

# Blochman Union School District

BENJAMIN FOXEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4949 Foxen Canyon Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93454

(805) 937-1148 ☐ FAX (805) 937-2291

## **Blochman Union School District Response to the 2025–2026 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report**

*"Preparing for the Unthinkable: How Are Santa Barbara County Schools Preparing to  
Prevent or Minimize the Effects of a Potential Mass Shooting?"*

August 6, 2026

The Honorable Patricia Kelly  
Santa Barbara County Superior Court

Stacy Mezzetta de Cossio, Foreperson  
Santa Barbara County Grand Jury

**FILED**  
SUPERIOR COURT of CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY of SANTA BARBARA  
**08/18/2026**

Angela Braun, Executive Officer  
BY   
**M. Hanson** Deputy Clerk

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

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

Blochman Union School District shares the Grand Jury's commitment to maintaining a safe, welcoming, and supportive school for students and staff. As a TK-8 district, Blochman recognizes that effective school safety requires prevention, preparedness, age-appropriate training, clear communication, student wellness supports, and coordination with families, law enforcement, emergency responders, and community partners.

The District maintains a Comprehensive School Safety Plan that addresses responses to a range of natural and human-caused emergencies, including threats of violence and armed intruder situations. Blochman provides safety training to employees, conducts required emergency drills, reviews procedures with staff, and responds to concerning statements or conduct through administrative, student-support, and law-enforcement channels as appropriate. The District also recognizes that school safety is an ongoing process and that procedures, training, and physical safeguards should be reviewed regularly.

Pursuant to California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, Blochman Union School District respectfully submits the following responses to the findings and recommendations directed to Santa Barbara County school districts.

Respectfully,   
Superintendent/Principal  
Blochman Union School District

## **Finding 1**

### **Blochman Response: Disagree**

Blochman values SBCEO and other school safety trainings and ensures district administrators participate in applicable professional development. Information gained through these trainings is shared with staff and incorporated into district safety planning and emergency preparedness.

## **Finding 2**

### **Blochman Response: Disagree Partially**

Blochman maintains a Comprehensive School Safety Plan and conducts required emergency drills throughout the school year. Safety procedures are reviewed with staff regularly. As with any school district, ongoing training and refreshers continue to strengthen staff preparedness.

## **Finding 3**

### **Blochman Response: Disagree**

Blochman promotes a culture of reporting safety concerns through students, staff, and families. Reports of potential threats are investigated promptly by administration and appropriate multidisciplinary personnel in accordance with district procedures.

## **Finding 4**

### **Blochman Response: Disagree Partially**

While a dedicated School Resource Officer can provide value, Blochman maintains strong working relationships with local law enforcement and emergency responders. Given the district's size and available resources, a full-time SRO is not presently the most practical use of public funds.

## **Finding 5**

### **Blochman Response: Disagree**

Blochman has established visitor management procedures requiring visitors to report to the office, where identification and sign-in procedures are completed before access to campus is granted.

## **Finding 6**

### **Blochman Response: Disagree**

The district continually evaluates campus safety infrastructure through its Comprehensive School Safety Plan and ongoing site reviews. Safety improvements are implemented as resources permit and based upon identified needs.

## **Blochman's Responses to Recommendations**

### **Recommendation 1b**

#### **Blochman Response: Has Been Implemented**

Blochman prioritizes participation by district and site administrators in applicable school safety trainings offered by the Santa Barbara County Education Office and other qualified organizations. Administrative leaders regularly participate in safety-focused professional development and disseminate key information to staff.

### **Recommendation 1c**

#### **Blochman Response: Will Be Implemented**

Recognizing staffing limitations common to small districts, Blochman will continue expanding opportunities for certificated and classified staff to receive school safety training through district professional development, online resources, and information shared by administrators following county trainings.

### **Recommendation 2a**

#### **Blochman Response: Has Been Implemented**

Blochman conducts required emergency drills throughout the school year in accordance with California law and its Comprehensive School Safety Plan. Students and staff participate in drills addressing a variety of emergency scenarios.

### **Recommendation 2b**

#### **Blochman Response: Has Been Implemented**

Temporary personnel, including substitute teachers, receive emergency response information and school-specific safety procedures before assuming classroom responsibilities, with reference materials available during their assignments.

### **Recommendation 2c**

#### **Blochman Response: Has Been Implemented**

Emergency response procedures are available in classrooms and key locations to provide staff with quick reference guidance during emergencies.

### **Recommendation 3a**

#### **Blochman Response: Has Been Implemented**

District staff receive ongoing professional development addressing student safety, behavioral intervention, trauma-informed practices, crisis response, and collaboration with community agencies when appropriate.

**Recommendation 3b****Blochman Response: Requires Further Analysis**

Blochman encourages students, families, and staff to report safety concerns through established reporting procedures. The district will continue evaluating additional anonymous reporting options that are appropriate for a small TK–8 district and fiscally sustainable.

**Recommendation 4****Blochman Response: Will Not Be Implemented**

Although the district values its partnership with local law enforcement, employing a full-time School Resource Officer is not currently the most effective use of limited district resources given Blochman's enrollment and existing safety practices.

**Recommendations 5a & 5b****Blochman Response: Has Been Implemented**

Visitors are required to report to the school office, complete identification and sign-in procedures, and wear visitor identification while on campus in accordance with district procedures.

**Recommendation 6****Blochman Response: Has Been Implemented**

Blochman periodically reviews campus safety infrastructure through its Comprehensive School Safety Plan and ongoing site evaluations. Safety improvements are prioritized as funding and operational needs allow.

**Closing Statement**

Blochman Union School District views each Grand Jury report as an opportunity not only to respond to recommendations, but also to reflect on existing practices and identify opportunities for continued growth. The District remains committed to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in support of our students, employees, and school community. We appreciate the Grand Jury's thoughtful review and look forward to continuing our work with educational and community partners to ensure that Blochman remains a safe and welcoming place to learn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Superintendent/Principal  
Blochman Union School District