



SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

6401 LINDA VISTA ROAD, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92111-7399 (858) 292-3500

Superintendent of Schools
Rudy M. Castruita, Ed.D.

RECEIVED

JUN 27 2006

June 27, 2006

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2006

SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

Honorable Janis Sammartino
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Presiding Department
220 West Broadway
San Diego CA 92101

Dear Judge Sammartino:

Enclosed is our response to the Grand Jury Report of May 11, 2006 concerning the "San Pasqual Academy." A copy of the response is being provided to you in accordance with the Grand Jury's "Requirements and Instructions." In addition, our response to the report has been sent to Jim Vlassis, Grand Jury Foreman.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rudy M. Castruita
County Superintendent of Schools

RMC:AB
Enclosure

Board of Education

Nick Aguilar Susan Hartley Sharon C. Jones Robert J. Watkins John Witt

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
RESPONSE TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION
FOR SAN PASQUAL ACADEMY**

Recommendation 06-56: The San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Office of Education require that the San Pasqual Academy school curriculum be revised to offer 3 years of language and 3 years of science classes so as to permit admission to the State College system without a special waiver.

SDCOE Response: The Grand Jury recommendation that the San Diego County Office of Education require that the San Pasqual Academy school curriculum be revised to offer 3 years of language so as to permit admission to the State College system without a special waiver will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

The University of California A-G requirements call for two years of foreign language. San Pasqual Academy (SPA) meets the A-G foreign language admission requirement by offering two years of Spanish. No waiver is necessary for SPA graduates.

The Grand Jury recommendation that the San Diego County Office of Education require that the San Pasqual Academy school curriculum be revised to offer 3 years of science classes so as to permit admission to the State College system without a special waiver will not be implemented because it is not reasonable.

The University of California A-G requirements call for two years of laboratory science. Currently, San Pasqual Academy (SPA) offers only one year of laboratory science.

The students at SPA need a wide variety of courses, ranging from intensive remediation to college preparatory classes. The ability of the seven general education teachers on staff to provide these courses is at maximum capacity.

There is a shortage of fully credentialed science teachers throughout the county. It has been difficult to find a part-time science teacher able to teach either chemistry or physics. While the San Diego County Office of Education continues to search for a part-time science teacher, qualified students will attend second year laboratory science classes at Palomar College in order to fully meet the University of California two-year science admission requirements without the need for a waiver.

June 12, 2006

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
RESPONSE TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY GRAND JURY FINDING
FOR SAN PASQUAL ACADEMY**

- Fact:** Students from San Pasqual Academy who enter the State University system do so with a waiver of the Science and Language prerequisites.
- Finding:** Students who are admitted with a waiver of prerequisites are at an informational disadvantage compared to those who have no such impediment.
- SDCOE Response:** The SDCOE disagrees wholly with the fact and finding. There have been no waivers requested for any San Pasqual Academy (SPA) students attending the State University system. Students have been admitted either through the regular process or through the California State Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). EOP is designed to improve access and retention of low income and educationally disadvantaged students. The program provides admission, academic, and financial assistance to EOP-eligible undergraduate students. Campuses tailor their programs to accommodate the needs of the EOP population. EOP students are required to enroll in an EOP summer program to strengthen their academic skills. In addition, students receive counseling, tutoring, and advising services.
- SPA graduation rate: 92%. San Diego County overall foster youth graduation rate: 76%. Forty-three of SPA's 69 graduating students were enrolled in college after graduation. Thirty-six of the 43 enrolled in college actually attended. Twenty-four of the 36 that attended are still attending college. The remainder of the students are employed and/or planning to attend community college and received ongoing support services.

June 12, 2006



SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

6401 LINDA VISTA ROAD, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92111-7399 (858) 292-3500

Superintendent of Schools
Rudy M. Castruita, Ed.D.

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2006
SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

June 27, 2006

Mr. Jim Vlassis
Foreman
Grand Jury
County of San Diego
Hall of Justice
330 W. Broadway, Suite 477
San Diego CA 92101-3830

Dear Mr. Vlassis:

Enclosed please find a copy of our response to the Grand Jury Report of May 11, 2006 concerning the "San Pasqual Academy." We have sent the original to the Honorable Janis Sammartino, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rudy M. Castruita
County Superintendent of Schools

RMC:AB
Enclosure

Board of Education

Nick Aguilar Susan Hartley Sharon C. Jones Robert J. Watkins John Witt

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
RESPONSE TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION
FOR SAN PASQUAL ACADEMY**

Recommendation 06-56:

The San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Office of Education require that the San Pasqual Academy school curriculum be revised to offer 3 years of language and 3 years of science classes so as to permit admission to the State College system without a special waiver.

SDCOE Response:

The Grand Jury recommendation that the San Diego County Office of Education require that the San Pasqual Academy school curriculum be revised to offer 3 years of language so as to permit admission to the State College system without a special waiver will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

The University of California A-G requirements call for two years of foreign language. San Pasqual Academy (SPA) meets the A-G foreign language admission requirement by offering two years of Spanish. No waiver is necessary for SPA graduates.

The Grand Jury recommendation that the San Diego County Office of Education require that the San Pasqual Academy school curriculum be revised to offer 3 years of science classes so as to permit admission to the State College system without a special waiver will not be implemented because it is not reasonable.

The University of California A-G requirements call for two years of laboratory science. Currently, San Pasqual Academy (SPA) offers only one year of laboratory science.

The students at SPA need a wide variety of courses, ranging from intensive remediation to college preparatory classes. The ability of the seven general education teachers on staff to provide these courses is at maximum capacity.

There is a shortage of fully credentialed science teachers throughout the county. It has been difficult to find a part-time science teacher able to teach either chemistry or physics. While the San Diego County Office of Education continues to search for a part-time science teacher, qualified students will attend second year laboratory science classes at Palomar College in order to fully meet the University of California two-year science admission requirements without the need for a waiver.

June 12, 2006

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
RESPONSE TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY GRAND JURY FINDING
FOR SAN PASQUAL ACADEMY**

- Fact:** Students from San Pasqual Academy who enter the State University system do so with a waiver of the Science and Language prerequisites.
- Finding:** Students who are admitted with a waiver of prerequisites are at an informational disadvantage compared to those who have no such impediment.
- SDCOE Response:** The SDCOE disagrees wholly with the fact and finding. There have been no waivers requested for any San Pasqual Academy (SPA) students attending the State University system. Students have been admitted either through the regular process or through the California State Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). EOP is designed to improve access and retention of low income and educationally disadvantaged students. The program provides admission, academic, and financial assistance to EOP-eligible undergraduate students. Campuses tailor their programs to accommodate the needs of the EOP population. EOP students are required to enroll in an EOP summer program to strengthen their academic skills. In addition, students receive counseling, tutoring, and advising services.
- SPA graduation rate: 92%. San Diego County overall foster youth graduation rate: 76%. Forty-three of SPA's 69 graduating students were enrolled in college after graduation. Thirty-six of the 43 enrolled in college actually attended. Twenty-four of the 36 that attended are still attending college. The remainder of the students are employed and/or planning to attend community college and received ongoing support services.

June 12, 2006