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Luis A. Rankins-Ibarra, Ed.D.

August 9, 2019

The Honorable Peter C. Deddeh
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
P.O. Box 122724
San Diego, California 92112

Re: Response to the Grand Jury Report: "School Safety in San Diego County"

Honorable Judge Deddeh:

In accordance with the requirements the Penal Code of California, Section 933(c), the Escondido Union School District has reviewed the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations and prepared the enclosed responses.

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

Sincerely,

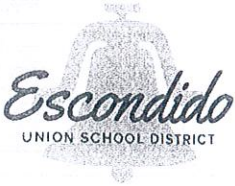
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. Ibarra", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Luis Ibarra
Superintendent of Schools
Escondido Union School District

Enclosure

**CARILYN GILBERT
EDUCATION CENTER**

2310 Aldergrove Ave.
Escondido, CA 92029
Tel (760) 432-2400
www.eusd.org



Response to Grand Jury Report: "School Safety in San Diego County"

Finding 01: Overall, the San Diego County Schools studied are prepared to handle many kinds of emergencies, including active shooter situations, due largely to mandates from the State.

The Escondido Union School District agrees with Finding 01.

Finding 02: Overall, law enforcement, first responders, parents and other stakeholders have shown interest to work cooperatively with San Diego County school studied in the prevention of possible active shooter incident.

The Escondido Union School District agrees with Finding 02.

Finding 03: At the site level, there appears to be some lack of interactive collaboration with community stakeholders on the actual development of the plans.

The Escondido Union School District agrees with Finding 03.

Finding 04: The Grand Jury found that some of the schools reviewed had conducted a vulnerability study of their premises.

The Escondido Union School District disagrees wholly with finding 04, as it relates to the schools within our district. Vulnerability assessments have been conducted for all Escondido Union School District schools.

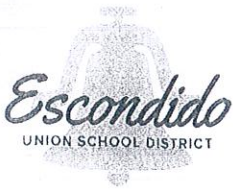
Finding 05: Valuable learning from the recent Florida and Texas shootings is not fully reflected yet in the existing CSSPs.

The Escondido Union School District agrees with Finding 05.

Finding 06: Overall, school districts in San Diego County indicated a more focused approach to active shooter response through their efforts to improve communication, add site safety precautions and adopt guidelines for Options-Based Responses in this year's or next year's Comprehensive School Safety Plans/Emergency Operations Plans.

The Escondido Union School District agrees with Finding 06.

Finding 07: All San Diego County Schools in the Grand Jury study claimed to have conducted or have scheduled drills within the current school year on emergency procedures directed towards intruders on campus, but not specifically armed assailants.



Response to Grand Jury Report: "School Safety in San Diego County"

The Escondido Union School District agrees with Finding 07. All Escondido Union School District schools conducted lockdown drills during the 2018-2019 school year and will continue to have scheduled lockdown drills.

Finding 08: Drills (conducted or planned) center mainly on the presentation of procedures but are progressing toward becoming more realistic and dynamic, which helps create a "mental model" for preconditioning staff and students to act with immediacy.

The Escondido Union School District agrees with Finding 08.

Finding 09: As a note of recognition, Sweetwater Union High School District has gone above and beyond state requirements for safety training by demonstrating excellent and thorough levels of preparation.

The Escondido Union School District agrees with Finding 09.

Finding 10: Funding for active shooter response and preparedness is given high priority for some districts.

The Escondido Union School District agrees with Finding 10. Providing funding for active shooter response and preparedness is a high priority for the Escondido Union School District. Since 2016, the Escondido Union School District has implemented A.L.I.C.E throughout the district. A.L.I.C.E stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate, and is an options based response for an active shooter event.

Finding 11: Before and after school programs need to be better addressed in safety plans.

The Escondido Union School District agrees with Finding 11.

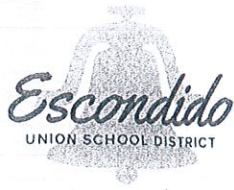
Finding 12: Many districts expressed a need to train all adults on campus in safety procedures.

The Escondido Union School District agrees with Finding 12.

The 2018/19 Grand Jury recommends that by March 1, 2020, Escondido Union School District:

19-01: Increase the priority of funding in school budgets for training, equipment and infrastructure improvements to handle active shooter crisis as a matter of security for staff and student safety.

Recommendation 19-01 has been implemented.



Response to Grand Jury Report: "School Safety in San Diego County"

The district has taken a centralized approach and prioritized funding for training, equipment and infrastructure improvements to handle an active shooter crisis through the student safety and campus security portion of the bond initiative. The Escondido Union School District has completed or started the following:

- 1) Adopted A.L.I.C.E concepts throughout the district.
- 2) Adopted School Messenger as districts mass notification system for emergencies.
- 3) Installed Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) which serves as the initial alert for emergency notifications.
- 4) Installed surveillance cameras.
- 5) Installed/replaced gates and fences.
- 6) Conducted lockdown drills at all school sites.
- 7) District personnel attended Emergency Preparedness training.
- 8) District held first Preparedness and Safety Committee meeting May 2018.
- 9) The City of Escondido Emergency Services Manager met with Cabinet to discuss roles and responsibilities of Command Center during an emergency event.
- 10) Sharing of School Resource Officer with other educational entities in Escondido 2018/2019 school year and 2019/2020 school year.
- 11) Started installing Site Visitor Management System (HallPass) at some schools.
- 12) Conducted an annual review/update to CSSP and EOP.

19-02: Explore alternate or creative sources of funding to supplement the school's needs to enhance safety measures regarding active shooter situations, including possible grants or community fund-raising efforts.

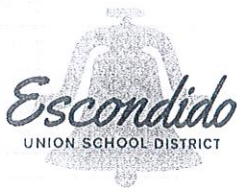
Recommendation 19-02 has been implemented.

Escondido Union School District is currently working closely with the City of Escondido Police Department regarding the implementation of a school visitor management system funded by the School Violence Prevention Program grant.

19-03: Conduct vulnerability studies at all school and use this data to guide the development of the CSSP and EOP.

Recommendation 19-03 has been implemented.

The district conducted vulnerability studies at all school sites and used the collected data to guide the development of the CSSP and EOP. Specifically, the district implemented the A.L.I.C.E concepts and updated the CSSP with new options based responses for an active shooter event.



Response to Grand Jury Report: "School Safety in San Diego County"

19-04: Provide more safety precautions against active shooters, including threat awareness training/reporting, and site physical improvements.

Recommendation 19-04 has been implemented.

The Escondido Union School District has completed or started the following:

- 1) Adopted A.L.I.C.E concepts throughout the district.
- 2) Adopted School Messenger as districts mass notification system for emergencies.
- 3) Installed Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) which serves as the initial alert for emergency notifications.
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- 9) The City of Escondido Emergency Services Manager met with Cabinet to discuss roles and responsibilities of Command Center during an emergency event.
- 10) Sharing of School Resource Officer with other educational entities in Escondido 2018/2019 school year and 2019/2020 school year.
- 11) Started installing Site Visitor Management System (HallPass) at some schools.
- 12) Conducted an annual review/update to CSSP and EOP.

19-05: Monitor individual school's planning meetings to develop the CSSP and EOP to ensure collaboration of multi-disciplinary partners (staff, parents, students, first responders, fire department and law enforcement, community agencies) at the *local school level*.

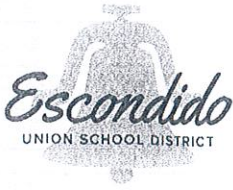
Recommendation 19-05 has been implemented.

The Escondido Union School District conducts meetings for the review and approval of the CSSP and EOP which are monitored by the principal of each school. Various stakeholders are in attendance such as, administrators, teachers, parents, students, classified staff, and others. Benchmarks with dates are set every year to ensure the timely completion of the CSSP and EOP.

19-06: Include "Active Shooter" response language in the school's Comprehensive School Safety Plan and dedicated sections in the Emergency Operations Plans.

Recommendation 19-06 has been implemented.

All Escondido Union School Districts school site CSSPs include emergency operations plans specific to Active Shooter response.



Response to Grand Jury Report: "School Safety in San Diego County"

19-07: Promote the use of tip hotlines and tip apps by students and parents.

Recommendation 19-07 has not yet been implemented but will be in the future.

The Escondido Union School District is partnering with Sandy Hook Promise to provide the See Something Say Something campaign and anonymous reporting line. The program involves training for middle school students on how to recognize signs and symptoms, through face to face and electronic communications, of threat to self and others. Students are then taught to utilize the 24 hour Say Something hotline number to report these threats through phone or text during the lesson. The hotline number will be included on the students' school identification cards. The Say Something hotline number, while staffed by national crisis responders, will be linked with the Escondido Police Department and local school district staff so substantiated reports made through the hotline are followed up on by local police, mental health, and school staff. Student presentations will be provided at EUSD schools once the Say Something system is set up. The anticipated month for the implementation of the EUSD Say Something Assemblies is September, 2019.

19-08: Include substitute teachers and all other adult workers in the training and practice provided to regular staff on active shooter awareness and responses specific to each school.

Recommendation 19-08 has been implemented.

The district has made the A.L.I.C.E online training module accessible to all employees starting with the 2019/2020 school year.

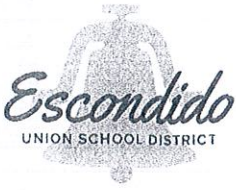
19-09: Conduct active shooter drills with staff that are dynamic and produce "immediacy" of response consistent with the school's approved safety plan.

Recommendation 19-09 has been implemented.

In January 2017, the district conducted a training with all district staff in regards to an active shooter event. The exercise was dynamic and prepared staff to quickly evaluate their response options (alert, lockdown, inform, counter, or evacuate) and choose the response that is best suited to protect their students.

19-10: Use age-appropriate training methods in conducting lockdown and active shooter drills with students.

Recommendation 19-10 has been implemented.



Response to Grand Jury Report: "School Safety in San Diego County"

Since the 2018-2019 school year, all schools in the Escondido Union School District conduct lockdown drills that include a barricade and evacuation for all active shooter drills with students. Drills are conducted at least once a year.

19-11: Coordinate detailed emergency plans for school programs held on campus outside of normal school hours, inform all participants and involve the community's support.

Recommendation 19-11 has not been implemented but will be implemented no later than March 1, 2020.