

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: “Are High Schools making the Grade at Addressing Mental Health?”

Report Date: June 12, 2023

Response by: Aaron Asplund **Title:** Superintendent

FINDINGS

1. I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F1,F2,F3,F5,F6,F7,F8,F9,F10,F11,F12
2. I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: F4
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendations numbered R6, R9 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implementation actions.)
2. Recommendations numbered R2, R4, R5, R7, R8, R10 have not yet been fully implemented, but will be fully implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
3. Recommendations numbered N/A require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of the publication of the Grand Jury report.)
4. Recommendations numbered N/A will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: September 12, 2023

Signed: Aaron Asplund

Number of pages attached: 2

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Additional information from Templeton Unified School District:

FINDINGS:

2. I disagree partially with a portion of the description in finding number F4. Specifically, in relation to the underlined portion of the finding, “School Districts have different approaches to address mental health and there is no uniformity,” I believe it is a miscategorization that there is no uniformity among schools in approaches to address mental health. I believe it would be more accurate to describe that there is some uniformity or commonality in the practices of SLO County high schools, though more sharing and collaboration would indeed benefit all schools collectively.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Recommendations numbered R6 and R9 have been implemented.

- R6: Templeton High School has a full-time SRO provided by the SLO County Sheriff’s Department. We are extremely grateful for this valuable resource for our school. The only times that the SRO is not onsite fulltime are when they have to help cover for or assist another SRO at a different school or if there is a general Sheriff’s Department duty that they are pulled away to perform.
- R9: Various anonymous bullying reporting programs have existed at Templeton High School for multiple years. For 2023-24, all Templeton schools have adopted We-Tip for our anonymous bullying reporting program.

2. Recommendations numbered R2, R4, R5, R7, R8, and R10 are partially implemented/have not yet been fully implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Following is a table outlining the estimated timeline for implementing these recommendations.

Recommendation Number	Estimated Implementation Timeline
R2	School administrators will identify ways to extend the mental health curriculum beyond Freshman health during the 2023-24 school year, with implementation no later than the 2024-25 school year.
R4	Templeton High School already uses externally-developed programs as recommended, but will consider utilizing additional programs for the 2024-25 school year and beyond.
R5	Select Templeton administrators will participate in the Youth Mental health First Aid program training in 2023-24 in order to identify if this or another training will then be provided to staff in 2024-25 and beyond.

R7	<p>Templeton High School has a productive partnership with SLO Behavioral Health for contracted mental health services. The proportion of this service has more than doubled in recent years. Templeton High School will consider increasing this service in future school years (as soon as the 2024-25 school year) <u>subject to staff availability</u> at SLO Behavioral Health and <u>subject to available funding</u>.</p>
R8	<p>Templeton is already implementing Narcan training among staff in 2023-24, and will increase the number of trained staff in following years.</p>
R10	<p>A suicide awareness training forum was held in 2022-23 for Templeton staff and parents. Templeton will hold the same training forum in the 2023-24 school year and beyond. Administration will discuss and consider appropriate annual training for students and potentially additional options for staff during the 2023-24 school year.</p>