



LOMPOC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Trusting Relationships + High Expectations = Every Student Achieves

September 27, 2026

The Honorable Patricia Kelly
Santa Barbara County Superior Court
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

FILED
SUPERIOR COURT of CALIFORNIA
COUNTY of SANTA BARBARA
09/29/2026
Angela Brauer, Executive Officer
BY *Mark Hanson*
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Stacy Mezzetta de Cossio, Foreperson
Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
sbcgi@sbcourts.org

Re: 2025-26 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report on School Shootings

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

The Lompoc Unified School District (“LUSD”) shares the Grand Jury’s commitment to ensuring that schools remain safe, welcoming, and supportive environments for students and staff. School safety is a community-wide responsibility that requires ongoing collaboration among schools, families, law enforcement, mental health professionals, community partners, and emergency responders.

Emergency preparedness and school safety have long been district priorities. LUSD has invested significant time and resources in emergency preparedness training for employees. During the 2016-2017 school year, LUSD adopted the nationally recognized school safety program through Navigate 360 called ALICE training. ALICE training is a proactive, options-based active shooter response program designed to increase survivability during violent critical incidents. The ALICE Acronym is for the five core components of the [ALICE Training](#) model and do not have to be followed in sequential order: Alert: Recognize and communicate the initial signs of danger using clear, timely senses, notifications, or announcements. Lockdown: Barricade and secure entry points to buy time and fortify safety if evacuation is not an option. Inform: Share real-time, accurate details about the intruder's location and movements to guide safe decision-making. Counter: As a last resort, create noise, movement, and distractions to disrupt the attacker's focus and reduce their ability to harm. Evacuate: Leave the danger zone and move to a safe, designated rally point as soon as it is safe to do so.

Additionally, LUSD has invested in “Training the Trainer” to train LUSD employees as certified trainers for the ALICE training. LUSD has regularly sent teams to Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) safety trainings, and holds monthly safety meetings at the district office which address a variety of emergency scenarios, including an active school shooter.



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With this background, LUSD respectfully submits the following responses to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations. LUSD has regular safety meetings with school site administrators and local law enforcement and other community partners.

Responses to Findings

Finding 1

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

LUSD Response to Finding 1: Disagree

LUSD values the safety training provided by SBCEO and other organizations and has worked diligently to ensure strong participation by district and school administrators.

LUSD takes a team-based approach to professional development and safety training. Multiple administrators attend local, state, and national trainings whenever possible, allowing them to compare notes and key takeaways, discuss the implications for LUSD, identify next steps, and subsequently share information with colleagues. SBCEO trainings in areas such as multidisciplinary threat assessment and crisis communications have directly informed and strengthened district practices.

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.

LUSD Response to Finding 2: Disagree Partially

LUSD schools regularly practice the Hold, Secure, Lockdown, and Evacuate responses outlined in the Standard Response Protocol. Drills are scheduled at varying times of the day, including at recess, at lunch, and after school, to provide opportunities for as many school personnel as possible to learn, practice, and execute the appropriate safety protocols.

LUSD recognizes that emergency preparedness is an ongoing process and that staff benefits from continued opportunities to review and practice safety procedures. Accordingly, school safety and emergency response protocols remain recurring topics at school staff meetings and throughout the school year.



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Finding 3

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

LUSD Response to Finding 3: Disagree

LUSD disagrees with this finding as it applies to the District, as every LUSD school has anonymous pathways for reporting threats or potential threats both online and on campus. In addition to using Navigate360 for threat and suicide risk assessment, the District provides LUSD360, an anonymous reporting system available to students, families, and community members. Accessible through the district website and a downloadable mobile app, LUSD360 allows concerns to be reported at any time, whether from school, from home, or elsewhere in the community.

Reports submitted through LUSD360 are connected to the Sandy Hook Promise crisis center, where they are immediately triaged and routed to the appropriate responders. District and school administrators are notified so that follow-up can begin without delay, with counselors and support staff involved as appropriate. When a report indicates an immediate threat, law enforcement is contacted. Through these systems, LUSD fosters a districtwide culture in which students, staff, families, and community members are encouraged to watch, listen, and report concerns.

Finding 4

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

LUSD Response to Finding 4: Agree

LUSD recognizes that an on-campus law enforcement presence can be an important asset in certain circumstances and emergency situations. LUSD schools employ two full-time School Resource Officers (SROs), one at Cabrillo High School/Maple High School and one at Lompoc High School. Additionally, recently the City of Lompoc obtained grant funding to provide an SRO at Lompoc Valley Middle School. Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) provides SRO support at Crestview Elementary School and Vandenberg Middle School.

LUSD also benefits from a strong and longstanding partnership with the Lompoc Police Department, VSFB Security Police, and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, which we believe contributes significantly to the safety and security of our schools. This relationship is leveraged for quick response times in emergencies and frequent meetings with law enforcement.



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Finding 5

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

LUSD Response to Finding 5: Disagree

LUSD has implemented a comprehensive visitor-management protocol at its schools. Visitors must check in at the school office and present photo identification, which is screened through the district's Raptor system for Megan's Law status and other applicable records contained in the Department of Justice database.

Once cleared through the screening process, visitors are issued a visitor sticker that must be visibly worn while they are on campus. This process provides schools with an additional layer of security and helps staff identify authorized visitors during the school day.

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 instantaneous communication devices.

LUSD Response to Finding 6: Disagree

LUSD has made significant investments in school safety infrastructure with significant improvements in fences, cameras, and access points over the past ten years. Campus safety audits and recommendations have been conducted over that timeframe, leading to key improvements at each school. Additionally, a school bond measure approved by Lompoc voters in 2024 has assisted in funding security improvements at all school sites, including perimeter fencing and a single public access point during the school day. Finally, there are 347 cameras within the district.

Visitors are directed through the school office, where they are required to check in, present identification for screening, and receive a visitor sticker, as described in the response to Finding 5. These measures provide controlled access to school campuses and support the district's ongoing commitment to campus safety.

Responses to Recommendations

Recommendation 1b

The Grand Jury recommends that all Santa Barbara County school districts require administrative leaders to attend the School Safety Symposium in person at least once every two years.



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LUSD Response to Recommendation 1b: Has Been Implemented

LUSD has prioritized district and site staff attending state and national safety conferences. LUSD has regular safety meetings with school site administrators and local law enforcement. LUSD has sent regular representation to the School Safety Symposium to bring back information to district and school site leaders, which is consistent with the intent of this recommendation.

Recommendation 1c

The Grand Jury recommends that all Santa Barbara County school districts encourage teachers and staff to attend the School Safety Symposium in person and, if not in person, access the online seminar annually.

LUSD Response to Recommendation 1c: Will Not Be Implemented

Because of the ongoing shortage of substitute teachers, it is not operationally feasible for LUSD to release teaching staff to attend all-day safety trainings, either in person or virtually, each year.

LUSD has instead focused on ensuring that district and school leaders participate in safety trainings and then provide trainings with key information and learning for staff. When appropriate, safety topics are also incorporated into district professional development days and school staff meetings.

LUSD has also invested directly in comprehensive staff training. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the nationally recognized school safety ALICE training provided training for teams of LUSD staff at each school site.

Recommendation 2a

The Grand Jury recommends that Santa Barbara County school districts train and drill all full-time campus personnel and students for campus safety at least once per semester.

LUSD Response to Recommendation 2a: Has Been Implemented

LUSD schools regularly practice Standard Response Protocol responses, including ALICE, for fire, earthquake, and intruder emergencies throughout the school year, as required by state law. All personnel on campus participate in these drills.

Following drills, school administrators notify parents and guardians so they are aware that the drill occurred and understand the purpose of the exercise.



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Recommendation 2b

The Grand Jury recommends that Santa Barbara County school districts provide written and verbal instruction to all temporary personnel, including substitute teachers, prior to their entering a new classroom location.

LUSD Response to Recommendation 2b: Will Be Implemented

Information regarding the Standard Response Protocol has been included in periodic trainings provided to substitute teachers. In addition, office staff typically review the Standard Response Protocol with substitute teachers and substitute classified personnel who are new to the district.

LUSD recognizes the importance of ensuring that all temporary personnel are familiar with emergency response procedures before beginning their assignments. Accordingly, during the 2026-2027 school year, LUSD has implemented and distributed a flip book to all classrooms in each school detailing the safety procedures of the district as described in Recommendation 2c. The district will take additional steps to ensure that all substitute and temporary personnel receive appropriate written and verbal information regarding emergency response protocols.

Recommendation 2c

The Grand Jury recommends that Santa Barbara County school districts provide quick-reference situational cards and/or information posters conveying simple instructions for emergency response procedures in every classroom and in public rooms.

LUSD Response to Recommendation 2c: Has Been Implemented

LUSD has created flipbooks with ALICE and standard response protocols that are visible, accessible, and available in every classroom and area of the school. Standard Response Protocol posters are displayed to provide readily accessible information regarding emergency response procedures.

Recommendation 3a

The Grand Jury recommends that all Santa Barbara County school districts train school personnel on how to gain trust, understand healthy boundaries, and engage in strategic partnerships with community service groups to support student needs.

LUSD Response to Recommendation 3a: Has Been Implemented

LUSD employs mental health staff at all school sites who support staff in understanding trauma, student mental health, and appropriate boundaries.

The district has provided secondary staff with training regarding appropriate adult-student interactions in association with Board Policy 4119.24 and has provided trauma-informed training to all elementary school staff. Furthermore, each school site identifies specific needs for its staff



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and provides the appropriate trainings. The District provides schools access to resources and personnel to conduct those trainings.

LUSD maintains partnerships with Family Service Agency and the National Center for Safe Supportive Schools. LUSD promotes safe supportive campuses via elevated mental health standards.

Recommendation 3b

The Grand Jury recommends that all Santa Barbara County school districts provide an anonymous reporting mechanism on school-provided devices, in addition to a drop box available on campus.

LUSD Response to Recommendation 3b: Has Been Implemented

As stated in the response to Finding 3, LUSD provides an anonymous reporting form on both the district website and each school website. Reports are sent directly to school administrators for follow-up, with counselors typically included in the response when appropriate.

Recommendation 4

The Grand Jury recommends that all Santa Barbara County school districts have School Resource Officers (SROs) or Deputies (SRDs).

LUSD Response to Recommendation 4: Has Been Implemented

As stated in the response to Finding 4, LUSD schools employ two full-time School Resource Officers (SRO) at Cabrillo High School/Maple High School and Lompoc High School. Additionally, recently the City of Lompoc obtained grant funding to provide an SRO at Lompoc Valley Middle School. Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) provides SROs at Crestview Elementary School and Vandenberg Middle School.

LUSD also benefits from a strong and longstanding partnership with the Lompoc Police Department, VSFB Security Police, and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, which we believe contributes significantly to the safety and security of our schools. This relationship is leveraged for quick response times in emergencies and frequent meetings with law enforcement.

LUSD will continue to maintain and strengthen its partnership with the Lompoc Police Department, VSFB Security Policy, and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office to support school safety at all school sites.



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Recommendations 5a and 5b

Recommendation 5a

The Grand Jury recommends that Santa Barbara County school districts improve visitor access control during school hours by requiring valid government-issued photo identification verified by school personnel and utilizing a system that checks for restraining orders or other legal restrictions.

Recommendation 5b

The Grand Jury recommends that Santa Barbara County school districts require all schools to issue visitors a badge and require its visibility on the visitor while on campus during school hours.

LUSD Response to Recommendations 5a and 5b: Has Been Implemented

As stated in the response to Finding 5, LUSD has implemented a comprehensive visitor-management protocol at its schools. Visitors must check in with the school office and present photo identification for screening through the district's Raptor system. The system checks applicable records, including Megan's Law status and other violations recorded in the Department of Justice database.

Once cleared through the screening process, visitors are issued a visitor sticker that must be visibly worn while they are on campus.

Recommendation 6

The Grand Jury recommends that all Santa Barbara County school districts have each school conduct an annual security review with respect to video security cameras at key points across school grounds, two-way communications on campus, and innovations, such as artificial intelligence-aided technologies or drones, and make improvements based on those reviews.

LUSD Response to Recommendation 6: Has Been Implemented

LUSD schools continually evaluate the effectiveness and coverage of the existing 347 security cameras and identify areas where additional coverage may be beneficial. School administrators, particularly at the secondary level, have also participated in identifying and implementing additional safety measures using site staff to monitor school campuses during passing periods. LUSD recognizes that school safety is an evolving field and remains committed to regularly evaluating emerging technologies, best practices, and other opportunities to enhance the safety and security of its campuses. Each school campus has a safety committee comprised of school staff and administrators that reviews security multiple times a year and approves the site school safety plan.



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Respectfully submitted,

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Tracy Phillips
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