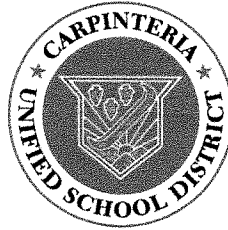


Diana F. Rigby
Superintendent

Jason Kaff
Assistant Superintendent
Business Services



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Carpinteria Unified School District

July 15, 2026

FILED
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JUL 15 2026

TO: The Honorable Patricia Kelly
Santa Barbara County Superior Court
pkelly@sbcourts.org

Angela Braun, Executive Officer
By M. Hanson Deputy Clerk
M. HANSON

Stacy Mezzetta de Cossio, Foreperson, Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
sbcgj@sbcourts.org

FROM: Diana F. Rigby, CUSD Superintendent

**RE: 2025-26 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report on Gangs of Santa
Barbara County: Should Schools Do More to Address Them?**

Finding 1: Many student fights occur in the areas surrounding school campuses before and after school hours, outside school supervision, leaving a gap in County schools' responses.

Disagree for Carpinteria Unified.

School rules apply to all students during their travel to and from school. Site administrators issue swift disciplinary consequences for any violations, including fighting. Detailed conduct and discipline guidelines are outlined in the District's "Annual Notification of Rights and Responsibilities to Students and Parents/Guardians." Every parent or guardian must review this document and sign acknowledgement of receipt before the beginning of the school year. Additionally, CUSD has a strong partnership with the local Sheriff Deputies who immediately respond to any violence including student fighting in our community. CUSD provides extensive youth engagement with before/after school programs TK-8, and by partnering with Boys & Girls Cub, Girls Inc., Surf Happens, Kids Cooking, PUSH Project (skateboarding), REEL Anglers (fishing), and SB County Children's Creative Project (art, music, drama, dance) for after school programs for students TK-8. During school breaks, CUSD partners with United Way to provide daily enrichment activities, 8-6pm. More than 85% of Carpinteria High School students participate in after school sports and extra curricular activities (Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Theater (MUSES).

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Recommendation 1b: The Grand Jury recommends that local law enforcement agencies, in conjunction with school districts, create policies and programs to extend the safe space for students to go to or from home. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Has been implemented -see response to Finding #1.

Recommendation 1c: The Grand Jury recommends that all school districts consider the templates, policies, and programs proposed in Recommendations 1a and 1b. To be implemented by June 30, 2027.

*Has been implemented .
See response to Finding #1.*

Finding 2: When children lack a set structure to occupy their time on constructive activities outside of regular school hours, they become vulnerable to recruitment from criminal street gangs.

Disagree partially for Carpinteria Unified.

Family ties drive most gang affiliation among Carpinteria Unified School District (CUSD) students. To counter this, CUSD provides extensive youth engagement with before/after school programs TK-8, and by partnering with Boys & Girls Club, Girls Inc., Surf Happens, Kids Cooking, PUSH Project (skateboarding), REEL Anglers (fishing), and SB County Children's Creative Project (art, music, drama, dance) for after school programs for students TK-8. During school breaks, CUSD partners with United Way to provide daily enrichment activities, 8-6pm. More than 85% of Carpinteria High School students participate in after school sports and extracurricular activities (Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Theater (MUSES).

Recommendation 2a: The Grand Jury recommends that the Santa Barbara County school districts implement more after-school programs such as music, sports, art, drama, and other extra-curricular activities. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

*Has been implemented .
See response to Finding #2.*

Finding 3: Gangs are increasingly grooming and recruiting students in elementary, middle, and junior high schools, yet many anti-gang programs focus on older students.

Disagree partially for Carpinteria Unified .

See response to Finding #2. In addition to extensive youth engagement in before/after school enrichment programs , CUSD implements a robust social emotional curriculum, Second Steps, in the elementary schools, and partners with AHA to provide social emotional learning (SEL) programs in middle school. School counselors and Family Service Agency(FSA) Mental Health therapists provide direct, highly accessible social-emotional and mental wellness support to students and their families. CUSD partners with the Family Resource Center at the Carpinteria Children's Project to provide mental wellness support and parent education to our school families. CUSD also partners with the Council on Alcohol and Drug Prevention (CADA) to pair adult mentors with students at the elementary, middle, and high schools.

Finding 5: Students who bring guns, knives, and other weapons on campus, even when provided by parents for their children's safety, pose a threat to school safety.

Agree for Carpinteria Unified.

Recommendation 5: The Grand Jury recommends that the Santa Barbara County school districts remind parents and guardians annually of California Penal Code Section 25100 regarding the criminalization of unsafe storage of guns. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Has been implemented.

"Safe Storage of Firearms" Penal Code 25100 is outlined in the District's "Annual Notification of Rights and Responsibilities to Students and Parents/Guardians." Every parent or guardian must review this document and sign acknowledgement of receipt before the beginning of each school year in accordance with California Education Code 49392.

Finding 6: Anonymous communications systems, both digital programs and physical drop-boxes, when made available to school students and personnel, can help identify gang activity ahead of serious consequences.

Agree for Carpinteria Unified.

Carpinteria Middle School utilizes an anonymous "Report a Concern" Google Form that all students have access to. Additionally , all students have access to school counselors where they can safely and confidentially share any concerns with a trusted adult.

Recommendation 6: The Grand Jury recommends that the Santa Barbara County school districts provide all schools with anonymous communications systems for

student or staff reporting of danger on and off campus, both via digital media and local drop boxes. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Will be implemented at all schools.

Carpinteria Middle School utilizes an anonymous "Report a Concern" Google Form that all students have access to.

Finding 7: Socially isolated students can benefit from engagement with responsible mentors as a deterrent to negative manipulation by outside influences, such as gangs, social media, or other ongoing stresses in family life.

Agree for Carpinteria Unified.

The District partners with the Council on Alcohol and Drug Prevention (CADA) to provide adult mentors for elementary, middle, and high school students.

Recommendation 7: The Grand Jury recommends that the Santa Barbara County school districts create systems in their schools to pair socially isolated students with school mentors. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Has been implemented.

The District partners with the Council on Alcohol and Drug Prevention (CADA) to provide adult mentors for elementary, middle, and high school students.