



Presiding Judge Craig van Rooyen
Superior Court of California
1035 Palm Street, Room 355
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-1000

July 17, 2023

Judge Craig van Rooyen,

I am in receipt of the Grand Jury Report “Are High School making the Grade at Addressing Mental Health?” dated June 12, 2023. Please accept the following responses as requested by the Grand Jury.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: The Mental Health Services Act adopted in 2020 provides grant money available to support partnerships between schools, mental health agencies, and providers. *All San Luis Obispo County School Districts and Charters are invited to participate in obtaining grant funds at the monthly meeting of district superintendents, charter directors, and college representatives. SLOCOE has a grant writer on contract and assists any District or Charter upon request. Participation is dependent upon the approval of the locally elected school board of trustees.*

Recommendation 2: The Mental Health Services Act adopted in 2020 provides grant money available to support partnerships between schools, mental health agencies, and providers. *Best practices are shared with all San Luis Obispo County School Districts and Charters at the monthly meeting of district superintendents, charter directors, and college representatives. Extension of mental health curriculum beyond the Freshman health class depends entirely on the approval of the locally elected school board of trustees.*

Recommendation 3: In 2021, the Legislature passed SB 224, adding new sections to the Education Code requiring that school districts offering health classes in middle or high school include mental health instruction that meets specific requirements in those courses. (see Ed. Code, section 51925): Part of that new law requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop a plan to expand mental health instruction in California Public Schools. *Best practices are shared with all San Luis Obispo County School Districts and Charters at the monthly meeting of district superintendents, charter directors, and college representatives. Any changes or participation of best practices depend entirely on the approval of the locally elected school board of trustees.*

Recommendation 4: San Luis Obispo County is home to eleven school districts and three charters ranging in size from 69 students to almost 10,000, which serve different demographics and communities. While there may be some approaches to mental health that apply universally, all districts and charters are invited to maximize mental health and substance abuse prevention programs; however, this is under local control. *Best practices are shared with all San Luis Obispo County School Districts and Charters at the monthly meeting of district superintendents, charter directors, and college representatives. Any changes or participation of best practices depend entirely on the approval of the locally elected school board of trustees.*



Recommendation 5: The San Luis Obispo County Superintendent of Schools agrees with this recommendation and offers regular training programs, access to training programs, information about training programs, and general support. The County Superintendent of Schools, authority is described by the California [Education Code Section 1240](#) and is fully executed as permissible by law. ***Best practices are shared with all San Luis Obispo County School Districts and Charters at the monthly meeting of district superintendents, charter directors, and college representatives. Any changes or participation of best practices are fully dependent upon the approval of the locally elected school board of trustees.***

Recommendation 10: The California Department of Education (CDE) has been working with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to provide all schools and districts with resources and information to readily share with parents and students to help keep them safe. CDE co-hosted webinars with the CDPH on September 28 and October 12, 2022. All local educational agencies (LEAs) can view the webinars on the CDPH YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vmb76t6CC3Q>. Additionally, all San Luis Obispo County School Districts and Charters are provided information about suicide awareness, an assessment of training needs is assessed annually, and resources are made available. ***Best practices are shared with all San Luis Obispo County School Districts and Charters at the monthly meeting of district superintendents, charter directors, and college representatives. Any changes or participation of best practices are fully dependent upon the approval of the locally elected school board of trustees.***

Please do not hesitate to contact my office directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James J. Brescia, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

Copy: Grand Jury

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: "Are High Schools making the Grade at Addressing Mental Health?"

Report Date: June 12, 2023

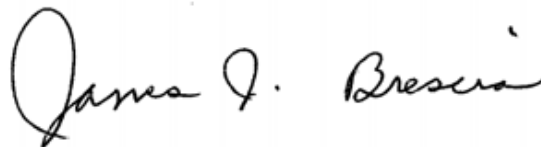
Response by: James Brescia, Ed.D. **Title:** County Superintendent of Schools

FINDINGS

1. I (we) agree with the findings numbered: 1-10
2. I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: 11, 12
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.) **No dispute only interpret as recommendations versus findings.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendations numbered R 1-5, 10 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implementation actions.)
2. Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
3. Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of the publication of the Grand Jury report.)
4. Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)



Date: July 17, 2023

Signed:

Number of pages attached: 1