



Santa Barbara County Education Office

4400 Cathedral Oaks Rd, PO Box 6307, Santa Barbara, CA 93160-6307

Telephone: (805) 964-4711 • FAX: (805) 964-4712 • sbceo.org

Susan C. Salcido, Superintendent of Schools

July 20, 2026

The Honorable Patricia Kelly
Santa Barbara County Superior Court
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
pkelly@sbcourts.org

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

**Re: 2025-26 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report on Preparing for the Unthinkable:
How are Santa Barbara County Schools Preparing to Prevent or Minimize the Effects of
a Potential Mass Shooting?**

Dear Judge Kelly, Foreperson Mezzetta de Cossio, and Grand Jury Members:

The Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools and the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) share the Grand Jury's commitment to ensuring that schools remain safe, welcoming, and supportive places for students and staff. School safety is a community-wide responsibility that requires ongoing collaboration among schools, families, law enforcement, mental health professionals, local partners, and emergency responders.

Please find SBCEO's responses to the Grand Jury's finding and recommendation below, followed by important background related to the Grand Jury's report:

Finding 1

The Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) provides County school districts training in identifying pathways to targeted violence, although attendance by employees of the various Santa Barbara County school districts in the SBCEO's School Safety Symposium is limited.

SBCEO Response to Finding 1: Agree

Recommendation 1a

The Grand Jury recommends that the Santa Barbara County Education Office make its School Safety Symposium available online for ease of accessibility for school staff county-wide.

FILED

SUPERIOR COURT of CALIFORNIA
COUNTY of SANTA BARBARA

07/20/2026

Angela Braun, Executive Officer

BY *Mark Hanson*
M. Hanson Deputy Clerk

SBCEO Response to Recommendation 1a: Will not be implemented

SBCEO agrees with the Grand Jury's goal of increasing access to school safety training and resources for school personnel throughout Santa Barbara County. However, the Safety Symposiums will not be recorded or shared online, due to several factors, including:

- Presenter permission requirements (e.g., FBI presenters)
- Evolving formats that include table discussions, group work, question and answer sessions, panel presentations, mixed-media activities
- The sensitive nature of many school safety topics
- Varying intended audiences for each symposium (e.g., trainer-of-trainers, site teams, and district leadership teams)
- The value of maintaining an environment in which attendees can engage in candid discussions, ask questions, and share experiences related to school safety, threat assessment, emergency preparedness, and student wellness.

Background Information Regarding SBCEO's Ongoing School Safety Initiatives:

SBCEO serves as a support, resource, and coordinating agency for Santa Barbara County's public school districts in the areas of school safety planning, emergency preparedness, crisis response, and threat prevention. The Grand Jury report recognizes several of these efforts, including SBCEO's annual School Safety Symposium, School Safety Liaison position, and the resources and guidance provided to local educational agencies regarding Comprehensive School Safety Plans.

In 2023, the Santa Barbara County Education Office, with consensus from all school districts, Allan Hancock College, Santa Barbara City College, UC Santa Barbara, representatives from the early care and education community, representatives from private schools, police chiefs, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff, and County Fire Chief, facilitated a process through which all partners adopted the same Standard Response Protocols (SRPs) described in the Grand Jury report (see: <https://www.sbceo.org/supporting-students/school-safety>).

Concurrent with the adoption of countywide SRPs, SBCEO hired its first School Safety Liaison to serve all schools and convened a countywide School Safety Symposium that brought together school leaders, educators, law enforcement personnel, fire personnel, emergency management officials, mental health professionals, and community partners to strengthen school safety systems throughout the county.

Since 2023, SBCEO has hosted an annual School Safety Symposium. Topics have included violence prevention and response, emergency preparedness, family reunification procedures, student mental health, threat management, opioid response, support for students with disabilities, and implementation of Standard Response Protocols and Standard Reunification

Methods. SBCEO also maintains a countywide [school safety resource webpage](#), provides safety planning templates and tools, and offers ongoing support and assistance during emergencies through its School Safety Liaison and Director of Communications/Public Information Officer positions.

It is important to note that individual school districts develop and approve their own safety plans, provide staff training, conduct safety drills, foster relationships with local law enforcement and first responders, and create context-based responses for handling various emergency situations. SBCEO's safety initiatives provide added layers of support and training opportunities. In fact, many school districts had previously adopted and implemented the SRPs and have been continuously investing in school safety training, protocols, and processes long before 2023. SBCEO's ability to launch countywide safety-related efforts was made possible by the strong collegial relationships among schools throughout the county, a long history of collaboration among schools and first responders during crisis situations, and a shared commitment to prioritizing school safety.

SBCEO remains committed to supporting local educational agencies through investments in a School Safety Liaison, technical assistance, resource development, and countywide collaboration focused on school safety, emergency preparedness, prevention, and student well-being.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Susan Salcido
Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools