the services of a  
172 mental health psychologist or clinician who visits during the week.

### 173 174 **C. Staffing**

175  
176 The need for school staffing varies widely – some are fully staffed, others only need classified  
177 staff, and others have a shortage of both. This problem has only increased as a result of COVID-  
178 19. The needs are for School Resource Officers, nurses, mental health professionals, certificated  
179 (teaching) and classified (non-teaching) staff. Districts are actively recruiting with a variety of  
180 means including: local hiring fairs, teacher training programs, outreach to local universities, and  
181 social/print media. Districts have established a number of policies to attract and retain teachers

182 and classified staff including changing salary scales, assistance with certification, and hiring  
183 bonuses.

184  
185

186 **V. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

187

188 **Finding 1** – Although districts have an explicit locked door policy to ensure student security, it  
189 is not uniformly enforced.

190

191 **Recommendation 1**– School districts enforce the locked room policy when school classes are  
192 being taught.

193

194 **Finding 2** – Camera placement varies from site to site with some areas having no coverage.

195

196 **Recommendation 2** – Schools should obtain more cameras to increase the scope of coverage to  
197 increase students’ safety.

198

199 **Finding 3** –The majority of schools have a “single point of entry” process which benefits the  
200 safety of the community and students.

201

202 **Recommendation 3** – The single point of entry process be adopted by all of the public schools  
203 in Solano County.

204

205 **Finding 4** –RAPTOR and Envoy systems are used to identify any person entering schools and to  
206 notify staff. These programs are limited to a few schools.

207

208 **Recommendation 4** – All schools be equipped with these or similar programs to prevent the  
209 access of undesirable persons.

210

211 **Finding 5** – Some schools have areas such as a wellness center/quiet/calming corners for  
212 students to access where they can regain focus and composure.

213

214 **Recommendation 5** – All schools establish a calming/refuge area with dedicated mental health  
215 staffing available for students.

216

217 **COMMENTS**

218

219 Solano County school districts have utilized COVID-19 funds effectively to ensure the safety  
220 and well-being of students and staff.

221

222 The districts are employing multipronged efforts to increase staffing.

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224

225

226

227

228 **REQUIRED RESPONSES**  
229  
230 Benicia Unified School District (Findings 2,3,4)  
231 Dixon Unified School District (Findings 2,3,4)  
232 Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (Findings All)  
233 Solano County Office of Education (Finding 5)  
234 Travis Unified School District (Finding 2)  
235 Vacaville Unified School District (Findings All)  
236 Vallejo Unified School District (Finding 2)  
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