



COLLEGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

3525 Pine Street • Santa Ynez, CA 93460
Phone (805) 686-7300 / FAX (805) 686-7305

Maurene Donner
Superintendent/ Principal

December 1, 2021

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

Pamela Olsen
Foreperson
Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
sbcgj@sbcourts.org

From: Maurene Donner
Superintendent/Principal
College Elementary School District
3525 Pine Street
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

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

On behalf of the College Elementary 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.

CESD response: Agree. We do note that some families preferred the remote learning format and sought to have their students continue in independent study in 2021-22.

Finding 2

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

CESD response: Agree.

Finding 3

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

CESD response: Agree.

Finding 4

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

CESD response: Agree. For summative testing at the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year, we administered STAR Reading/ELA and IReady Math to measures of academic progress in reading and mathematics in grades 1-8 and California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) tests in English/language arts and mathematics in 3rd-8th grades.

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.

CESD response: Will be implemented. By 2022-23 we expect that all Santa Barbara County school districts will have resumed regular administration of California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) tests in English/language arts and mathematics in 3rd-8th grade, the CA Science Test (CAST) in grade 5, and the Physical Fitness Test (PFT) in 5th and 7th grade.

Finding 5

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

CESD 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.

CESD response: Has been implemented. Goal 1 of the College Elementary School District Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP) is to provide students high quality instruction that maximizes student achievement, including student accomplishment of English/language arts and mathematics standards. Goal 1 College Elementary School District's School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) documents is to improve student achievement in English/language arts, with the goal of all students achieving proficiency. Goal 2 College Elementary School District's SPSAs is to improve student achievement in mathematics, with the goal of all students achieving proficiency. The LCAPs and SPSAs contain detailed action plans to bring about improved student achievement.

Finding 6

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

CESD response: Agree.

Finding 7

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

CESD 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.

CESD response: Agree.

Recommendation 8

That each Santa Barbara County school district develop plans by the start of the 2022-23 school year to encourage community organizations to continue to provide critical academic and emotional support.

CESD response: Our school district works closely with several other community-based organizations that support our students, parents, and families such as People Helping People and Santa Ynez Valley YMCA.

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.

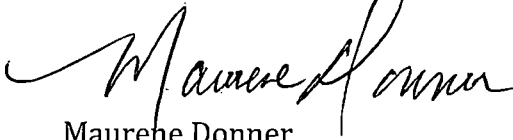
CESD response: Agree.

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.

CESD response: Has been implemented. Our Technology Department routinely supports families with internet services, either by providing information on low-cost internet access or by loaning them wifi hot spots.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,



Maurene Donner
Superintendent/Principal
College Elementary School District