

**Diana F. Rigby**  
Superintendent

**Maureen Fitzgerald**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Business Services



**Board Members**  
Jayme Bray  
Jaime Diamond  
Sally Green  
Andy Sheaffer  
Aaron Smith

## Carpinteria Unified School District

November 12, 2021

TO: Presiding Judge Gustavo Lavayen  
312 E. Cook St.  
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Pamela Olsen  
Foreperson  
Santa Barbara County Grand Jury  
[sbcqi@sbcourts.org](mailto:sbcqi@sbcourts.org)

FROM: Diana F. Rigby, Superintendent  
Carpinteria Unified School District  
1400 Linden Ave.  
Carpinteria, CA 93013

RE: 2021 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report on Remote Learning During COVID-19

On behalf of the Carpinteria Unified School District, I have reviewed the report on "Remote Learning During COVID-19" developed by the 2021 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury and submit the following responses as requested in Foreperson Olsen's communication of November 8, 2021.

### **Finding 1**

In-person learning is more effective than remote learning both academically and emotionally.

**CUSD Response:** Agree. CUSD submitted an elementary waiver to reopen elementary schools for in-person learning in small cohorts on October 13, 2020.

### **Finding 2**

For student achievement, especially for low performing students, in-person learning in small classes or small groups is preferable to larger classrooms.

**CUSD Response:** Agree. CUSD reopened small clusters of low performing middle and high school students for in-person learning in Jan. 2021.

### **Finding 3**

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*Committed to quality education for all.*

Aliso School • Canalino School • Summerland School • Carpinteria Family School • Carpinteria Middle School  
Carpinteria High School

Remote learning exposed the importance of outreach efforts to provide coaching to parents on creating a positive learning environment.

**CUSD Response :** Agree.

#### **Finding 4**

Santa Barbara County school districts did not use one common test throughout Santa Barbara County, making it impossible to compare countrywide testing results.

**CUSD Response:** Agree. Although CUSD administered the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) tests in English Language Arts and mathematics in Grades 3-8 and 11, not all districts continued with regular state testing administration during COVID.

#### **Recommendation 4**

That the Santa Barbara County school districts and the Santa Barbara County Education Office work together to develop a common summative testing program to be adopted for all Santa Barbara County school districts for the 2022-23 school year.

**CUSD Response:** Will be implemented as we expect that all Santa Barbara County school districts will resume the state required administration of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) tests in English Language arts and mathematics in grades 3-8 and 11.

#### **Finding 5**

Students with the greatest learning loss will require a concentrated effort to bring them up to Federal and State grade level standards.

**CUSD Response:** Agree.

#### **Recommendation 5**

That Santa Barbara County Schools outline their plans to attain Federal and State grade level standards for math and English Language Arts.

**CUSD Response:** Has been implemented. The district's Local Control and Accountability Plan(LCAP) adopted by the Board in June 2022, and each school's Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) adopted by the Board in November 2022 outline the specific actions to improve student achievement in ELA and math by June 2023 in each school. These plans have been attached for your review and can also be found on our district website at [www.cusd.net](http://www.cusd.net).

**Finding 6**

As the 2020-21 school year wore on, remote learning and teaching techniques and students' computer skills improved.

**CUSD Response:** Agree.

**Finding 7**

Federal and State COVID relief funds cannot be counted on indefinitely.

**CUSD Response:** Agree.

**Finding 8**

Community organizations provided critical assistance to the Santa Barbara County school districts by expanding their efforts to bridge the learning gap between the home environment and school.

**CUSD Response:** Agree.

**Recommendation 8**

That each Santa Barbara County school district develop plans by the start of the 2022-2023 school year to encourage community organizations to continue to provide critical academic and emotional support.

**CUSD Response:** Has been implemented. CUSD has strong partnerships with community organizations, and during COVID thousands of dollars were raised to provide computers, internet access, day care services, family and child therapeutic services, and tutoring services. We will continue to partner with Carpinteria Children's Project, Carpinteria Education Foundation, Rotary Clubs, Lion's Club, Girls Inc., Boys' and Girls' Club, Family Service Agency, Council on Alcohol and Drugs, AHa! Attitude, Harmony, Achievement, Hospice, Carp Growers, 93013 Fund, and United Way.

**Finding 9**

Internet services were critical to remote learning and, in most cases, Santa Barbara County school districts filled the gap for homes that did not have them.

**CUSD Response:** Agree.

**Recommendation 9**

That each Santa Barbara County school district maintain adequate internet services for all students if distance learning or an emergency should again require remote learning.

**CUSD Response:** Has been implemented. CUSD has provided each student with a laptop and supports families with low-cost internet access through our Carpinteria Education Foundation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana F. Rigby, Superintendent

encl: CUSD LCAP; CHS, CMS, Aliso, and Canalino Single Plans for Student Achievement