



SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Randolph E. Ward, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Stacy Spector
Executive Director
Juvenile Court and Community Schools

August 3, 2015

Kathleen Edwards, Chairperson
Juvenile Justice Commission

Dear Kathleen,

The San Diego County Office of Education is grateful for the collaboration and support of the Juvenile Justice Commission. We believe it is our collective responsibility to ensure the highest quality learning experience for every one of our students. Please see the SDCOE response to the 2015 JJC Camp Barrett Inspection Report below.

Follow-up on 2013 Recommendations Response to 2015 JJC Juvenile Facility Inspection – Camp Barrett

Follow-up on 2013 Recommendations – San Diego County Office of Education:

1. Recommendation made to replace Education Administration building. The building still stands.

SDCOE Response:

San Diego County Probation is responsible for the physical plant at Camp Barrett and all juvenile institutions and camps. As part of the consolidation of the Juvenile Ranch Facility (JRF) and Camp Barrett, Probation will provide appropriate office space for the Camp Barrett School office.

2. Recommendation made to review how students are assigned to classes. The current situation is the same, with minors of all grade levels assigned to classes by dorm, not by grade level.

SDCOE Response:

SDCOE agrees with the JJC recommendation. The Barrett High School principal has been collaborating with the County Probation to ensure students are grouped by academic need, rather than dorm assignment. With the consolidation of the Juvenile Ranch Facility and Camp Barrett, the estimated date for student-centered classroom assignments is October 1, 2015.

The 2015 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends that the San Diego County Office of Education:

1. School intersession continues to have a negative effect on students. Intersession is staffed by substitute teachers. They are not required to file lesson plans. The concern that "busy work" would fill the education hours during intersession was confirmed by a visit to one classroom. On the white board was the list of the three movies

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that had been watched during intersession. They included: The World According to Garp, War Horse, Forrest Gump and another movie about the crime syndicate in America. The assignment was to write an essay describing the movies' historical elements. The instability in teaching continuity also impacts minors' length of stay. Probation staff reports that there are increased incidents of misbehavior during intersession, leading to lost points and added sentencing days. JJC recommends abandoning the intersession program by the SDCOE.

SDCOE Response:

SDCOE disagrees with the JJC recommendation related to the operation of intersession. During the 2014-15 school year, the Court Schools, operated by the Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS), operated two hundred and thirty-eight (238) days of school in full compliance with Education Code 48645. The school calendar was intentionally designed to ensure all full-time teachers would be working the same 190 day defined school year. This was done to ensure continuity and coherence of the educational program. Prior to the 2013-14 school year, teachers could submit their own calendars, taking recess days at any time throughout the year. This disrupted the instructional support for our students and often left sites with up to 50% of full-time staff on recess. The defined school year, coupled with forty-eight (48) intersession days allows our students extended learning opportunities, which are consistent with the provisions of Education Code 48645. Intersession allows our students opportunities for credit recovery and meaningful, project-based learning opportunities. Intersession teachers are a combination of our full-time teaching staff, as well as visiting intersession teachers who are properly credentialed.

In addition, SDCOE agrees that there is no place for "busy work" and the use of full-length motion pictures to fill instructional time. JCCS has added a full-time vice principal to support the court school programs and will also utilize head teachers at every court school site to support the instructional program.

2. There is still only one live-taught college prep class available. The JJC has been promised that the curriculum would be improved and teachers would be hired to support the "a-g" college prep curriculum.

SDCOE Response:

The consolidation of the Juvenile Ranch Facility with Camp Barrett, coupled with Probation's willingness to allow for student classroom assignments to be based on student learning needs will facilitate our transition to "live taught" U.C. a-g courses. JCCS currently has a-g approval for English 1, 2, 3, and 4; Integrated Math 1, 2, and 3; as well as World History and U.S. History. During the 2015-16 application cycle, JCCS will submit Visual and Performing Arts courses, as well as courses based on the Next Generation Science Standards for UC a-g approval.

Best Regards,

Vicki DeNardo on behalf of Stacy Spector

Stacy Spector
Executive Director