



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

6401 Linda Vista Road, San Diego, CA 92111 • 858-292-3500 • [www.sdcoe.net](http://www.sdcoe.net)  
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 East Mesa Inspection Report below.

## **Response to 2015 JJC Juvenile Facility Inspection – East Mesa (EM)**

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

1. There are instances where fights occur in the classrooms. Consider installing surveillance cameras, increasing staffing, and/or implementing other security measures in the classroom.

### **SDCOE Response:**

San Diego County Probation is responsible for the physical plant at East Mesa and all juvenile detention facilities and camps. Surveillance cameras are installed in every classroom at East Mesa and are monitored by Probation. In addition, a Probation Officer is stationed outside every classroom to support security. Lastly, JCCS has recently hired four (4) Classroom Assistants and two (2) English Language Development Assistants to support student learning at East Mesa.

2. As EM is moving toward a project-based learning model, ensure that all equipment (i.e. chairs and tables) used in classrooms adhere to safety while maintaining an interactive, collaborative, and collegial environment.

### **SDCOE Response:**

SDCOE agrees with the JJC recommendation and will continue to provide safe, flexible, and appropriate classroom furniture and equipment to ensure all students have access to a collaborative, collegial, and creative learning environment.

Kathleen Edwards  
August 3, 2015  
Page 2

3. Continue providing bilingual assistance to youth as needed.

**SDCOE Response:** SDCOE agrees with the JJC recommendation. All JCCS teachers are certified to teach English Learners. In addition, JCCS has recently hired two (2) English Language Development Assistants to support our English Learners at East Mesa and provide designated and integrated instruction.

4. Ensure that youth are not losing educational time to participate in kitchen duties and/or non-school programming.

**SDCOE Response:**

SDCOE agrees with the JJC recommendation and deplores the use of students for "KP" or any other work details during school hours. SDCOE has petitioned County Probation and has been assured this practice will cease at all institutions and camps.

Best Regards,

*Felici DeNardo on behalf of Stacy Spector*

Stacy Spector  
Executive Director