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TULARE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT 2013-2014

21. Students are required to participate in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) program.
22. Student demographics consist of the following:
 - a. Black – 1%
 - b. Hispanic – 56%
 - c. White – 39%
 - d. American Indian or Alaskan Native – 1%
 - e. Two or More Races – 1%
 - f. Not Reported – 1%
 - g. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander – 1%

FINDINGS:

1. VTEC is an early college, career technical school, offering hands-on education to students.
2. VTEC provides a smaller learning environment in the classroom.
3. In addition to the academic core classes, VTEC offers students hands-on assignments.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Visalia Technical Early College have Student Handbooks available in English and Spanish.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

1. Visalia Technical Early College

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

FACTS:

1. Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center is a public charter school designed to support families that are home schooling their children.
2. Each family is assigned a fully credentialed education coordinator to develop an appropriate program for the support of the home schooled student.
3. The school's enrichment program includes choir/band, foreign language classes, drama, art, film making, gardening, archery and physical education.
4. Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center is a single school district serving grades K-12.
5. There are eleven certificated teachers and an Average Daily Attendance (ADA) of 250 students
6. The Revenue Limit per ADA is \$5,000 and a Total Revenue Limit is \$1,936,799.
7. The Academic Performance Index score is 735.

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8. Board meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month.
9. The School Board Agenda is available on its web site.
10. The Student Handbook is available in English only.
11. A Safe School Plan and Emergency Preparedness plan are available.
12. The Tulare County Office of Education provides support services to the school.
13. Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center is not an accredited school.
14. The Tulare County Office of Education sponsors Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center.
15. Parents complete a Parent Agreement Contract when they register their student.
16. Parents volunteer to assist teachers in the classroom.
17. All classrooms are equipped with computers.
18. The District is financially solvent to carry out its responsibilities.
19. The Tulare County Office of Education provides ongoing staff and parent training with the Common Core.
20. Student demographics consists of the following:
 - a. Black – 5%
 - b. Hispanic – 25%
 - c. White – 70%

FINDINGS:

1. All staff provide students and parents support with curriculum and instruction.
2. Parent involvement and participation in the classroom was evident during our visit.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center pursue Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation so students qualify for CSU or UC campuses.
2. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center provide their Student Handbooks in English and Spanish.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

1. Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center

HARMONY MAGNET ACADEMY

FACTS:

1. Harmony Magnet Academy is one of six high schools in the Porterville Unified School District serving grades 9-12.
2. The school has twenty-three credentialed teachers and an ADA of approximately 500 students.
3. The Revenue Limit per ADA is \$7,815 with a Total Revenue Limit of \$2,931,751.
4. Harmony Magnet Academy has an Academic Performance Index of 876, the highest in Tulare County.
5. The school has a statewide Academic Performance Index rank of 10 which means that the school has an API score in the highest 10% of all schools in the state.
6. A Safe School Plan is available.
7. The school specializes in two programs: the Academy of Performing Arts and the Academy of Engineering.
8. The Academy of Performing Arts offers courses such as guitar, keyboarding, dance elements and interpretation, video and audio production and graphic arts.
9. The Academy of Engineering offers courses such as engineering design, principles of engineering, digital electronics and biotechnical engineering.
10. In order to meet college requirements and career paths established for Harmony students, the school has added an additional instructional period to the school day and has increased the graduation requirement to 260 credits, an increase of forty credits.
11. Parents and guardians are always welcome on campus and are encouraged to support their student's with the following activities:
 - a. Monitoring school attendance
 - b. Participating in extra-curricular activities
 - c. Monitoring and regulating television viewing and other electronic distractions
 - d. Planning and participating in activities at home that are supportive of classroom activities
 - e. Volunteering at school
 - f. Participating in decision-making processes by attending Parent Organization and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Focus Group meetings.
12. Harmony Magnet Academy was completed in August of 2008 and was the only site in California to receive a small high school construction grant.
13. The school is one of thirteen in the nation to be selected as a pilot site for the National Academy Foundation's (NAF) Academy of Engineering initiative.
14. In 2013, the school was recognized as the only National Academy of Engineering "Distinguished" Academy of Engineering school in the country.

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15. The school is comprised of 23 classrooms, a multipurpose room/cafeteria, library, staff lounge and four computer labs.
16. The school's solar system accounts for approximately 92% of its electricity.
17. Student demographics consists of the following:
 - a. Black – 0.8%
 - b. Hispanic or Latino – 62%
 - c. White – 27.1%
 - d. Asian – 2.1%
 - e. Filipino – 2.1%
 - f. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander – 0.4%
 - g. Two or More Races – 1.4%

FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS:

1. Harmony Magnet Academy increased graduation requirements by its variety improved student opportunities for success in colleges and universities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

RESPONSES REQUIRED:

None