



Cold Spring School District
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FILED
SUPERIOR COURT of CALIFORNIA
COUNTY of SANTA BARBARA
07/17/2026
Angela Braun, Executive Officer
BY *Mark Hanson*
M. Hanson Deputy Clerk

June 12, 2026

The Honorable Patricia Kelly
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Santa Barbara County Superior Court
pkelly@sbcourts.org

Stacy Mezzetta de Cossio
Foreperson
2025-2026 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
sbcgj@sbcourts.org

Re: 2025-2026 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report: "Bullying in Santa Barbara County Schools: Addressing Aggressive and Violent Behavior Among Students"

Dear Honorable Judge Kelly and Foreperson Mezzetta de Cossio:

The Cold Spring School District Governing Board has formally received the 2025-2026 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report entitled "Bullying in Santa Barbara County Schools: Addressing Aggressive and Violent Behavior Among Students." On behalf of the Cold Spring School District Governing Board and District administration, we appreciate the Grand Jury's attention to the serious issue of bullying, student safety, school climate, and the responsibility of public schools to ensure that all students feel physically and emotionally safe at school.

Cold Spring School District is a single-school elementary district serving students in grades TK-6. The District has long prioritized a safe, supportive, inclusive, and respectful school environment through small class sizes, close relationships with students and families, visible supervision, strong home-school communication, social-emotional learning, the Leader in Me framework, restorative and developmentally appropriate responses to student behavior, timely communication with parents/guardians, and support for students' social-emotional and behavioral needs.

The District's Comprehensive School Safety Plan includes procedures for maintaining a safe and orderly school environment, preventing and responding to bullying and cyberbullying, addressing discrimination and harassment, notifying appropriate staff of safety-related student concerns, and providing annual training and information to students, staff, volunteers, and parents/guardians regarding prohibited discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying. The plan is reviewed

annually and developed in consultation with the School Site Council/LCAP Advisory Committee and local first responder agencies.

The District's most recent LCAP Annual Update Survey also reflects strong community confidence in Cold Spring's school climate and student support systems. Parent and stakeholder feedback indicates that families overwhelmingly view Cold Spring as a supportive and inviting place for students to learn, that classrooms are safe and respectful of diverse learners, that staff take parent concerns seriously, and that the District emphasizes social, emotional, and behavioral support for students.

Per your instructions and pursuant to California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Cold Spring School District Governing Board provides the following responses to the enumerated findings and recommendations in the report.

Finding 1

Bullying in County schools will be reduced by implementing additional safety measures.

Cold Spring School District Governing Board Response: Agree

The Cold Spring School District agrees that appropriate, developmentally responsive safety measures can reduce bullying and improve school climate. The District further believes that effective bullying prevention requires a comprehensive approach that includes visible adult supervision, controlled campus access, camera systems, strong student-adult relationships, clear behavioral expectations, social-emotional learning, parent communication, staff training, timely intervention, and ongoing review of campus safety procedures.

At Cold Spring, the small size of the school, the District's staffing model, and the visibility of administrators, teachers, instructional assistants, and support staff allow for close monitoring of student interactions before school, during recess and lunch, during transitions, and after school. The District's Comprehensive School Safety Plan reflects the Board's commitment to a campus free from physical and psychological harm and to a positive learning environment grounded in high expectations, responsible student behavior, and respect for all individuals.

Recommendation 1a

The Grand Jury recommends that school boards increase staff presence in areas where students congregate before, during breaks, and after school. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Cold Spring School District Governing Board Response: Has been implemented.

Cold Spring School District currently maintains staff presence in student gathering areas before school, during recess and lunch, during passing periods and transitions, and after school. As a small single-school district, Cold Spring is able to deploy certificated staff, classified staff, instructional assistants, and administration to supervise students in common areas, playground areas, arrival areas, dismissal areas, and other areas where students gather.

The Superintendent/Principal is highly visible on campus and works directly with teachers, staff, students, and families to address concerns in a timely manner. The District will continue to review supervision schedules annually and make adjustments as needed based on student needs, campus use patterns, incident data, and staff feedback.

Recommendation 1b

The Grand Jury recommends that school boards have sufficient cameras in order to monitor where students congregate before, during, and after school. To be implemented by June 30, 2027.

Cold Spring School District Governing Board Response: Has been implemented.

Cold Spring School District has implemented a campus camera and controlled-access entry system to support student safety and campus security. During school hours, Cold Spring maintains a locked campus. Visitors are not able to enter the campus without first ringing the front gate entry system, where office staff are able to see and communicate with them before granting access.

The District also maintains cameras at the front entry area, in the back of campus, and around the perimeter of the school. These systems support the District's ability to monitor campus access points and areas where students and visitors may be present before, during, and after school.

In addition to camera monitoring and controlled entry, Cold Spring maintains visible adult supervision throughout the school day, including during arrival, recess, lunch, transitions, and dismissal. The District believes that cameras are an important safety tool, but they are most effective when combined with active supervision, strong relationships with students and families, and timely response to concerns.

The District will continue to review camera placement, campus access procedures, and supervision schedules as part of its ongoing safety planning and annual review of the Comprehensive School Safety Plan.

Recommendation 1c

The Grand Jury recommends that school boards add more counselors to achieve a ratio no greater than 250:1. To be implemented by June 30, 2027.

Cold Spring School District Governing Board Response: Has been implemented.

Cold Spring School District's enrollment is below 250 students. Cold Spring does not employ school counselors; instead, the District maintains student support services through its school psychologist, Superintendent/Principal, classroom teachers, intervention staff, special education team, and other appropriate support personnel. As a small elementary school district, Cold Spring is able to identify student needs quickly and provide individualized support through close collaboration among the Superintendent/Principal, teachers, parents/guardians, and student support personnel.

The District also provides families with access to ParentGuidance.org through the Cook Center for Human Connection, which includes online parent coaching, mental health resources, webinars, and practical tools to support students' social-emotional, behavioral, and family needs.

The District will continue to monitor student social-emotional and behavioral needs through the LCAP process, parent and staff feedback, school climate data, student behavior data, and review of available support services. If student needs increase or enrollment changes, the District will evaluate whether additional mental health, counseling, school psychology, or other student support services are needed.

Finding 2

Administrators do not consistently inform school counselors when students under their guidance engage in bullying.

Cold Spring School District Governing Board Response: Disagree as to Cold Spring School District; agree that appropriate student support personnel should be informed when student concerns arise.

Cold Spring School District does not employ school counselors. As a small single-school elementary district, Cold Spring provides student support through its school psychologist, Superintendent/Principal, classroom teachers, special education team, intervention staff, and other appropriate support personnel.

The District agrees that when students are struggling with behavior, peer relationships, friendship challenges, bullying, or alleged bullying, appropriate student support personnel should be informed and involved as needed. At Cold Spring, when these concerns arise, the school psychologist is often used as a resource to support the school, students, staff, and families. The District also communicates directly with parents/guardians and may refer families to ParentGuidance.org through the Cook Center for Human Connection for additional parent coaching, mental health resources, and social-emotional support.

As a small school community, Cold Spring is able to respond quickly and directly to student concerns. The District maintains close communication among the Superintendent/Principal, teachers, school psychologist, support staff, and families when student behavior, peer conflict, bullying, alleged bullying, or social-emotional needs arise.

Recommendation 2

The Grand Jury recommends that school boards inform school counselors whenever any students under their guidance engage in bullying. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Cold Spring School District Governing Board Response: Has been implemented.

Cold Spring School District does not have school counselors; however, the intent of this recommendation has been implemented through the District's use of its school psychologist and other appropriate student support personnel.

When student behavior, friendship concerns, peer conflict, bullying, or alleged bullying concerns arise, Cold Spring involves the school psychologist and other appropriate staff as needed based on the nature of the concern, the needs of the students involved, and applicable confidentiality requirements. This may include the Superintendent/Principal, classroom teacher, school psychologist, special education staff, parents/guardians, and other staff with a legitimate educational interest.

In addition, the District connects families to ParentGuidance.org through the Cook Center for Human Connection when students or families may benefit from additional support. These resources provide parents and caregivers with free online coaching, mental health resources, webinars, and practical tools to support students with social-emotional, behavioral, and peer-relationship needs.

The District will continue to use its school psychologist, staff collaboration, parent communication, and ParentGuidance.org resources to support students and families and to maintain a safe, respectful, and supportive school climate.

Finding 3

Parent participation in outreach programs for bullying has been poor.

Cold Spring School District Governing Board Response: Disagree

Cold Spring School District agrees that parent engagement is essential to preventing and responding to bullying, and the District recognizes that school districts must make outreach accessible to working families. However, the District does not agree that this finding reflects parent engagement at Cold Spring.

Cold Spring has a highly engaged parent community, strong communication systems, and multiple opportunities for families to participate in school life. ParentSquare, classroom communication, schoolwide events, monthly Principal's Coffees, parent meetings, the LCAP Advisory Committee, parent education opportunities, and direct communication with the Superintendent/Principal and teachers all support parent involvement. Recent LCAP survey results reflect strong parent confidence in Cold Spring's school climate, staff responsiveness, and social-emotional and behavioral support for students.

In addition, Cold Spring School District has implemented parent outreach and support resources through the Cook Center for Human Connection and ParentGuidance.org. These resources provide families with free online parent coaching, mental health resources, on-demand videos, courses, live webinars, and practical support on a wide range of topics, including anxiety, social media, emotional regulation, bullying, family communication, and student wellness.

Recommendation 3a

The Grand Jury recommends that school boards direct school administrators to schedule parent outreach programs regarding bullying on evenings, weekends, online and with archived recordings to accommodate working parents. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Cold Spring School District Governing Board Response: Has been implemented.

Cold Spring School District provides parent outreach and support in flexible and accessible formats designed to accommodate working families. Through the Cook Center for Human Connection and ParentGuidance.org, Cold Spring families have access to online mental health resources, parent coaching, webinars, and on-demand resources that may be accessed outside of the traditional school day, including evenings, weekends, and school breaks.

The ParentGuidance.org Mental Health Series includes webinars and resources on topics such as anxiety, social media, emotional regulation, bullying, and other student well-being topics. These resources are available online and provide parents with flexible access to information and support without requiring them to attend an in-person meeting during the school day.

Cold Spring also communicates parent resources through school communication channels, including ParentSquare and schoolwide notices. Most recently, the District shared summer resources from the

Cook Center for Human Connection so families would continue to have access to support during the summer months.

The District will continue to use online, evening, and flexible parent outreach opportunities to ensure families have access to information and support regarding bullying prevention, student wellness, and social-emotional development.

Recommendation 3b

The Grand Jury recommends that school boards implement non-monetary incentives to encourage parents to attend outreach programs. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Cold Spring School District Governing Board Response: Has been implemented.

Cold Spring School District has implemented non-monetary supports and incentives to encourage parent participation in outreach, education, and student well-being resources. The District partners with the Cook Center for Human Connection through ParentGuidance.org, which provides Cold Spring parents and guardians with free access to online parent coaching, mental health resources, on-demand videos, courses, webinars, and practical support on a wide range of topics related to student well-being, behavior, anxiety, emotional regulation, bullying, family communication, and school-home support.

The District invests \$14,000 annually to ensure that Cold Spring families have access to these resources at no cost. These services are available online and on demand, which allows parents to access support at times that work best for their schedules, including evenings, weekends, and school breaks.

Parent coaching is available to families at no cost and may include weekly or bi-weekly calls and messaging with a parent coach. These services are confidential, online, and designed to support parents and caregivers with practical tools for addressing social-emotional, behavioral, and family needs.

Cold Spring School District regularly communicates these resources to families through school communication channels. Most recently, the District shared summer resource information from the Cook Center for Human Connection so parents would continue to have access to support during the summer months, including resources related to learning loss, parenting with purpose, positive body image, parent coaching, and mental health webinars.

The District believes that providing free, flexible, confidential, and easily accessible parent coaching and resources is a meaningful non-monetary incentive that encourages families to engage in outreach and support programs. The District will continue to promote these resources as part of its ongoing commitment to student wellness, bullying prevention, family engagement, and a safe and supportive school climate.

Recommendation 3c

The Grand Jury recommends that school boards strongly encourage parents of students who have engaged in repeated acts of bullying to attend outreach programs. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Cold Spring School District Governing Board Response: Has been implemented.

Cold Spring School District does not currently have an identified pattern or ongoing issue involving students engaging in repeated acts of bullying. As a small single-school elementary district, Cold Spring is able to respond quickly and directly when student social-emotional, behavioral, or peer-conflict concerns arise. The District works closely with students, parents/guardians, teachers, administration, and support staff to address concerns early and in a developmentally appropriate manner.

Cold Spring School District has already implemented parent outreach and support resources through the Cook Center for Human Connection and ParentGuidance.org. These resources are available to Cold Spring parents and guardians at no cost and include free online parent coaching, mental health resources, on-demand videos, courses, live webinars, and practical tools to support students' social-emotional and behavioral needs.

The ParentGuidance.org resources include support for a wide range of topics, including anxiety, social media, emotional regulation, bullying, family communication, student wellness, and other parenting needs. Parent coaching is available to families at no cost and may include weekly or bi-weekly calls and messaging with a parent coach. These services are confidential, online, and accessible to parents at times that work for their schedules.

The District invests \$14,000 annually to provide these Cook Center for Human Connection resources to Cold Spring families. This includes access to the Mental Health Series Platform and 1:1 Parent Coaching for parents and caregivers in the District. Cold Spring recently shared summer resources with families to ensure parents continue to have access to support during the summer months, including resources related to learning loss, parenting with purpose, positive body image, parent coaching, and mental health webinars.

When students struggle socially, emotionally, behaviorally, or with peer relationships, Cold Spring communicates directly with parents/guardians and connects families to available supports, including ParentGuidance.org, school-based support, conferences, restorative conversations, and individualized student support planning when appropriate.

Because these parent outreach resources are already available, free to families, online, confidential, and include support related to bullying and social-emotional development, the District considers this recommendation implemented. Cold Spring School District will continue to promote these resources as part of its ongoing commitment to student wellness, bullying prevention, family engagement, and a safe, respectful, and inclusive school climate.

Conclusion

Cold Spring School District appreciates the Grand Jury's work and its focus on the safety and well-being of students throughout Santa Barbara County. The District remains committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, inclusive, and supportive school environment where all students are known, valued, and protected.

The Cold Spring School District Governing Board will continue to review its policies, practices, Comprehensive School Safety Plan, LCAP priorities, staff training, supervision systems, parent outreach, campus access systems, camera systems, school psychology support, and student support services to ensure that bullying prevention and response remain a high priority.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Alzina
Superintendent/Principal
Cold Spring School District

On behalf of the Cold Spring School District Governing Board