

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE



Linda Benton Rafanan,
Chairperson

Gayle Gentile-Royal
Lady Bug

Verlaine (Lyn) Schneider

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Health, Education, and Social Services Committee, in accordance with Penal Code §925 and §933.5, is to:

- Review and report on practices and procedures performed by entities falling under the umbrella of this committee
- Observe, investigate, respond to, and report on citizen complaints regarding health, education, and social service issues
- Safeguard the public from fraudulence and nonfeasance
- Recommend reasonable action to address related concerns of the community

This Committee's intent is to inform the citizens of Kern County of its findings and to make a long-term impact, through recommendations.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ACTIVITIES

REPORTS WRITTEN AND PUBLISHED:

- Kern County Superintendent of Schools-Camp Keep at Arroyo Grande
- Kern County Health Department Environmental Division-Unlicensed Food Vendors
- Comparison of Charter School and Traditional Schools in Delano and Arvin
- Paramedic/Firefighters in Unincorporated Rural Areas

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ALSO VISITED AND ATTENDED:

- Bakersfield City Manager
- Tehachapi City Manager
- Hall Ambulance
- Department of Public Health Environmental Division
- Kern County Crime Lab
- Camp KEEP at Arroyo Grande
- Grimmway Academy and School District
- Arvin Union School District-Bear Mountain Elementary
- Delano School District
 - Nueva Vista Language Academy
 - Morningside Elementary Distinguished School
 - Del Vista Math and Science Academy (dual language immersion school)
- Kern County Sheriff's Office Special Operations
- Kern High School Regional Occupational Center

A COMPARISON OF CHARTER AND TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Pursuant to Penal Codes §925 and §933.5, the Health Education and Social Services Committee (Committee) of the 2018-2019 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) inquired into charter schools to evaluate and compare the standards of learning and emergency protocol, in contrast to Traditional Elementary Schools in Delano and Arvin. The Kern County Grand Jury last evaluated Kern County Charter schools in 2010.

PROCESS:

The Committee conducted an inquiry into three schools in Delano, and two schools in Arvin. The Committee visited Nueva Vista Language Academy (a dual language immersion program) and Del Vista Math and Science Academy, which are charter schools. Morningside is a traditional school in Delano.

The Committee visited Grimmway Academy a charter school and Bear Mountain Elementary a traditional school in the Arvin Union School District. The Committee researched school websites which were created in order to evaluate data and rate schools.

BACKGROUND AND FACTS:

After Federal lawmakers passed the Charter Schools Act of 1992, California became the second state in the country (after Minnesota) to enact charter school legislation. The intent was to allow groups of educators, community members, parents or others to create an alternative type of public school. The first approved charter school in California was in 1992. Paramount-Bard was the first in Kern County and is now known as Wonderful College Prep Academy:

- Charter schools are either free standing in a district, supported by State/County funds, a corporation, private stakeholder, or for-profit organizations
- Anyone can attend a Charter school

Improving student performance in public schools is one of the biggest educational challenges in California and Kern County. The California Department of Education mandates that schools that are not performing at required levels participate in a

Performance Improvement Program (PIP). Bear Mountain and Sierra Vista Elementary schools in Arvin participate in PIP.

Charter schools are nonsectarian public schools that operate with freedom from some of the regulations that apply to traditional public schools. They are intended to provide additional public school choices to families:

- The "charter" established for each school is a performance contract detailing the school's mission, program, goals, students services, methods of assessment and ways to measure success
- California annually decides the number of Charter Schools that are allowed in the State
- The Charter contracts are granted for three to five years by the authorizing agent (as per the federal government). Charter Schools have three ways to be approved through:
 - the local school district
 - the local county superintendent of schools
 - the state level

If not approved by any of these three options, the Charter is denied

- When the Charter term ends the authorizing agency may or may not renew a school's contract. The Charter may be revoked during the term if the school is not meeting contractual obligations. Therefore the school can be closed.
- Charter schools are accountable to their authorizing agency to produce positive academic results that are measured by the state standardized testing program and adhere to the authorizing agency's Charter contract

The basic concept of Charter schools is to allow increased autonomy in return for accountability. Charter schools are accountable for academic results and fiscal practices to the authorizing agency and to parents. Charter schools must meet all statewide academic standards and conduct student assessments applicable to students in traditional public schools. There are two types of funding for all schools, formation and block grant funds, originally called categorical funds:

- Charter schools must also serve special education students and reflect the racial and ethnic balance of the general population living in the school district
- Charter Schools are formed for a variety of purposes. In California many target academic performance in communities where performance is historically low. Many are in communities with high percentage of economically challenged families and/or a high portion of students learning English. Charter schools have often been effective in raising academic performance in these communities.

- Charter schools have the ability to implement science based teaching methods to which traditional public schools do not have access. All schools must complete specific forms each year. The most important are:
 - School Accountability Report Card (SARC)
 - Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)
 - Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)
- Charter schools are supervised by the agency that approved them.

2016 California Standard School Rankings

School	Grade	Test Type	Mean Score	Standards			
				Exceeded	Met	Nearly Met	Not Met
Morningside	3	Math	2407.3	17%	24%	24%	35%
Morningside	3	English	2411.6	11%	24%	28%	36%
Nueva Vista	3	Math	2382.8	6%	18%	37%	39%
Nueva Vista	3	English	2387.5	6%	19%	26%	49%
Del Vista	3	Math	2384.3	14%	18%	17%	51%
Del Vista	3	English	2380.5	4%	15%	34%	47%
Bear Mountain	3	Math	2345.1	2%	4%	27%	67%
Bear Mountain	3	English	2362.4	1%	11%	29%	58%
Grimmway	3	Math	2401.5	22%	17%	23%	37%
Grimmway	3	English	2396.7	5%	29%	28%	38%

School	Grade	Test Type	Mean Score	Standards			
				Exceeded	Met	Nearly Met	Not Met
Morningside	4	Math	2449.6	17%	26%	22%	34%
Morningside	4	English	2446.1	8%	23%	37%	32%
Nueva Vista	4	Math	2419.7	9%	16%	24%	81%
Nueva Vista	4	English	1407.5	2%	11%	32%	54%
Del Vista	4	Math	2420.7	14%	15%	20%	52%
Del Vista	4	English	2419.4	2%	9%	47%	42%
Bear Mountain	4	Math	2396	7%	15%	17%	62%
Bear Mountain	4	English	2408.8	4%	12%	33%	51%
Grimmway	4	Math	2450.3	19%	22%	20%	39%
Grimmway	4	English	2451.7	12%	17%	46%	25%

School	Grade	Test type	Mean Score	Standards			
				Exceeded	Met	Nearly Met	Not Met
Morningside	5	Math	2509.1	24%	37%	14%	25%
Morningside	5	English	2487	13%	23%	29%	35%
Nueva Vista	5	Math	2474.8	9%	26%	25%	40%
Nueva Vista	5	English	2431	1%	5%	38%	56%
Del Vista	5	Math	2449.9	5%	22%	22%	51%
Del Vista	5	English	2312.3	2%	3%	12%	83%
Bear Mountain	5	Math	2418.4	6%	18%	14%	62%
Bear Mountain	5	English	2407.7	4%	7%	15%	74%
Grimmway	5	Math	2496	17%	31%	22%	30%
Grimmway	5	English	2467.9	6%	15%	33%	46%

Brief History of Delano and Arvin School Districts

Arvin and Delano School Districts have a great deal of their students performing below grade level in language, math and science. Historically, students in both districts enter Kindergarten with very Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

Most charter schools have extended school hours, limited class size, hands-on learning, individualized student attention and teachers who are highly motivated.

Grimmway Academy is a Charter school in Arvin with its own school district:

- The Committee visited Grimmway Academy and were escorted to classrooms, the library, the computer lab, Edible Garden, teaching kitchen and cafeteria
- The students are instructed in the planting, caring for and harvesting of fruit and vegetables grown in the Edible Garden
- The harvest is used in the cafeteria for student's meals, in the teaching kitchen for science/nutrition lessons and any leftover harvest is sold

This additionally led the Committee to look at other school's cafeteria foods and Nutritional Guidelines from the State for all schools.

All schools have Comprehensive School Safety Plans and Emergency Policy/Preparedness folders. The model is provided by the State, reflecting Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines:

- The Grimmway Academy District has an emergency handbook for Credentialed Staff that is current and present in each classroom, readily available for emergencies
- Delano and Arvin school district rely on the Marin County handbook which is a modification of FEMA guidelines

The chart below provides the questions the Committee asked at each school about Emergency Preparedness Protocols/Policies.

Emergency Preparedness	Grimmway Academy	Bear tn.	Del Vista	Nueva Vista	Morningside
INCIDENTS					
Nature/weather	x	x	x	x	x
Fire/Chemical	x	x			
Criminal/Human	x				
Terrorism	x				
How often do you practice emergency drills?					
Weekly	x				
Monthly	x		x	x	x
Yearly		x			
Are you prepared to be self-sustaining for 72 hours?	x				
Do you have a trained Triage Team with supplies?	x		x	x	x
Are 2-way radios available?	x	x	x	x	x
Are parents trained on how to pick-up students in crisis?	x	x	x	x	x
Is there bedding for students and staff?	x				
Do you have AEDs at all schools?	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
How many AEDs at each school?	4	0	2	2	2
Do you have extra meds for students with medical needs?	N	N	N	N	N
Do you have a list of emergency phone numbers?	Y				
Who is responsible for Special Needs/Disabled students?	x				
Can staff and students be moved to a safe site off campus?	Staff	Staff	Staff	Staff	Staff
Do you follow FEMA guidelines?	Y				
Do you follow CDE guidelines?	x		x	x	x
Who is notified first in Emergencies?	x				
Who is trained in CPR?	Principal	P	P	P	P
Are there First Aid Kits in all classrooms?	Staff	Staff	Staff	Staff	Staff
Is there a plan/policy for student behavior disturbances?	x	x	x	x	x

FINDINGS:

- F1. Charters are granted for a term of three to five years and may be terminated at any time if a school is not meeting the terms of the Charter contract. The Charter schools are accountable for all statewide academic standards and fiscal practices.
- F2. Grimmway Academy has its own District and Superintendent.
- F3. Grimmway Academy has a NO Sugar Policy and serves protein at each meal along with fresh fruits and vegetables. Students help plant, care for and harvest crops of fruit and vegetables from the "Living Edible Garden." Most of that food is used in the schools "café" for school meals and the excess is sold.
- F4. FEMA guidelines recommend all schools have at least one Automated External Defibrillator (AED) per campus. The Committee found that not all schools are equipped with AEDs.
- F5. Grimmway Academy has four AEDs with several staff trained to operate them, all on one school site.
- F6. Most Charter schools have extended hours, limited class size and hands-on learning.
- F7. Arvin's public schools are rated below average in all grades.
- F8. Arvin and Delano schools serve food modeled after the California School Nutritionist Recommendations. The meals served are high in sugar, processed food and lacking in nutrients such as protein.
- F9. Arvin and Delano Districts follow the minimum Emergency Protocols recommended by Marin County, which is a modification of FEMA guidelines. However, Delano does have two AEDs at each school.
- F10. Arvin Union School District (AUSD) is lacking AEDs in all elementary and high schools. Only the two middle schools have AEDs.
- F11. According to the California Department of Education, AUSD had raised Annual Yearly Performance (AYP) levels in the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years. The Committee did not find information for subsequent years.
- F12. According to the California Department of Education, LEP students continue to have low performance in English Language Fluency after elementary grades.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury would like to thank Nueva Vista Language Academy, Del Vista Math and Science Academy, Morningside Elementary and the Superintendent of Delano School District, as well as, Bear Mountain, and Grimmway Academy in Arvin for the co-operation, information and tours given.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. Delano and Arvin School Districts should consider starting an edible garden by the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. (Finding 2)
- R2. All Schools should have at least one AED at each school site. Funding for the AEDs could be raised by the Parent/Teacher Association (PTA). (Finding 4)
- R3. The cafeterias should provide meals more nutritious in proteins and complete carbohydrates (fresh fruits and vegetables). (Finding 9)
- R4. Arvin and Delano School Districts should update Emergency Policy/Protocol providing for up-to-date emergency issues by the beginning of 2019-2020 school year. (Findings 10 and 11)
- R5. Kern County Superintendent of Schools should raise academic levels in English Language Fluency, especially in Elementary Grades. (Finding 13)

NOTES:

- Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Superintendent of Delano Schools, Arvin Union School District, Nueva Vista Language Academy, Del Vista Math and Science Academy, Morningside Elementary as well as Grimmway Academy and Bear Mountain should post a copy of this report where it will be available to the public for review.
- Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at: www.kerncounty.com/grandjury
- Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.kerncounty.com/grandjury.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**CC: FOREPERSON
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

Bear Mountain Elementary newly installed playground



Photos by Grand Jury

Morningside Elementary Science Fair



Morningside Elementary Cafeteria



Grimmway Academy "Hen Pen"



Grimmway Academy, "ready to plant"



Grimmway Academy kitchen/teaching area



Photos by Grand Jury

GEORGIA RHETT
District Superintendent

ARVIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT



EMMA PEREIDA-MARTINEZ, M.Ed.
Assistant Superintendent

737 Bear Mountain Blvd.
Arvin, CA 93203
(661) 854-6500 • FAX (661) 854-2362

Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxton Avenue, Suite 212
Bakersfield, CA 93301

CC. Foreperson
Kern County Grand Jury
1415 Truxton Avenue, Suite 600
Bakersfield, CA 93301

February 5, 2019

Honorable Members of the Grand Jury,

On behalf of the Arvin Union School District and the Board of Trustees, we thank you for the opportunity to share our district with the Grand Jury as the **Comparing Charter and Traditional Public Schools at the Elementary Level** study was conducted. The process, findings, and recommendations provided our district important information for reflection and action.

Response to findings:

1. The district agrees with the finding regarding the terms granted for Charters and their accountability for statewide standards and fiscal practices.
2. The district disagrees partially with the finding that Grimmway Academy has its own district and Superintendent as Grimmway Academy is its own district, yet Superintendent is not the title of the district leadership.
3. Arvin Union School District does not have first-hand information with which to agree nor disagree with the finding regarding Grimmway Academy's food policies or school meal program.
4. The district agrees with the finding that AED's are recommended at school campuses yet clarifies that they are not currently required at sites not conducting intermural sports. This requirement does change for the 2019-2020 school year and the Arvin Union School District is preparing to have AED's in place and training conducted at all of our sites.
5. Arvin Union School District does not have first-hand information with which to agree or disagree with the statement regarding Grimmway Academy's status of AED's on campus.
6. Our district does not have first-hand information with which to agree nor disagree with that statement regarding most charters extended hours, limited class size, or hands-on learning.
7. The Arvin Union School District disputes the finding that Arvin public schools are rated below average in all grades as this finding does not provide descriptive data as to what element is being ranked below average nor in comparison to what.

"Every Child Learning, Every Day, No Matter What It Takes!"

8. The Arvin Union School District agrees with the finding that Arvin schools serve food modeled after the California School Nutritionist Recommendations. The district disputes the statement that these meals are “high in sugar, processed food, and lacking in nutrients such as protein” due to the fact we do follow recommendations provided for school meals guidelines. Arvin Union School District is proud about the meals we cook and serve our students and staff. Though we may not have the man power or the facilities to grow our own food, we are proudly a California Thursday School District which means all the food we serve is raised or grown in California as local to our district as possible for all meals, which began on Thursdays only but has expanded to other days of week as well. We also offer the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program to all 3 of our elementary schools 3 times a week and all fruits and vegetables served are from local California farms. In addition to serving local food, we also offer organic products in our meals and are currently at 15% organic throughout our district. In addition to this, as of October 2018, our middle school serves only fresh local fruit and vegetables during lunch on our “all you can eat” salad bar daily, no canned products are used. Arvin Union School District has also began taking steps towards going back to scratch cooking by adding fresh made meals to our menus slowly throughout the school year to help the kitchens adjust to this process at a fair pace.
9. The Arvin Union School District can only respond in agreement to the claim that Arvin follows the Marin County Emergency Protocols which are a modification of FEMA guidelines as we do not have first-hand knowledge of Delano's emergency protocols.
10. The Arvin Union School District disputes the claim that “the district is lacking AED's in all elementary and high schools and has AED's at two middle schools”. The district is composed of 3 elementary sites, 1 middle school, and the local high school is part of the Kern High School District. It is correct we do not have AED's at our elementary sites yet and our one middle school does have two AED's.
11. The Arvin Union School District agrees with the statement in regard to progress made with AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years in both language arts and math. The percent of students performing at various proficiency levels is included below however the AYP is a “yes or no” criteria with multiple factors. Although the California Department of Education has modified accessibility to AYP data, the district percent proficient results which were a component of AYP are as follows:

Percent Proficient to meet AYP		
	English Language Arts	Mathematics
2008-2009	28	34
2009-2010	34	46
2010-2011	37	45
2011-2012	37	43
2012-2013	39	49

12. The Arvin Union School District agrees in part with the finding that “according to the California Department of Education, LEP students continue to have low performance in English Language Fluency after elementary grades”. Redesignated English Learners in our district have very high rates of academic proficiency when compared to other student groups, yet it is clear that long term English Learners struggle academically and struggle to attain English Language Fluency.

Response to Recommendations:

1. The Arvin Union School District has no plans to begin an edible garden for the 2019-2020 school year or in the foreseeable future. The scope and scale of this project would require staffing and infrastructure that is not currently in place nor budgeted for.
2. The Arvin Union School District acknowledges the recommendation for AED's at each school site. Our Director of Special Services is currently working with site nurses to develop staff training and procedures. Purchase and installation of AED's for each site will be completed prior to the 2019-2020 school year.
3. The Arvin Union School District Director of Food Services will continue to advance fresh fruits and vegetables through school meals, California Thursdays, salad bars, and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable grant which serves our elementary campuses. It is a high priority to provide the highest quality meal with the maximum nutritional benefit within our cafeteria budget.
4. The Arvin Union School District acknowledges the recommendation and need for updating emergency protocols, however the chart in the report regarding Emergency Preparedness is not complete, nor entirely reflective of current practices. District staff are revising our Standard Response Protocols. Site Vice Principals are currently restructuring school site safety plans. Training, material resources, and preparedness protocol development and implementation will continue throughout the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year for full implementation in 2019-2020.
5. The Arvin Union School District, among others, have joined with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools to advance academic achievement through actions aligned to meeting the outcomes that are stated in the Kern Pledge. With this pledge comes the responsibility for the student group of English Learners, as this group reflects a high proportion of the district's overall student population. Professional Development, interventions, and targeted instruction to meet individual student needs are a priority for the district and continue to be implemented on an ongoing basis.

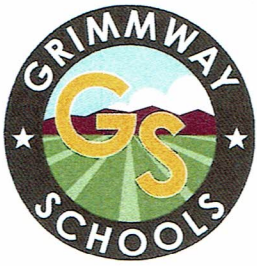
Again, on behalf of the district, we thank you for your insight and recommendations.

Sincerely,



Toni Pichardo, President

Arvin Union School District Board of Trustees



January 28, 2019

The Honorable Charles R. Brehmer
Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Charlynn McCarthy, Foreperson
Kern County Grand Jury
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 600
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Re: Kern County Grand Jury Final Report for Comparing Charter and Traditional Public Schools at the Elementary Level

Dear Judge Brehmer and Ms. McCarthy,

This communication responds to the Kern County Grand Jury report dated January 14, 2019.

After reviewing the Grand Jury report on Comparing Charter and Traditional Public Schools at the Elementary Level, we concur with each of the findings.

In response to the Grand Jury's recommendations in the Notes section, Grimmway Academy determined as follows:

5080 California Ave, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93309

(661) 432-7880 | Main

(661) 404-4871 | Fax

www.grimmwayschools.org



GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION:

Post a copy the Grand Jury report where it will be made available to the public for review.

RESPONSE: Grimmway Academy implemented the recommendation. A copy of the Grand Jury report is available at the school site, the school website and our Home Office.

Grimmway Academy can provide a viable educational option for scholars and their families. We are proud of the accomplishments of our scholars as we continue to close the achievement gap for students in the rural areas of Kern County by creating an environment for student excellence and well-being.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul Escala
Chief Executive Officer
Grimmway Schools
pescala@grimmwayschools.org

5080 California Ave, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93309

(661) 432-7880 | Main

(661) 404-4871 | Fax

www.grimmwayschools.org

KERN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT Environmental Health Division Unpermitted Food Vendors

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The 2017-2018 Kern County Grand Jury Final Report made a recommendation to the Kern County Public Health Services' Environmental Health Division (EHD) to implement a procedure prior to the next budget year that would support compliance with California Retail Food Code §114393. This recommended procedure would help protect the citizens of Kern County by impounding Unpermitted Food Vendor equipment. In order to retrieve the equipment, recovery costs must be paid. Food vendors would then be instructed on how to obtain a legal permit. (See Appendix A)

PREFACE:

The Health, Education and Social Services Committee (Committee) of the 2018-2019 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) followed up on the 2017-2018 Grand Jury Report recommending a more comprehensive policy regarding Unpermitted Food Vendors pursuant to California Penal Code §925.

PROCESS:

The Committee reviewed the past Grand Jury Reports of 2007-2008, 2017-2018 and the responses to the reports. The Committee interviewed the EHD about the status of changing policies for Unpermitted Food Vendors. The Committee reviewed news articles and researched the internet for information.

HISTORY:



Mobile Cuisine Magazine, Richard Myrick

In 1866 the Chuck Wagon was invented by Charles Goodnight to feed cattlemen and wagon trains traversing the Old West. The history of American food “trucks” date back

many years as mobile dining and street food have been a part of American dining habits since the late 17th century where it could be found in many of the larger cities on the coast. Since then, food trucks have taken a front seat in the world of American street food and are a part of an ongoing food revolution.
(Mobile Cuisine Magazine, Richard Myrick)

The basic concept of street food is not new. It has been available to Americans for several hundred years, and food trucks have been serving food for over two decades. (See Appendix B)

FINDINGS:

- F1. Currently there is no established county ordinance or procedure to impound Unpermitted Food Vendor's carts or equipment. The Kern County Public Health Services' Environmental Health Division is reviewing impounding ordinances in several other California counties and anticipates presenting an ordinance to the Kern County Board of Supervisors for their consideration within the next few months.
- F2. Enforcement actions may vary depending on the public's health risk presented by the Unpermitted Food Vendor:
- Vendors that are selling foods that present a low risk of disease transmission are required to immediately cease and desist and are provided written documentation (in the form of a warning).
 - Vendors that are selling foods that present a high risk of disease transmission are required to immediately cease and desist and are provided written documentation, additionally all food is confiscated and discarded.
 - Vendors that are found to be repetitively violating state law are issued a misdemeanor citation and all food is confiscated and discarded.
- F3. The EHD has implemented a number of improvements to address the public's health risk presented by the selling of unsafe foods from Unpermitted Food Vendors:
- In Fiscal Year 2017-2018, the EHD revised the health permit sticker that is issued to each permitted food vendor to make the permit more visible to the public. The size of the sticker was increased by 100%, the wording was simplified and the font size was increased.
 - On May 15, 2017 the EHD launched a new public outreach campaign called "Safe Eats on Kern County Streets" that highlighted the importance of safe food handling on mobile food facilities and the need to look for the health permit sticker before you purchase food from a vendor.
 - On June 7, 2017 the EHD revised the Safe Diner mobile app to allow for residents to quickly and easily report Unpermitted Food Vendors.

Reports made by the public are immediately sent to EHD and a Health Inspector responds to the location.

- F4. EHD Officials state, Unpermitted Food Vendors may not know the minimum standards for safe preparation, handling of food or the proper equipment.
- F5. The most common unsafe food handling practices that are linked to foodborne illnesses are:
- Lack of adequate hand washing
 - Storing foods at unsafe temperatures
 - Inadequate cooking temperatures
 - Cross-contamination of food or surfaces
 - Improper cooling procedures
- F6. California Senate Bill 946 (SB946) does not relieve the state requirement for a food vendor to obtain a health permit and a seller permit. SB946 states: *Existing law authorizes a local authority, or ordinance or resolution, to adopt requirements for the public safety regulating any type of vending and the time, place and manner of vending from a vehicle upon a street.* (See Appendix C)
- F7. The recommendations from the 2017-2018 Kern County Grand Jury report have been implemented or are currently in the process of being implemented.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury wishes to thank Kern County Environmental Health Division's Public Health Department for their time, information and cooperation given the Committee in preparation of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. The Grand Jury recommends Environmental Health Division complete the policy to impound equipment with lawful fines in order to impose a financial impact on Unpermitted Food Vendors, for the safety of the general public. (Findings 1, 2, and 3)
- R2. The Grand Jury recommends that Environmental Health Division and the Kern County Board of Supervisors fast-track the establishment of county ordinances and procedures for impounding Unpermitted Food Vendor's equipment. (Finding 1)

NOTES:

- The Kern County Public Health Services' Environmental Health Division and the Kern County Board of Supervisors should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.
- Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at: www.kerncounty.com/grandjury.
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BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**CC: FOREPERSON
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

APPENDIX A:

California Health and Safety Code, Part 7, California Retail Food Code, Chapter 13, Compliance and Enforcement, Article 2, Section 114393.

Impoundment (A) Based upon inspection findings or other evidence, an enforcement officer may impound food, equipment, or utensils that are found to be, or suspected of being, unsanitary or in such disrepair that food, equipment, or utensils may become contaminated or adulterated, and inspect, impound, or inspect and impound any utensil that is suspected of releasing lead or cadmium in violation of section 108860. The enforcement officer may attach a tag to the food, equipment or utensils that shall be removed only by the enforcement officer following verification that the condition has been corrected. (b) No food, equipment or utensils impounded pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be used unless the impoundment has been released. (c) Within 30 days, the enforcement agency that has impounded the food, equipment or utensils pursuant to subdivision (a) shall commence proceedings to release the impounded materials or to seek administrative or legal remedy for its disposition.



COUNTY OF KERN
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH PERMIT

Expires:
June 30, 2019

 **KERN COUNTY**
Public Health Services
DEPARTMENT

License Plate #

APPENDIX B:



Food truck selling food

1936 – Oscar Mayer rolls out the first portable hot dog cart The Weiner Mobile



1969 Food Truck, Los Angeles, CA



All photos: Mobile Cuisine Magazine

APPENDIX C:

(The items bolded by the Grand Jury for emphasis.)

California Senate Bill Number 946, Chapter 459

An act to add Chapter 6.2 (commencing with Section 51036) to Part 1 of Division 1 of Title 5 of the Government Code, relating to sidewalk vendors.

[Approved by Governor September 17, 2018. Filed with Secretary of State September 17, 2018.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 946, Lara. Sidewalk vendors.

Existing law authorizes a local authority, by ordinance or resolution, to adopt requirements for the public safety regulating any type of vending and the time, place, and manner of vending from a vehicle upon a street.

*This bill would prohibit a local authority, as defined, from regulating sidewalk vendors, except in accordance with the provisions of the bill. **The bill would provide that a local authority is not required to adopt a new program to regulate sidewalk vendors if the local authority has established an existing program that substantially complies with the provisions of the bill. The bill would apply these provisions to a chartered or general law city, county, or city and county.***

The bill would require a local authority that elects to adopt a sidewalk vending program to, among other things, not require a sidewalk vendor to operate within specific parts of the public right-of-way, except when that restriction is directly related to objective health, safety, or welfare concerns, and not restrict sidewalk vendors to operate only in a designated neighborhood or area, except as specified. The bill would authorize a local authority to, by ordinance or resolution, adopt additional requirements regulating the time, place, and manner of sidewalk vending, as specified, if the requirements are directly related to objective health, safety, or welfare concerns. The bill would also authorize a local authority to prohibit sidewalk vendors in areas located within the immediate vicinity of a permitted certified farmers' market and a permitted swap meet, as specified, and to restrict or prohibit sidewalk vendors within the immediate vicinity of an area designated for a temporary special permit issued by the local authority, as specified. A violation would be punishable only by an administrative fine, as specified, pursuant to an ability-to-pay determination, and proceeds would be deposited in the treasury of the local authority.

The bill would require the dismissal of any criminal prosecutions under any local ordinance or resolution regulating or prohibiting sidewalk vendors that have not reached final judgment. The bill would also authorize a person who is currently serving, or who completed, a sentence, or who is subject to a fine, for a conviction of a misdemeanor or infraction for sidewalk vending, as specified, to petition for dismissal of the sentence, fine, or conviction.

Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted

with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

DIGEST KEY

Vote: MAJORITY Appropriation: NO Fiscal Committee: NO Local Program: NO

BILL TEXT

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

(a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) Sidewalk vending provides important entrepreneurship and economic development opportunities to low-income and immigrant communities.

(2) Sidewalk vending increases access to desired goods, such as culturally significant food and merchandise.

(3) Sidewalk vending contributes to a safe and dynamic public space.

(4) The safety and welfare of the general public is promoted by encouraging local authorities to support and properly regulate sidewalk vending.

(5) The safety and welfare of the general public is promoted by prohibiting criminal penalties for violations of sidewalk vending ordinances and regulations.

(6) This act applies to any city, county, or city and county, including a charter city. The criminalization of small business entrepreneurs, and the challenges that those entrepreneurs face as a result of a criminal record, are matters of statewide concern. Further, unnecessary barriers have been erected blocking aspiring entrepreneurs from accessing the formal economy, harming California's economy in the process, and disrupting the regulation of business, which is a matter of statewide concern. Moreover, California has an interest in the regulation of traffic, a matter of statewide concern, whether in ensuring the appropriate flow of traffic or in ensuring the safety of pedestrians on the road or the sidewalk.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to promote entrepreneurship and support immigrant and low-income communities.

SEC. 2.

Chapter 6.2 (commencing with Section 51036) is added to Part 1 of Division 1 of Title 5 of the Government Code, to read:

CHAPTER 6.2. Sidewalk Vendors

51036.

For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Sidewalk vendor" means a person who sells food or merchandise from a pushcart, stand, display, pedal-driven cart, wagon, showcase, rack, or other non-

motorized conveyance, or from one's person, upon a public sidewalk or other pedestrian path.

(b) "Roaming sidewalk vendor" means a sidewalk vendor who moves from place to place and stops only to complete a transaction.

(c) "Stationary sidewalk vendor" means a sidewalk vendor who vends from a fixed location.

(d) "**Local authority**" means a chartered or general law city, county, or city and county.

51037.

(a) A local authority shall not regulate sidewalk vendors except in accordance with Sections 51038 and 51039.

(b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to affect the applicability of Part 7 (commencing with Section 113700) of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code to a sidewalk vendor who sells food.

(c) **Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require a local authority to adopt a new program to regulate sidewalk vendors if the local authority has established an existing program that substantially complies with the requirements in this chapter.**

51038.

(a) **A local authority may adopt a program to regulate sidewalk vendors in compliance with this section.**

(b) **A local authority's sidewalk vending program shall comply with all of the following standards:**

(1) A local authority shall not require a sidewalk vendor to operate within specific parts of the public right-of-way, except when that restriction is directly related to objective health, safety or welfare concerns.

(2) (A) A local authority shall not prohibit a sidewalk vendor from selling food or merchandise in a park owned or operated by the local authority, except the local authority may prohibit stationary sidewalk vendors from vending in the park only if the operator of the park has signed an agreement for concessions that exclusively permits the sale of food or merchandise by the concessionaire.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a local authority may adopt additional requirements regulating the time, place, and manner of sidewalk vending in a park owned or operated by the local authority if the requirements are any of the following:

(i) **Directly related to objective health, safety or welfare concerns.**

(ii) Necessary to ensure the public's use and enjoyment of natural resources and recreational opportunities.

(iii) Necessary to prevent an undue concentration of commercial activity that unreasonably interferes with the scenic and natural character of the park.

(3) A local authority shall not require a sidewalk vendor to first obtain the consent or approval of any nongovernmental entity or individual before he or she can sell food or merchandise.

- (4) (A) A local authority shall not restrict sidewalk vendors to operate only in a designated neighborhood or area, except when that restriction is directly related to **objective health, safety, or welfare concerns.**
- (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a local authority may prohibit stationary sidewalk vendors in areas that are zoned exclusively residential, but shall not prohibit roaming sidewalk vendors.
- (5) A local authority shall not restrict the overall number of sidewalk vendors permitted to operate within the jurisdiction of the local authority, unless the restriction is **directly related to objective health, safety or welfare concerns.**
- (c) A local authority may, by ordinance or resolution, adopt additional requirements regulating the time, place and manner of sidewalk vending if the requirements are **directly related to objective health, safety, or welfare concerns, including, but not limited to, any of the following:**
- (1) Limitations on hours of operation that are not unduly restrictive. In nonresidential areas, any limitations on the hours of operation for sidewalk vending shall not be more restrictive than any limitations on hours of operation imposed on other businesses or uses on the same street.
- (2) **Requirements to maintain sanitary conditions.**
- (3) Requirements necessary to ensure compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336) and other disability access standards.
- (4) **Requiring the sidewalk vendor to obtain from the local authority a permit for sidewalk vending or a valid business license, provided that the local authority issuing the permit or business license accepts a California driver's license or identification number, an individual taxpayer identification number, or a municipal identification number in lieu of a social security number if the local authority otherwise requires a social security number for the issuance of a permit or business license, and that the number collected shall not be available to the public for inspection, is confidential, and shall not be disclosed except as required to administer the permit or licensure program or comply with a state law or state or federal court order.**
- (5) **Requiring the sidewalk vendor to possess a valid California Department of Tax and Fee Administration seller's permit.**
- (6) Requiring additional licenses from other state or local agencies to the extent required by law.
- (7) **Requiring compliance with other generally applicable laws.**
- (8) Requiring a sidewalk vendor to submit information on his or her operations, including but not limited to, any of the following:
- (A) The name and current mailing address of the sidewalk vendor.
- (B) A description of the merchandise offered for sale or exchange.
- (C) A certification by the vendor that to his or her knowledge and belief, the information contained on the form is true.
- (D) **The California seller's permit number (California Department of Tax and Fee Administration sales tax number), if any, of the sidewalk vendor.**
- (E) If the sidewalk vendor is an agent of an individual, company, partnership, or corporation, the name and business address of the principal.
- (d) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), **a local authority may do both of the following:**

(1) Prohibit sidewalk vendors in areas located within the immediate vicinity of a permitted certified farmers' market or a permitted swap meet during the limited operating hours of that certified farmers' market or swap meet. A "certified farmers' market" means a location operated in accordance with Chapter 10.5 (commencing with Section 47000) of Division 17 of the Food and Agricultural Code and any regulations adopted pursuant to that chapter. A "swap meet" means a location operated in accordance with Article 6 (commencing with Section 21660) of Chapter 9 of Division 8 of the Business and Professions Code, and any regulations adopted pursuant to that article.

(2) Restrict or prohibit sidewalk vendors within the immediate vicinity of an area designated for a temporary special permit issued by the local authority, provided that any notice, business interruption mitigation, or other rights provided to affected businesses or property owners under the local authority's temporary special permit are also provided to any sidewalk vendors specifically permitted to operate in the area, if applicable. For purposes of this paragraph, a temporary special permit is a permit issued by the local authority for the temporary use of, or encroachment on, the sidewalk or other public area, including, but not limited to, an encroachment permit, special event permit, or temporary event permit, for purposes including, but not limited to, filming, parades, or outdoor concerts. A prohibition of sidewalk vendors pursuant to this paragraph shall only be effective for the limited duration of the temporary special permit.

(e) For purposes of this section, perceived community animus or economic competition does not constitute an objective health, safety or welfare concern.

51039.

(a) (1) A violation of a local authority's sidewalk vending program that complies with Section 51038 is punishable only by the following:

(A) An administrative fine not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100) for a first violation.

(B) An administrative fine not exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200) for a second violation within one year of the first violation.

(C) An administrative fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) for each additional violation within one year of the first violation.

(2) A local authority may rescind a permit issued to a sidewalk vendor for the term of that permit upon the fourth violation or subsequent violations.

(3) (A) If a local authority requires a sidewalk vendor to obtain a sidewalk vending permit from the local authority, vending without a sidewalk vending permit may be punishable by the following in lieu of the administrative fines set forth in paragraph (1):

(i) An administrative fine not exceeding two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for a first violation.

(ii) An administrative fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) for a second violation within one year of the first violation.

(iii) An administrative fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each additional violation within one year of the first violation.

(B) Upon proof of a valid permit issued by the local authority, the administrative fines set forth in this paragraph shall be reduced to the administrative fines set forth in paragraph (1), respectively.

(b) The proceeds of an administrative fine assessed pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be deposited in the treasury of the local authority.

(c) Failure to pay an administrative fine pursuant to subdivision (a) shall not be punishable as an infraction or misdemeanor. Additional fines, fees, assessments, or any other financial conditions beyond those authorized in subdivision (a) shall not be assessed.

- *(d) (1) A violation of a local authority's sidewalk vending program that complies with Section 51038, or a violation of any rules or regulations adopted prior to January 1, 2019, that regulate or prohibit sidewalk vendors in the jurisdiction of a local authority, shall not be punishable as an infraction or misdemeanor, and the person alleged to have violated any of those provisions shall not be subject to arrest except when permitted under law.*

(2) Notwithstanding any other law, paragraph (1) shall apply to all pending criminal prosecutions under any local ordinance or resolution regulating or prohibiting sidewalk vendors. Any of those criminal prosecutions that have not reached final judgment shall be dismissed.

(e) A local authority that has not adopted rules or regulations by ordinance or resolution that comply with Section 51037 shall not cite, fine, or prosecute a sidewalk vendor for a violation of any rule or regulation that is inconsistent with the standards described in subdivision (b) Section 51038.

(f) (1) When assessing an administrative fine pursuant to subdivision (a), the adjudicator shall take into consideration the person's ability to pay the fine. The local authority shall provide the person with notice of his or her right to request an ability-to-pay determination and shall make available instructions or other materials for requesting an ability-to-pay determination. The person may request an ability-to-pay determination at adjudication or while the judgment remains unpaid, including when a case is delinquent or has been referred to a comprehensive collection program.

(2) If the person meets the criteria described in subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 68632, the local authority shall accept, in full satisfaction, 20 percent of the administrative fine imposed pursuant to subdivision (a).

(3) The local authority may allow the person to complete community service in lieu of paying the total administrative fine, may waive the administrative fine or may offer an alternative disposition.

(g) (1) A person who is currently serving, or who completed, a sentence, or who is subject to a fine, for a conviction of a misdemeanor or infraction for sidewalk vending, whether by trial or by open or negotiated plea, who would not have been guilty of that offense under the act that added this section had that act been in effect at the time of the offense, may petition for dismissal of the sentence, fine, or conviction before the trial court that entered the judgment of conviction in his or her case.

(2) Upon receiving a petition under paragraph (1), the court shall presume the petitioner satisfies the criteria in paragraph (1) unless the party opposing the petition proves by clear and convincing evidence that the petitioner does not satisfy the criteria. If the petitioner satisfies the criteria in paragraph (1), the court shall grant the petition to

dismiss the sentence or fine, if applicable, and dismiss and seal the conviction, because the sentence, fine and conviction are legally invalid.

(3) Unless requested by the petitioner, no hearing is necessary to grant or deny a petition filed under paragraph (1).

(4) If the court that originally sentenced or imposed a fine on the petitioner is not available, the presiding judge shall designate another judge to rule on the petition.

(5) Nothing in this subdivision is intended to diminish or abrogate any rights or remedies otherwise available to the petitioner.

(6) Nothing in this subdivision or related provisions is intended to diminish or abrogate the finality of judgments in any case not falling within the purview of this chapter.

SEC. 3.

The Legislature finds and declares that Section 2 of this act, which adds Section 51038 to the Government Code, imposes a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:

The Legislature finds and declares that in order to protect the privacy of a sidewalk vendor with regard to his or her California driver's license or identification number, individual taxpayer identification number, or municipal identification number, when that number is collected in lieu of a social security number for purposes of the issuance of a permit or business license, it is necessary that the sidewalk vendor's number be confidential, except as provided in this act.

Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report
Kern County Public Health Services Department,
Environmental Health Division,
Unpermitted Food Vendors

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendations:

R1: The Grand Jury recommends Environmental Health Division complete the policy to impound equipment with lawful fines in order to impose a financial impact on Unpermitted Food Vendors, for the safety of the general public.

We concur with the Grand Jury's recommendation to complete a policy that imposes a financial impact on unpermitted food vendors. The Department is reviewing other California counties' ordinances and anticipates presenting it to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

R2: The Grand Jury recommends that Environmental Health Division and the Kern County Board of Supervisors fast-track the establishment of county ordinances and procedures for impounding unpermitted food vendor's equipment.

We concur with the Grand Jury's recommendation to establish County ordinance and procedures for impounding unpermitted food vendor equipment. There is a legal process that must be followed to establish, however we will attempt to expedite the process as much as possible.

Kern County Fire Department Firefighter/Paramedics Unincorporated Areas

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The 2018-2019 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) Health, Education and Social Services Committee (Committee) pursuant to California Penal Code §933, reviewed the subsequent actions taken to address the recommendations from the 2010-2011 report involving Paramedic/Firefighters in unincorporated areas of Kern County, specifically, Stallion Springs, Cummings Valley, Bear Valley Springs and Walker Basin/Piute/Caliente.

PROCESS:

The Committee researched the internet and accessed news articles, interviewed the Tehachapi City Manager, private ambulance personnel and the Kern County Fire Chief.

BACKGROUND:

According to The Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS): *The concept of Paramedics has been around since the early days of the Roman conquest, in which the older and less physically capable warriors were used intermittently to remove wounded soldiers. The concept of stretcher bearers in its basic form has been documented as early as the 16th century in England.*

The JEMS report revealed: *In 1965 alone, vehicle accidents killed more Americans than those killed in the Korean War. When evaluating pre-hospital emergency care, the report identified that 'if seriously wounded ... chances of survival would be better in the zone of combat than on the average city street.' Additionally, the report identified a lack of regulation or standards for ambulance operations or provider training. JEMS published that a L.A. County Battalion Chief served as a technical editor for the show "Emergency!" and is credited with making the producer and director portray Paramedics as professional and well-educated—a solid step for future emergency medical education endeavors. Although "Emergency!" was only a TV show, it set a standard of expectation for the public...*

The general public believed more could be done in the out-of-hospital setting, including advanced airway management, vascular access and administering medication orally and intravenously (IV) and monitoring heart functions. This led to the creation and training of the Emergency Medical Technician–Paramedic (EMT-P) curriculum in the early 1970s. Prior to the declaration of this new title, training personnel in advanced procedures and medication administration had already begun creating the nation's first Paramedics.

When the TV show “Emergency!” aired in 1972, there were just six Paramedic units operating in three pilot programs in the United States, and the term Paramedic was essentially unknown. By the time the program ended in 1979, there were Paramedics operating in all fifty states.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The first EMT-P curriculum included 400 hours of class, lab and clinical rotations in various hospital settings, followed by a 100-hour field internship. As pre-hospital Advanced Life Support care gained favor within the communities, more Paramedic programs sprouted up around the country.
- F2. While many become an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) within a matter of months, Paramedic training can take a dedicated student anywhere from six months to two years to complete. The cost for Paramedic training was estimated to be between \$1,000 and \$10,000 and possibly higher for continued education with a Bachelor of Science Degree:
- There is a one year Paramedic training program available through Bakersfield College (BC). A private ambulance company co-ordinates training through BC.
- F3. There are Paramedic/Firefighters on Bakersfield City Fire Department Trucks 1, 7, 15 and Squad 66 within the City of Bakersfield:
- Paramedics may perform intubations, give oral medications, start IVs and monitor heart rates and rhythms. Some of these procedures are now being included in EMT training.
- F4. Pine Mountain Club and Buttonwillow have Paramedic/Firefighters at Kern County Fire Stations. These are the only Paramedic/Firefighter staffed stations in the unincorporated rural areas. Funding is as follows:
- Pine Mountain Club – is assessed an additional property tax
 - Buttonwillow – created the Buttonwillow Foundation
- F5. Ambulances, City and County Fire Departments use the same computer program to easily and efficiently transfer patient information to and from area hospitals.
- F6. Three years ago, Tehachapi established a five year plan to create a full service City Fire Department. It was reviewed and determined not to be cost effective.
- F7. Kern County Fire Department continues to provide service. Tehachapi Officials are pleased with the exemplary service provided by the Kern County Fire Department. Due to budget constraints, adding a Paramedic/Firefighter program is found to be cost prohibitive at this time.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury would like to thank the Bakersfield and Tehachapi City Managers, and the Kern County Fire Chief for their information and cooperation. The Grand Jury would also like to thank the Operations Manager of a private ambulance company for sharing the procedures used.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. The City of Tehachapi should consider creating a revenue source to add Kern County Paramedics/Firefighters to meet emergency issues of their residents. (Finding 7)
- R2. Kern County Fire Department should continue their exemplary services in Tehachapi. (Finding 7)

NOTES:

- The City of Tehachapi and the Kern County Fire Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.
- Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at: www.kerncounty.com/grandjury.
- Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.kerncounty.com/grandjury.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**CC: FOREPERSON
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report
Kern County Fire Department,
Firefighters / Paramedics,
Unincorporated Areas

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendation:

R2: *The Grand Jury recommends that Kern County Fire Department should continue their exemplary services in Tehachapi.*

We concur with the Grand Jury's recommendation to continue exemplary services in Tehachapi.

KERN COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A NEW AND IMPROVED CAMP KEEP



PREFACE:

Pursuant to Penal Code §925, the 2018–2019 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) inquired into the new campus installed as Camp KEEP (Kern Environmental Education Program) in Arroyo Grande replacing Camp KEEP Cambria. The Grand Jury followed up on the three recommendations pertaining to the KEEP Program and Camp KEEP Ocean (Ocean) stated in 2017-2018 Kern County Grand Jury report:

- R1. The Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) should prepare a budget that allows immediate replacement of mattresses and flooring at Ocean.
- R2. Camp KEEP should develop a long term Capital Improvement Plan including housing replacement for Ocean and work with KCSOS for funding.
- R3. The Kern County Superintendent of Schools should seek funding and locate a site for additional campus(es). Additional campuses would allow more Kern County students to attend these invaluable outdoor environmental science camps.

PROCESS:

The committee interviewed the Assistant Superintendent – Educational Services of KCSOS, reviewed 2017-2018 Grand Jury report of Camp KEEP Ocean, located in Montana de Oro, reviewed news articles, researched the internet and visited the new Arroyo Grande campus, known as Camp KEEP by the Sea on March 28, 2019.

BACKGROUND FACTS:

The Kern Environmental Education Program provides up to a five-day residential environmental education program for Kern County's fifth and sixth grade students. (See Appendix A)

Camp KEEP opened in 1968 as a non-profit organization. The program includes two campuses, serving over 7,000 students each year. Each campus can accommodate 100 students per week at a cost of \$282.00 to \$320.00 per student. This program also serves the visual, hearing and orthopedically impaired children.

The KEEP program includes both campuses:

- A. All public schools in Kern County may utilize either of the two Camp KEEP campuses.
- B. Private schools and out of Kern County schools can schedule sessions when spaces are available.
- C. Both campuses consist of student cabins/trailers, restrooms/showers, teacher cabin/trailers, dining hall, learning center and whole group meeting areas.
- D. Each campus accommodates 100 students a week with a ratio of counselors to students of 1:7. Schools may also provide two extra counselors (one male and one female) beyond that ratio.
- E. The ratio of Naturalists (biology/botany, *et al*, specialist) to students is 1:30 at both campuses; all Naturalists have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree.
- F. The curriculum used is correlated with the Next Generation Science Standards, a State Program and is certified by the California Outdoor School Association (COSA).
- G. The cost of the Camp attendance is financed through the participating schools' site budget, parent funding and/or fundraising systems.
- H. The Camp KEEP Foundation is a non-profit organization that supports the operations of KEEP through various fundraising efforts. Private individuals and major corporations in Kern County also provide contributions and property improvements.
- I. Both campuses operate 42 weeks a year. The procedure and process of scheduling groups remain the same as in the past.

- J. Camp KEEP staff at each campus consists of a Site Supervisor, eight Naturalists, a Caretaker and two Cooks.
- K. Ocean campus has a Geodesic Dome used for day and evening learning activities and whole group meetings.
- L. In 2018, KEEP Cambria was in transition, seeking a permanent site to replace Cambria's public campground. Originally Camp KEEP Cambria was used as an overflow location. Cambria's campus was a publicly shared campground, which often caused scheduling conflicts.
- M. Camp KEEP by the Sea in Arroyo Grande replaces the Cambria campus, solving scheduling conflicts.
(See photos in Appendix B)
- N. Camp KEEP by the Sea has 'The Nest', a round building shaped like a birds nest, for indoor whole group activities similar to Ocean's Geodesic Dome.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Camp KEEP is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The first camp was held in the spring of 1969 in Tehachapi, California. The KEEP program continues to benefit all participants with its hands-on science lessons and activities.
- F2. Both campuses are conducting ongoing repairs and improvements:
 - Old mattresses are being replaced ten at a time
 - Flooring in some of the trailers are being replaced at Ocean
- F3. Camp KEEP by the Sea has all new metal bunk beds. New mattresses are factory sealed to prevent bedbugs and other pests. Each Friday all beds and cabins are disinfected.
- F4. Camp KEEP Foundation has developed a dual-aspect capital improvement plan:
 - Aspect 1 is the development of a facility maintenance program
 - Aspect 2 is the development of a vehicle maintenance program along with donations of corporate vehicles
- F5. Improvements at Camp KEEP by the Sea include new trailers used as offices, classrooms and bathroom/showers. Per KCSOS and Camp KEEP staff, "the cabins and the grounds are amazing."
- F6. According to staff, Camp KEEP by the Sea is located on a historical site which was previously a Methodist Church camp.

F7. The Cross at the outdoor meeting area is covered during the week by a banner and plantings. At the end of the week, the banner is removed so weekend events like weddings, may use the Cross.

F8. Camp KEEP Foundation has no plans for a third campus at this time.

COMMENTS:

The 2018-2019 Kern County Grand Jury would like to thank the staff of Kern County Superintendent of Schools and Camp KEEP by the Sea in Arroyo Grande for information and the tour of the new campus.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1. The Grand Jury recommends that KCSOS/Camp KEEP continue to offer this residential outdoor science education program to as many students as possible. (Finding 1)

R2. The Grand Jury recommends the KCSOS/Camp KEEP continue the policy to replace ten mattresses, each year, at both campuses. (Finding 2)

R3. The Grand Jury recommends that KCSOS/Camp KEEP continue with the grounds and facilities improvements. (Finding 2)

R4. The Grand Jury recommends that KCSOS/Camp KEEP continue working on the capital improvement plan. (Finding 4)

NOTES:

- Kern County Superintendent of Schools should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.
- Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at: www.kerncounty.com/grandjury.
- Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.kerncounty.com/grandjury.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**CC: FOREPERSON
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

APPENDIX A:

5 DAY SCHEDULE

MONDAY

12:00 Students Arrive
*Bathroom Break
*Line-up
12:30 Lunch
1:30 Principal Speech
2:00 Move in/Orientation Hike
4:30 Dining Hall Orientation/Wood Cookies
5:00 Recess
5:20 Fire Drill/Instructions for Dinner
5:30 Dinner
6:30 Cabin Time
7:00 Journal Activity
8:00 Campfire
8:45 Bedtime Dismissal
9:15 Lights out, Whispers Only
9:30 All Quiet Hours

TUESDAY

6:30 Rise and Shine/Clean Cabin
7:00 Set up Dining Hall
7:20 Breakfast
*Weather
*Bird of the Day
*Question of the Day
8:30 Depart for Hikes
8:30-10:30 Nature Hike
10:30 Snack Break
10:30-12:00 Nature Hike
12:00 Lunch
12:00-3:15 Nature Hike
3:15 Hike Wrap Up
3:20 Teacher Hour
4:30 Recess
5:30 Diner
6:30 Cabin Time
7:00 Night Hike
8:00 Campfire
8:45 Bedtime Dismissal
9:15 Lights out, Whispers Only
9:30 All Quiet Hours

WEDNESDAY

6:30 Rise and Shine/Clean Cabin
7:00 Set up Dining Hall
7:20 Breakfast
*Weather
*Bird of the Day
*Question of the Day
8:30 Depart for Hikes
8:30-10:30 Nature Hike
10:30 Snack Break
10:30-12:00 Nature Hike
12:00 Lunch
12:00-3:15 Nature Hike
3:15 Hike Wrap Up
3:20 Teacher Hour
4:30 Recess
5:30 Diner
6:30 Cabin Time
7:00 Science Game
8:00 Campfire
8:45 Bedtime Dismissal
9:15 Lights out, Whispers Only
9:30 All Quiet Hours

THURSDAY

6:30 Rise and Shine/Clean Cabin
7:00 Set up Dining Hall
7:20 Breakfast
*Weather
*Bird of the Day
*Question of the Day
8:30 Depart for Hikes
8:30-10:30 Nature Hike
10:30 Snack Break
10:30-12:00 Nature Hike
12:00 Lunch
12:00-3:15 Nature Hike
3:15 Hike Wrap Up
3:20 Teacher Hour
4:30 Recess
5:30 Diner
6:30 Cabin Time
7:00 Closing Ceremony
8:00 Campfire
8:45 Bedtime Dismissal
9:15 Lights out, Whispers Only
9:30 All Quiet Hours

FRIDAY

6:30 Rise and Shine/Clean Cabin
7:00 Set up Dining Hall
7:20 Breakfast
*Weather
*Bird of the Day
*Question of the Day
8:30 Depart For Hikes
8:30-10:00 Reflection Hikes
10:00 Lunch
11:00 Closing Speech
11:10 Dismiss to Restrooms
11:15 Students Load Bus
11:20 Wave Good-Bye

CAMP KEEP BY THE SEA

Kern County Superintendent of Schools



Open Coast Day

During Open Coast Day, students visit the intertidal (tide pools) and beach ecosystems where they traverse over a rocky and sandy coastline and discover how creatures above and below ground survive in the face of the changing tides.

Watershed Day

During Watershed Day, students will spend most of their time at the Oceano dunes and sandy beach. On campus, students engage with a watershed model exploring what a watershed is and how watersheds contribute to creating beaches.

Woodland Discovery Day

During Woodland Discovery Day, students will explore the oak woodlands surrounding the KEEP By The Sea campus with a focus on symbiotic relationships and how decomposition plays a part in the carbon cycle.

APENDIX B:
Photos by Committee



Office trailer and Grand Old Oak tree



The “Nest” sitting on the top of the hill



Class Room preserved animals



Hands on tide pool



Vista View of the camp and cabins



Campfire Site view



Cabin Awards



Dining room poster

September 18, 2019

Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue, 2nd Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301

We are pleased to respond to the Grand Jury's report regarding Camp KEEP. We appreciate the time and attention that the Grand Jury members gave to their visit, and for the positive report regarding Camp KEEP's outcomes and future plans.

In response to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations, we offer the following responses:

Findings

- F1: Camp KEEP has promoted the 50th anniversary of Camp KEEP and has produced a video celebrating Camp KEEP's history.
- F2: We continue to make upgrades to Camp KEEP facilities and sleeping quarters;
- F3: Students, teachers and parents have commented positively about the purchase of new bunk beds and mattresses. Our efforts to clean and disinfect every Friday has helped keep pests to a minimum;
- F4: The Camp KEEP Foundation has adopted and is implementing their dual-aspect capital improvement plan to address facility and vehicle maintenance issues;
- F5: Feedback about the cabins, grounds and overall KEEP by the Sea experience has been very positive;
- F6: The KEEP by the Sea's location is excellent;
- F7: The schedule for the use of the Cross in the outdoor meeting area by outside groups has worked well;
- F8: The Camp KEEP Foundation still does not have any plans for a third site.

Recommendations:

- R1: KCSOS continues to promote the Camp KEEP experience to all districts in Kern County and in some neighboring counties. We continue to enjoy partnerships with local organizations to support Camp KEEP;
- R2: KCSOS is committed to replacing a minimum of ten (10) mattresses per year at each campus;
- R3: KCSOS Facilities and Maintenance Departments continue to work with camp owners to improve both campuses.
- R4: The Camp KEEP Foundation continues to implement their capital improvement plan. Various fundraisers and support from the community help make this happen.

We appreciate the time and effort of the Grand Jury and we look forward to continued success with Camp KEEP. Please call me at (661) 636-4000 if I may answer any questions or provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Desiree Von Flue
Assistant Superintendent - Educational Services

Cc: Foreman, Kern County Grand Jury

KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

High School Diploma

Compared to

General Education Development Equivalency

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The purpose of this inquiry pursuant to California Penal Code §925 is to evaluate the completion rates of High School Diploma (HSD) compared to General Education Development (GED) equivalency. The 2018-2019 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) Health, Education and Social Services Committee (Committee) compared the difference between an HSD and a GED.

PROCESS:

The Committee reviewed news articles, researched the internet and interviewed the Kern High School District Superintendent. Additional statistics and curriculum/graduation information was found online and through the California State Department of Education website.

BACKGROUND AND FACTS:

The first education laws in the United States were enacted in the colonial era, when various New England colonies passed ordinances directing towns "... *to choose men to manage the important affairs of learning, such as deciding local taxes, hiring teachers, setting wages and determining the length of the school year.*"

An HSD indicates all requirements have been met for graduation. Classes in English, Math, Social Studies, History and elective classes have been completed and passed. Currently these required classes are given over four years:

- English - four years
- Foreign Language - two to three years
- Math - three years
- Science - two to three years
- Social Studies and History - two to three years
- Art - one year
- Completing a maximum of these required classes results in 220 credits and graduation with an HSD

Two other tests can be given to get equivalency to an HSD in the United States and Canada:

- Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) is a five subject test
- High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) is a five subject test

California eliminated the Certificate of Completion (COC). However, in Kern County, a COC is still awarded to Special Education Students.

General Educational Development Equivalent

A GED refers to a system of standardized examinations which entitle students who pass to receive a credential considered an equivalent to completion of high school. The GED tests are a group of four subject tests which, when passed, provide certification. It is an alternative to the High School Diploma, HiSET and TASC test. The GED Testing website currently does not refer to the test as anything but GED according to the American Council on Education. All forms of the GED are offered through private testing companies. The Bakersfield Adult School is the one testing site available to local students. The Bakersfield Adult School offers classes to help prepare students to take the GED.

In order to take the GED, HiSET or TASC, test takers must also meet one of the following requirements:

1. Students 18 years of age or within 60 days of their 18th birthday.
2. Students within 60 days of scheduled graduation from high school had they completed the courses required for graduation.
3. Students 17 years of age who have been out of school for at least 60 consecutive days and provide a letter of request from the military, a post-secondary educational institution, or employer requesting verification of high school academic skills.
4. Students at least 17 years of age and have accumulated fewer than 100 units of high school credit and confined to state or county hospital or correctional agency and meets all the following criteria:
 - Do not have a realistic chance of completing the requirements for an HSD
 - Have adequate academic skills to successfully complete the HiSET test
 - Comprehend options available regarding acquisition of an HSD, the High School Equivalency Certificate, or the High School Proficiency Certificate and the requirement, expectations, benefits and limitations of each option
 - Have sufficient time to complete the entire HSE test while confined; however, if they are released before the test is completed, they may complete testing at an authorized testing center

Vocational Certificate Programs

A Vocational Certificate is earned by a student after taking a series of courses in a single subject. This does not qualify for a diploma however, it is a legal document. Students often earn certificates to get a step ahead in a professional field of interest.

For instance, there are certificates in business, education, technical and medical fields, which focus on practical training and troubleshooting. Many certification programs may require the completion of an apprenticeship.

Kern High School District provides students the opportunity to earn certifications in their Career Technical Education (CTE) courses. Most CTE courses are designed to prepare students to follow a career path of their choice and preparation for certifications governed by a state board, often resulting in taking a state exam authorizing a person to work in a specific field.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Graduating with a High School Diploma or equivalent (GED, HiSET or TASC) is a requirement to attend a California State College or University.
- F2. California Community Colleges may enroll students who do not have an HSD or equivalent. There is a process for determining if the student has the academic skills to profit from and complete the coursework.
- F3. A High School Diploma, GED, HiSET, TASC and a Certificate of Completion all demonstrate a level of academic achievement:
 - An HSD is awarded by the KHSD certifying that the student has met all the requirements for graduation set forth by the KHSD Board
 - All forms of high school equivalency are based on standards that are set by the State of California. The tests are administered and graded by private testing companies. The California Department of Education issues the GED equivalency to students who pass. Testing costs \$130
 - A Certificate of Completion is an alternative only available to students with learning disabilities and is a certification that the student has successfully completed a subscribed course of study documented in an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and determined by the IEP Team
- F4. An HSD requires 220 credits and is usually achieved within four years. There are exceptions in the law for Foster Youth (AB 167), Homeless Youth (AB 1806), and Court School Youth (AB 2306) that allow certain students within each of these categories to graduate with fewer than 220 credits.
- F5. A GED is earned by passing four tests; Language, Science, Math and Social Studies.
- F6. A Vocational Certificate is a legal document that states the student can officially practice in a single profession.

- F7. Kern County High School statistics for the 2017-2018 school year only includes students who completed all four years in the district:
- COC - 95 certificates were awarded to Special Education Students
 - Liberty High School students earned the highest number of diplomas (97.2%)
 - Kern Valley High School students earned the least number of diplomas (83.5%)
 - 88.6% of students earned a diploma
 - 5.8% of students were dropouts
 - 5.6% of students were home schooled or passed an equivalency test
- F8. GEDs are currently only offered through Bakersfield Adult School and students who completed their high school diploma early, such as Juniors or 5th year seniors, are not included in the above statistics.
- F9. California Department of Education statistics do not include students who pass any form of the GED, earn an adult school diploma, or who earn a certificate of completion as having earned a diploma.
- F10. According to high school officials; *the lack of parental support and the “No Student Left Behind” policy has resulted in a “watering down of the curriculum” and pushes teachers to “teach to the (State) test.”*

COMMENTS:

The Kern County Grand Jury thanks the Kern High School Superintendent for the valuable information provided and addressing the ongoing curriculum issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. The Grand Jury recommends Kern High School District continue to work with students and parents to ensure the completion of high school graduation requirements. (Finding 3)
- R2. The Grand Jury recommends that Kern High School District inform students and parents about the differences between HSD and GED in the 9th Grade, so as to make better choices for the student's future. (Finding 4)

NOTES:

- The Kern County High School District should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.
- Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at: www.kerncounty.com/grandjury.

- Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.kerncounty.com/grandjury.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**CC: FOREPERSON
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA**



KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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BRYON J. SCHAEFER, Ed.D., SUPERINTENDENT

5801 SUNDALE AVENUE • BAKERSFIELD • CALIFORNIA • 93309-2924 • (661) 827-3100 • FAX:(661) 827-3301

August 28, 2019

Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 212
Bakersfield, California 93301

Re: Grand Jury Report Regarding High School Diplomas and GEDs

To the Presiding Judge of the Kern County Grand Jury:

Please allow this correspondence to serve as the Kern High School District's ("KHSD" or "District") response to the Kern County Grand Jury's June 3, 2019 report regarding the differences between a traditional high school diploma and a General Educational Development ("GED") test, which is taken in order to receive a California High School Equivalency Certificate.

The District's comments and responses to the findings and recommendations are as follows:

FINDINGS

F1. Agree. California colleges and universities typically require a high school diploma or equivalent certificate for admission. In addition to the GED, HiSET, and TASC, students may also take the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE).

F2 – F3. Agree.

F4. Agree. In addition to the exceptions outlined for foster youth, homeless youth, and court school students, the California legislature has also enacted certain exemptions for children of a military family, migratory children, and pupils participating in an English language proficiency program for newly arrived immigrant pupils.

F5. Agree.

F6. Agree, in part. Upon successful completion of a vocational course of study the District provides the student with a certificate of completion recognizing achievements in a vocational area of study.

F7. Agreed. These are the statistics found on the California Department of Education's website.

F8. Agree, in part. The Bakersfield Adult School provides a GED test preparation course of study. The Bakersfield Adult School also serves as a testing site for the outside organizations that offer the GED test.

F9. Agreed.

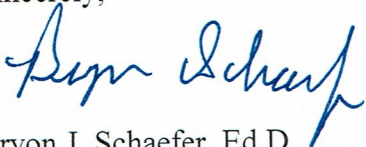
F10. Disagree. The origin of the statement is unknown. The opinions in this statement do not reflect the position of the District.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. The District appreciates this recommendation and will continue in its ongoing efforts and has implemented, and will continue to implement, this recommendation.

R2. The District's agrees that obtaining a GED is an option for students. However, the District's preference is to encourage students to complete four years of secondary education in order to benefit from the myriad programs, extra-curricular activities, and enriching opportunities that the District provides its students in their academic and personal growth and development through their teenage years. The District will study this recommendation further.

Sincerely,



Bryon J. Schaefer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

cc: ✓ Charlynn McCarthy, Foreperson
Kern County Grand Jury
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 600
Bakersfield, California 93301

KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL CENTER CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER

“EXPANDING SCHOOLS THAT CHANGE LIVES”



Photo from KHSD Website

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Pursuant to California Penal Code §925 the 2018-2019 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) Health Education and Social Service Committee (Committee) inquired into the advantages that Regional Occupational Centers (ROC) provide. The Committee also followed up on the recommendations made by the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury. In addition, this report provides an overview of the choices available for high school students to receive preliminary training in a vocational/trade of their choice.

PROCESS:

The Committee toured the local ROC, researched the internet, local news articles, previous Grand Jury reports, and interviewed the Supervising Administrator of ROC and researched vocational training centers in other states.

BACKGROUND:

Kern County has one ROC, located on Mt. Vernon Avenue, with a second one under construction. ROC serves high school juniors, seniors, adult students and is part of the Kern High School District. They offer over thirty-three vocational choices for training and will be adding additional courses next year. These centers provide short-term courses that prepare students for entry-level employment in a variety of occupational programs. (See Appendix A)

Students are trained so they are able to apply and pass the certification tests in the field of study. The certification rate for some courses is as high as 90%. The overall average is about 50%.

“We believe that preparing students with the skills required to perform entry-level functions in the work world is our primary task.” (School Creed)

The new Career Technical Education Center (CTEC), which is under construction, will add to the vocational choices. CTEC is located in southwest Bakersfield, adjacent to Independence High School. The multimillion dollar facility is funded through a taxpayer-approved bond measure passed in 2016. It will serve students taking vocational education courses, including construction trades classes where students will build so-called “Tiny Houses” for their final projects. Per ROC Staff, some of the houses will be donated for homeless Veterans and others will be sold to help cover the costs of materials. This facility will provide state-of-the art industry-specific resources to help prepare students for post-secondary education (college) or careers after graduation.

Vocational schools offer a series of courses which directly prepare individuals for employment toward jobs that may have requirements other than college or advanced degrees. Across the states researched by the committee, these courses are filled mostly by minority students.

According to ROC guidelines, readiness means a student has the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in college level courses that apply toward a degree or certificate without taking remedial or developmental coursework. Students have the opportunity through using a vocational skill to build working knowledge and continue to climb the corporate ladder toward a career and/or a higher degree.

Research reveals that California and many other states offer vocational training in private trade schools which charge fees, unlike public schools.

FACTS:

- A. Arizona stands alone in offering 246 public vocational high schools.
- B. California and most others states have, with few exceptions, Trade Schools/Colleges for vocational/trade training and certification.

- C. Private Trade/Vocational Schools/Colleges which charge fees, offer financial aid and scholarships.
- D. ROC has grown from 800 students in 2016 to 2,000 students in 2019.
- E. The goal of ROC is to supply the necessary skills to students so they can qualify for an entry-level position upon graduation. Students often have a job waiting for them upon graduation.
- F. Most students are bussed to the ROC location for three hour classes, (morning or afternoon sessions), from 17 schools in KHSD. While currently there is no schedule for night classes, future plans in August 2019 will include night classes.
- G. Class size has been reduced from 30 to 25 students due to additional teachers and classes.
- H. The ROC program is funded by the KHSD budget and serves a range of students from Special Education through Gifted and Talented.
- I. ROC has many outside business partners to help in the job/apprenticeship placement of students who achieve a certificate in their field.
- J. Students are given instructions on completing job applications as well as writing and maintaining current resumes.
- K. Students are counseled on the importance of attendance, appearance, safety programs, written communication and need for good verbal communication.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The ROC campus has a fully functioning branch of the Kern Schools Credit Union, staffed by students from the Banking and Finance Class. They are supervised by employees of the credit union.
- F2. The new classrooms at the existing ROC campus will be completed in August 2019.
- F3. The new campus, CTEC in southwest Bakersfield, will open in August 2020.
- F4. Cosmetology, Culinary and Veterinary Technician courses welcome outside clients who pay a discounted fee. This income helps defer the cost of replacing the consumable products used.

- F5. The recommendations made by the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury have all been met. They were:
- R1. Explore additional avenues to bring more awareness to the general public about what the program offers and how it benefits students.
 - R2. Look into possibly adding night classes to help more working adults enroll.
 - R3. Continue to pursue the expansion of an additional campus to increase enrollment.
 - R4. As the needs of the ever-changing business community change and grow, keep looking at new programs.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury would like to thank the Kern High School District Superintendent and the Staff of ROC for the tour of the facility, cooperation and the plethora of information provided. Research confirmed the benefits of vocational training in high school and after high school.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. The Grand Jury recommends that ROC continue its progressive thinking and the implementation of new ideas. (Findings 3 and 4)

NOTES:

- The Kern High School District should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.
- Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at: www.kerncounty.com/grandjury.
- Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.kerncounty.com/grandjury.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**CC: FOREPERSON
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

Appendix A:

Current courses available, the new programs launch will be August 2020. Applications open in November 2019.

Alphabetical listing:

- 3D Animation
- Administrative Office Assistant
- Aerospace (evenings only at NHS)
- Ag/Diesel Mechanics
- Auto Body/Fender
- Auto Technology
- Bookkeeping and Accounting
- Business, Banking, and Finance
- Computer Networking
- Computer Repair
- Construction
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- Dental Assistant
- Early Childhood Education
- Fashion Merchandising
- Fire Technology
- Introduction to Health Careers
- Law Enforcement
- Livestock Management
- Logistics and Distribution
- Medical Assistant
- Metal Fabrication
- Mobile App Development
- Nursing Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Precision Ag Mechanics
- Retail Sales
- Robotics Engineering
- Small Business Entrepreneurship
- Sports Medicine
- Veterinary Technology
- Video Game Design
- Video Production
- Welding and Metal Fabrication
- Once enrolled, students also gain access to ...
- College and Career Center
- KHSD School Farm
- Student Organizations
- Workbased Learning Coordinator

Appendix B: Photos from KHSD Website



CTEC under construction



Dental Assistants



Robotics



Health Career Forum



Future Students of ROC



Truck Center



Vet Tech



KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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BRYON J. SCHAEFER, Ed.D., SUPERINTENDENT

5801 SUNDALE AVENUE • BAKERSFIELD • CALIFORNIA • 93309-2924 • (661) 827-3100 • FAX:(661) 827-3301

July 24, 2019

Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 212
Bakersfield, California 93301

Re: Grand Jury Report Regarding Kern High School District's Regional Occupational Center

To the Presiding Judge of the Kern County Grand Jury:

Please allow this correspondence to serve as the Kern High School District's ("KHSD") response to the Kern County Grand Jury's June 24, 2019 report regarding the KHSD's Regional Occupational Center ("ROC").

The KHSD's ROC is an accredited public education career/technical training institution that offers a variety of programs to students interested in developing or improving job skills. All ROC courses are designed to prepare students for entry-level employment and postsecondary education. Classes at ROC are open to high school juniors, seniors, and adults.

The current ROC campus opened in September 1985 and features 125,000 square feet of classroom, shops, and vocational laboratories on its 80 acre campus. The ROC provides capstone courses for KHSD's career technical education efforts. Thirty-three 3-hour per day programs are offered at the ROC's home campus on South Mt. Vernon, with enrollment that exceeds 1,500 students. A new second campus, the Career Technical Education Center ("CTEC"), adjacent to Independence High School, is scheduled to open during the 2020-2021 school year.

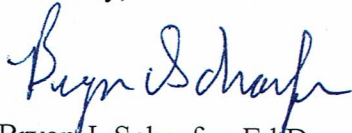
The ROC offers courses in areas such as 3D Animation, Auto Technology, Computer Networking, Construction, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Dental Assisting, Fashion Merchandising, Fire Technology, Law Enforcement, Medical Assisting, Mobile App Development, Livestock Management, and many more as listed in Appendix A to the Grand Jury report and noted on our webpage at <https://roc.kernhigh.org/apps/pages/program-page>

KHSD appreciates, and agrees with, all of the positive findings and the recommendation provided by the Grand Jury. The District agrees that its approach to the development and

expansion of its ROC has been progressive and its efforts will continue in that manner in the future so as to benefit our students and community.

The District will post the Grand Jury's report for public view. Thank you again for taking the time to inquire about our ROC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryon J. Schaefer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Bryon J. Schaefer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

cc: Charlynn McCarthy, Foreperson
Kern County Grand Jury
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 600
Bakersfield, California 93301