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Yolo County Office of Education

REASON FOR VISIT

Section 925 of the California Penal Code authorizes the Grand Jury to investigate and report on the operations of any department which functions within the county. Pursuant to that statute, the 2008-2009 Yolo County Grand Jury visited the Yolo County Office of Education (YCOE) at 1280 Santa Anita Court, Suite 100, in Woodland.

ACTIONS TAKEN

On September 30, 2008, members of the Grand Jury met with the Superintendent of Schools, the Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services, and the Associate Superintendent for Educational Services. A tour of YCOE facilities concluded the visit.

The Grand Jury sought to learn more about the

- authority and oversight roles of the County Office of Education and the County Board of Education;
- range of operations of the YCOE;
- types of educational services offered; and
- fiscal condition of the YCOE.

WHAT THE JURY DETERMINED

In Yolo County, the County Superintendent and County Board of Education members are elected. State law largely defines the authority of each. Although they are separately elected, the Board has some authority separate from that of the Superintendent, as shown below.

The County Board

- hears appeals of school district decisions on inter-district transfers and student expulsions;
- authorizes changes in local school trustee residence boundaries;
- sets policy for the Juvenile Detention Facility school, community alternative schools, and the Regional Occupational Program (ROP);
- shares oversight of the Head Start Program with the County Superintendent; and
- reviews and approves the budget for the YCOE, which is administered by the Superintendent.

The YCOE, headed by the County Superintendent of Schools,

- oversees the fiscal status of the five school districts within the county;
- administers the schools and programs operated by the county (e.g., the Juvenile Detention Facility school, Midtown Community School, Einstein Education Center, and ROP). It oversees the Head Start/

Early Head Start Program jointly with the County Board of Education;

- has authority over YCOE personnel decisions;
- offers professional development services to teachers, administrators, staff, and county residents; and
- reviews the proposed budgets for each school district in the county on an annual basis.

The Superintendent can make a Negative Declaration on a district budget that appears to be in trouble. In such a circumstance, the YCOE offers assistance or a district may seek the assistance of budget experts from the state. At the time of our visit, the YCOE administrators stated that no district in Yolo County was under a Negative Declaration.

The 2008-2009 budget for the County Office of Education is \$32,865,217. Over 15 million dollars of that amount (most of it from the state and federal governments) goes to support special education programs and facilities throughout the county.

The YCOE employs 216 full-time-equivalent personnel (including teachers and staff). Using Certificates of Participation, the YCOE purchased buildings in the northeastern section of Woodland. Completed in June 2005, the remodel provides office facilities and conference rooms for small and large group meetings.

COMMENT

The Grand Jury found no reason for further investigation at the time of the visit.

APPENDIX

**Responses to the
2007-2008**

**Yolo County Grand Jury
Final Report**

