



BY: _____

Dr. Tricia T. Price, Superintendent/Principal

Cold Spring School District's Response to the Grand Jury Report, "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

Cold Spring School District agrees with this finding.

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 district, immediately develop a countywide program to reduce truancy, by reinstating the School Attendance Review Boards.

Response

Cold Spring School District agrees with this recommendation insofar as Districts do not experience a financial burden due to implementation. The word "immediately" does not imply extended discussions between agencies to determine and document the details of funding and implementation.

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

Before "enforcement" can occur, clear guidelines and responsibilities between and among multiple participating agencies must be agreed upon and documented (see response to Recommendation 1c).

Finding 2

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

Response

Cold Spring School District agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 2b

That each Santa Barbara County school district provide in its budget a proportional share, based upon 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

The Cold Spring School District disagrees with this recommendation because it: (1) sets no (or vague) funding limits, and; (2) assumes that school districts will have funds available to support an enforceable truancy program. During a time of continued severe budget cuts to school districts and economic uncertainty, it is not reasonable to expect funding assistance for a truancy program.

b. The implementation of this recommendation will not be possible because the recommendation is unreasonable.



Tricia T. Price, Superintendent/Principal
Cold Spring School District