



Santa Barbara Unified School District

720 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Phone 805-963-4338, TDD 805-966-7734, Fax 805-962-3146
www.sbsdk12.org

August 29, 2012

The Honorable Judge Brian Hill
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Santa Barbara County
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Judge Hill and Members of the Grand Jury:

This letter is in response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury's letter dated June 7, 2012 requesting a response to its 2011-12 report titled "*Reducing Truancy Throughout the County – A Prudent Investment.*" Attached please find the Santa Barbara Unified School District's response pursuant to the requirements of California Penal Code Section 933.05.

The attached response was approved by the Santa Barbara Unified School District Board of Education on Tuesday, August 28, 2012.

Thank you for your efforts to reduce truancy within our community. Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. David E. Cash
Superintendent



Santa Barbara Unified School District

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SANTA BARBARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS *"Reducing Truancy Throughout the County – A Prudent Investment"*

INTRODUCTION

The Santa Barbara Unified School District recognizes and appreciates the 2011-12 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury for their efforts to reduce truancy rates in Santa Barbara County. The following is the Santa Barbara Unified School District's response to the findings and recommendations of the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury's report, *"Reducing Truancy Throughout the County – A Prudent Investment."*

Recommendation 1

That each secondary school district be responsible for establishing and operating its own truancy reduction program that conforms to the legal requirements of the State of California's Education Code by the beginning of the 2012-13 school year.

Response:

The Santa Barbara Unified School District agrees with this recommendation.
This recommendation can be implemented beginning fall of the 2012-2013 school year.

Recommendation 4

That all secondary school districts document their efforts to address truancy in a manner that can be used by the Office of the District Attorney, if and when legal proceedings are initiated.

Response:

The Santa Barbara Unified School District agrees with this recommendation.
This recommendation can be implemented beginning fall of the 2012-2013 school year with the understanding that funding has been made available to the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office to support its participation in the truancy reduction program.

Recommendation 5

That all secondary school districts estimate the amount of money lost in the 2011-12 school year due to truancy and report this information to their school boards, the Santa Barbara County Education Office and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors.

Response:

The Santa Barbara Unified School District agrees with this recommendation.
This recommendation can be implemented beginning fall of the 2012-2013 school year.

Recommendation 6

That all secondary school districts track any reduction in truancy after the implementation of the truancy reduction program and calculate the increase in revenue resulting from such reduction and report this information to their school boards, the Santa Barbara County Education Office and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors.

Response:

The Santa Barbara Unified School District agrees with this recommendation.
This recommendation can be implemented beginning fall of the 2012-2013 school year.