

# **2024-25 Yolo County Civil Grand Jury Follow-up Report on the Davis Joint Unified School District (DJUSD) School Safety Implementation**

## **Summary**

The Yolo County Grand Jury has investigated the school safety practices of DJUSD in the following terms: 2016-17, 2019-20, 2023-24, and this year, 2024-25. There is ongoing concern about protection from active shooter incidents on the school campuses. This contrasts with the Davis School Board and the Davis community's wish to keep open campuses adjacent to City parks.

The 2024-25 Yolo County Grand Jury recommends improved site cameras, with placement across open areas, with the capability for instant communication when there are intruders during school hours.

## **Background**

This year's Grand Jury received a complaint that stated DJUSD has not done enough regarding "hardening" campuses to protect against violence, with particular focus on the lack of fencing, and the locking of classrooms during school hours.

## **Methodology**

The Schools and Libraries Committee of the 2024-25 Grand Jury toured the Cesar Chavez and North Davis Elementary Schools, as well as Davis Senior High School, with a representative from the Superintendent's office. Classrooms were inspected, and the committee talked to teachers, outdoor supervisors, and school secretaries. Signage on the campuses was also noted. Grand Jury members conversed with school secretaries about monitoring visitors and sign-in procedures. Policies were also discussed with the tour guide.

## **Discussion**

The State of California is highly concerned about school safety ([Comprehensive School Safety Plans - Violence Prevention \(CA Dept of Education\)](#)). In 2018, a statute was passed requiring all schools to develop a Comprehensive School Safety Plan (CSSP) addressing a variety of safety issues. The State Legislature has been particularly concerned about school shootings. California Assembly Bill 452 ([Bill Text - AB-452 Pupil safety: parental notification: firearm safety laws.](#)), and California Senate Bill 906 ([Bill Text - SB-906 School safety: homicide threats.](#)), are focused on school safety from different perspectives.

Controlling access and maximizing safety to the schools the Grand Jury investigated is not adequate because of the open nature of the parks adjacent to the schools. This is due to the policy of the Davis School Board and is generally reflected in the community. The representative of the Superintendent justified this position stating that school shootings were rare.

The District does have cameras at the three schools the Grand Jury toured, but the cameras are not capable of instant communication. It is highly advised that cameras with instant communication are installed across the open access areas and active during school hours.

All the classroom doors at the schools the Grand Jury inspected were capable of locking. It has been noted that a locked classroom door is a strong safety precaution that teachers can easily do. The Grand Jury noted that not all teachers at the campuses the Grand Jury toured locked their classroom doors. Some of the teachers felt that the high traffic into and out of classrooms made locking difficult. The Superintendent's representative did not seem concerned about the lax attitude of some of the teachers. If it was a priority, planned bathroom trips could be scheduled. The Superintendent could communicate the priority to keep classroom doors locked as much as possible.

### **Findings**

- F1** Davis Senior High School, and Cesar Chavez and North Davis Elementary Schools have open access to the public through adjacent parks.
- F2** Teachers frequently leave their classroom doors unlocked during school hours.
- F3** Trail cameras do not provide instant communication about intruders.
- F4** DJUSD allocated \$3 million dollars for fencing in 2023 but no fencing has been installed ([Fencing Projects - DJUSD](#)).

### **Recommendations**

- R1** Install instant communication cameras placed across the open access areas as well as on school grounds.
- R2** Make it a priority for teachers to limit traffic and keep classroom doors locked whenever possible.
- R3** Begin the campus fencing project.

### **Required Responses**

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, The Grand Jury requests responses to its Finding and Recommendations as follows:

Board of Education/Trustees, Davis Joint Unified School District – F-1 through F-4 and R-1 through R-3

### **Invited Responses**

Superintendent of Schools, Yolo County Office of Education – F-1 through F-4 and R-1 through R-3