



GOLETA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Superintendent

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September 3, 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

Superintendent
Dr. Mary Kahn

FILED
SUPERIOR COURT of CALIFORNIA
COUNTY of SANTA BARBARA
09/03/2026
Angela Braun, Executive Officer
BY *M. Hanson*
M. Hanson Deputy Clerk

Re: 2025-26 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report on Bullying in Santa Barbara County Schools

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

The Goleta Union School District (GUSD) shares the Grand Jury's commitment to student well-being and recognizes that bullying can have a significant impact on students' academic success, mental health, and sense of belonging at school.

Please find GUSD's responses to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations below:

Finding 1

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

GUSD Response to Finding 1: Agree

The Goleta Union School District agrees that appropriate, developmentally responsive safety measures can reduce bullying and improve school climate. Our Comprehensive School Safety Plans (CSSPs) are developed and revised annually to address the varied ways in which we support students' physical and emotional safety. We regularly review our processes for reporting and responding to bullying and are committed to adding additional safety measures when necessary.

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.

GUSD Response to Recommendation 1a: Has been implemented

GUSD focuses our staff presence in areas where students congregate before school, during breaks, and after school.

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.

GUSD Response to Recommendation 1b: Requires further analysis, with an analysis completion date of fewer than 6 months after the issuance of the report.

While GUSD does use cameras as one safety measure, we're currently evaluating whether our current cameras sufficiently cover the areas where students congregate at all GUSD schools.

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.

GUSD Response to Recommendation 1c: It will not be implemented

While GUSD agrees with the purpose behind this recommendation, we provide social emotional support differently through Our Multi-Tiered System of Supports including: maintaining small class sizes, employing full-time school psychologists for each school, utilizing school psychology interns as well as access to mental health clinicians through our Expanded Learning Program.

Finding 2

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

GUSD Response to Finding 2: Disagree

While GUSD does not employ school counselors, we understand that in this context the term is being used more broadly to apply to staff providing social emotional support and or counseling to students. GUSD does utilize our school psychologists and other support staff to provide intervention and support to both perpetrators and victims of bullying. Administrators handle each case of reported bullying individually in order to make decisions based on the evidence and provide appropriate support to involved students.

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.

GUSD Response to Recommendation 2: Has been implemented

GUSD has established procedures for referring students who have engaged in bullying to appropriate support providers. As mentioned above, GUSD does not employ school counselors but instead has full time school psychologists who receive referrals for student support related to bullying.

Finding 3

Parent participation in outreach programs for bullying has been poor.

GUSD Response to Finding 3: Disagree partially

GUSD agrees that parent/guardian engagement is critical and that participation can be a challenge. However, GUSD has provided information to families regarding student behavior including bullying through various parent groups such as the District Advisory Committee.

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.

GUSD Response to Recommendation 3a: It will not be implemented

GUSD respectfully disagrees with the recommendation to provide parent outreach programs regarding bullying during evenings and weekends, online and through archived recordings. While the District recognizes the importance of accessible information to families, we believe that bullying concerns are most effectively addressed through individualized support rather than general workshops. The District will continue to evaluate effective ways to communicate with and support families, but does not believe that broad-based bullying workshops are the most effective approach to meet the needs of our families and students.

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.

GUSD Response to Recommendation 3b: Will be implemented

GUSD is committed to removing barriers to parent/guardian involvement. The District will continue to use the information we have to determine which parent outreach topics are most needed by engaging with our families. We will continue to support families by providing support including but not limited to food, transportation, and child care at parent events when possible.

Recommendation 3c

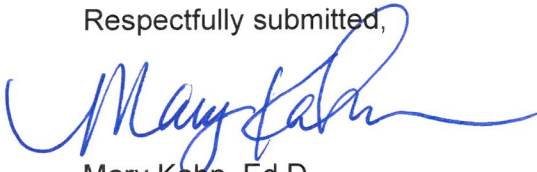
The Grand Jury recommends that school boards strongly encourage parents of students who have engaged in repeated acts of bullying to attend outreach programs. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

GUSD Response to Recommendation 3c: Has been implemented

GUSD agrees that parent/guardian support is critical when students are engaged in repeated acts of bullying. We will continue to refer families for support including to community partners such as LEAP and Youthwell.

Creating positive school climates where students feel safe, connected, and supported is a responsibility shared by educators, families, students, and community partners. GUSD remains committed to supporting student wellness initiatives, family engagement efforts, professional learning opportunities, and collaboration aimed at ensuring that all students have access to safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environments.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary Kahn", with a stylized, flowing script.

Mary Kahn, Ed.D.

Superintendent, Goleta Union School District