

Cuyama Joint Unified School District

2300 Highway 166, New Cuyama, California 93254
(661) 766-2482 • FAX: (661) 766-2255

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SUPERIOR COURT of CALIFORNIA
COUNTY of SANTA BARBARA

08/18/2026

CUYAMA JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Angela Braun, Executive Officer

BY Mark Hanson
M. Hanson Deputy Clerk

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?"

The Honorable Patricia Kelly

Santa Barbara County Superior Court
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Stacy Mezzetta de Cossio, Foreperson

Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
sbcgj@sbcourts.org

Re: Cuyama Joint Unified School District Response to the 2025-2026 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?"

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

The Board of Trustees and administration of Cuyama Joint Unified School District appreciate the opportunity to review and respond to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury report entitled *"Preparing for the Unthinkable: How are Santa Barbara County Schools Preparing to Prevent or Minimize the Effects of a Potential Mass Shooting?"* The District shares the Grand Jury's commitment to maintaining safe and secure learning environments for students, staff, and visitors. As a small rural school district, CJUSD continually reviews and strengthens its school safety practices while balancing local needs, available resources, and operational realities.

Pursuant to California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the District responds as follows:

Responses to Findings

Finding 1

The Santa Barbara County Education Office 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 School Safety Symposium is limited.

Response: Agree.

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Cuyama Joint Unified School District recognizes the value of the Santa Barbara County Education Office School Safety Symposium and acknowledges that participation by district personnel may be limited due to staffing, scheduling, travel requirements, and the operational needs of a small rural district. The District supports continued professional development opportunities that strengthen school safety preparedness.

Finding 2

Santa Barbara County school districts are compliant in creating Comprehensive School Safety Plans for their schools, but some staff require more information and training on safety protocols.

Response: Agree.

The District maintains a Comprehensive School Safety Plan and recognizes the importance of ongoing staff training to ensure all personnel remain familiar with emergency procedures, safety protocols, and their responsibilities during critical incidents.

Finding 3

While many Santa Barbara County school districts have a watch, listen, and report culture, not all schools have anonymous pathways for reporting threats or potential threats online or on campus.

Response: Agree.

The District supports a culture that encourages students, staff, parents, and community members to report concerns regarding safety and well-being. CJUSD recognizes that anonymous reporting mechanisms can be valuable tools for identifying concerns before they escalate and supports efforts to strengthen reporting options.

Finding 4

School Resource Officers or Deputies are valuable in preventing or addressing potentially dangerous situations on campus, but many schools do not employ them.

Response: Agree.

CJUSD agrees that positive partnerships with law enforcement agencies contribute to school safety and that trained law enforcement personnel can provide valuable support in preventing

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and responding to potential threats. However, the District's rural location, enrollment size, and financial capacity present challenges to maintaining a dedicated School Resource Officer or School Resource Deputy program.

Finding 5

Some schools in Santa Barbara County school districts lack adequate controls for visitor access.

Response: Disagree Partially with Explanation.

CJUSD has established visitor management procedures that include controlled access points, visitor sign-in requirements, and staff monitoring of campus visitors. While the District believes current procedures provide appropriate oversight, it also recognizes the importance of continually evaluating and strengthening visitor management practices as circumstances and available resources evolve.

Finding 6

Not all schools in Santa Barbara County have adequate safety infrastructure, including fences, cameras, classrooms that lock from the inside, restricted access points, and communication devices.

Response: Agree.

The District continuously evaluates campus safety infrastructure and has implemented numerous measures designed to enhance campus security. The adequacy of safety infrastructure depends upon facility conditions, risk assessments, available funding, and evolving best practices in school safety.

Responses to Recommendations

Recommendation 1b

Administrative leaders attend the School Safety Symposium in person at least once every two years.

Response: Will Be Implemented.

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, participation in the School Safety Symposium will be incorporated into administrative professional development planning. District administrative staff

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will attend in person at least once every two years, subject to scheduling considerations and operational needs.

Recommendation 1c

Encourage teachers and staff to attend the School Safety Symposium in person or access online seminar materials annually.

Response: Will Be Implemented.

Upon availability of online access to symposium materials, the District will communicate participation opportunities annually to certificated and classified staff and encourage participation through professional development planning.

Recommendation 2a

Response: Has Been Implemented.

CJUSD conducts safety drills and emergency preparedness activities throughout the school year in accordance with California Education Code requirements and District safety procedures. The District regularly reviews training opportunities and will continue evaluating additional preparedness activities to support staff readiness.

Recommendation 2b

Response: Has Been Implemented.

The District provides emergency procedures, safety information, and site-specific expectations to substitute teachers and temporary personnel. CJUSD will continue refining onboarding procedures to ensure temporary staff receive relevant safety information prior to assuming duties.

Recommendation 2c

Response: Will Be Implemented.

During the 2026-2027 school year, the District will review and update emergency response reference materials and ensure appropriate emergency procedure information is prominently

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available in classrooms and common-use spaces.

Recommendation 3a

Response: Disagree.

CJUSD currently provides staff development focusing on student relationships, wellness, mental health awareness, mandatory reporting responsibilities, and collaboration with community agencies. The District believes these efforts effectively support student well-being and school safety and will continue strengthening partnerships that support prevention and early intervention efforts.

Recommendation 3b

Response: Will Be Implemented.

During the 2026-2027 school year, CJUSD will evaluate anonymous reporting options appropriate for the District's size and resources and implement a reporting process that allows students, staff, parents, and community members to report safety concerns confidentially. The District will establish both electronic and physical anonymous reporting mechanisms and provide annual training regarding reporting procedures and the importance of reporting safety concerns. Implementation is anticipated by January 2027.

Recommendation 4

Response: Requires Further Analysis.

Analysis Completion Date: January 31, 2027.

The District will explore options for enhanced law enforcement partnerships, including the feasibility of shared or regional models, while considering fiscal impacts, staffing availability, and overall district safety needs.

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Recommendation 5a

Response: Requires Further Analysis.

Analysis Completion Date: January 31, 2027.

The District will review available visitor management systems and assess the feasibility, costs, privacy considerations, and operational impacts associated with identification verification technologies and other visitor screening measures.

Recommendation 5b

Response: Will Not Be Implemented.

Visitors are required to check in through the school office and are provided visitor identification while on campus. The District believes its current procedures appropriately balance school security, operational efficiency, and community access and will continue monitoring compliance and refining procedures as appropriate.

Recommendation 6

Response: Has Been Implemented and Will Continue to Be Evaluated.

CJUSD conducts regular reviews of campus security measures, including communications systems, access controls, camera coverage, and facility improvements through its school safety planning process. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the District will maintain documentation of these reviews and continue evaluating opportunities for safety infrastructure improvements as funding becomes available.

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Cuyama Joint Unified School District values the safety and well-being of all students and staff and appreciates the Grand Jury's attention to school safety planning and preparedness. The District remains committed to continuous improvement, collaboration with community partners, and maintaining a safe educational environment for all members of the school community.

Respectfully submitted,

CUYAMA JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
On Behalf of the Governing Board



Cuyama Joint Unified School District

Kevin Lebsack Superintendent/Principal

Approved by the Governing Board on August 13, 2026