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TULARE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT 2014-2015

FACTS – INTERVIEW WITH TULARE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION:

19. TCOE is responsible for a total of 44 small school districts (enrollment of under 600 students) which comprises the Tulare County/District Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA).
20. TCOE operates programs designed to meet the full range of needs for mildly handicapped to profoundly handicapped students. Services provided by these programs can range from Designated Instructional Services (DIS) – which supplement regular classroom instruction – to Special Day Classes (SDC) for students whose needs call for modified curriculum.
21. TCOE also provides home or hospital instruction as well as residential private placement.
22. In addition to those programs/services noted above, TCOE also provides:
 - a. The Bright Start Parent/Infant Program which serves children from birth to age 3 who have, or are at risk of having, disabilities.
 - b. Educational services to at-risk students who attend Court and Community Schools and to incarcerated youth.
 - c. Special education services for developmentally disabled students throughout the County.
23. The graph presented below depicts the allocation of TCOE’s Special Education funding for the 2014-2015 school year. (*see chart 23*)

FINDING:

- F1. The 60 day initial evaluation process of students having special education needs may be overly lengthy.

RECOMMENDATION:

- R1. The time consumed by the initial evaluation process should be reduced.

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(Chart 23)

Tulare County SELPA 2014-2015 AB602 Funding Estimate

District	Actual 2014 P-2 ADA	Subtotal	Amount per ADA
Connections Academy	273.83	\$109,422	\$400
Capistrano Charter	2,014.19	\$804,868	\$400
Ripon Connections Academy	508.76	\$203,300	\$400
Burton	4,115.28	\$1,715,851	\$417
Cutler-Orosi Unified	3,938.94	\$1,642,327	\$417
Dinuba Unified	6,189.12	\$2,580,531	\$417
Earlimart	1,881.02	\$784,284	\$417
Exeter Unified	2,848.88	\$1,187,830	\$417
Farmerville Unified	2,484.89	\$1,036,066	\$417
Lindsay Unified	4,018.30	\$1,675,416	\$417
Pixley	1,039.16	\$433,274	\$417
Porterville Unified	13,082.82	\$5,454,835	\$417
Richgrove	655.83	\$273,446	\$417
Sundale	786.16	327,787	\$417
Terra Bella	888.67	\$370,528	\$417
Tulare Elementary	9,221.15	\$3,844,725	\$417
Tulare High	5,047.44	\$2,104,512	\$417
Visalia Unified	27,189.32	\$11,336,490	\$417
Woodlake Unified	2,222.46	\$926,647	\$417
Woodville Elementary	469.03	\$195,560	\$417
TCOE	9,633.65	\$23,825,807	
TCOE Program/Reg. Spec.	0	\$931,034	
District Interpreters	0	\$1,525,000	
District Program Specialists	0	\$606,690	
Transportation	0	\$2,800,123	
TOTAL	98,508.90	\$66,696,352	

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REQUIRED RESPONSES:

1. Tulare County Office of Education
2. Lindsay Unified School District
3. Cutler-Orosi Unified School District
4. Tulare City School District
5. Dinuba Unified School District
6. Exeter Unified School District
7. Strathmore Elementary School District
8. Three Rivers Elementary School District

Disclaimer

Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).

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