

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM**Report Title:** Special Education In Marin**Report Date:** April 26, 2002**Response by:** Union Joint School District Board of Trustees**FINDINGS:**

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: #1, #2, #4, and #5 _____
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: _____

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS (See attached Responses)

- Recommendations numbered _____ have been implemented.

(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

(Attach a timeframe for the implementation)
- Recommendations numbered _____ 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 publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: November 14, 2002

Signed: _____

Number of pages attached: 2**RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT
FROM****Union Joint School District School District
Board of Trustees****FINDINGS**

We generally agree with findings 1,2,4,5 except as noted in the responses to the recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation #1

The Marin County Office of Education and all school districts should inform the general public about the role of Special Education in the public schools, the range of services available to children with special needs, and the dedication of the teachers of those children.

Response:

The Union Joint School District employs a variety of methods through which the general public can be informed about the role of special education in our school. Listed below are a few examples:

- Discussion by the Union Joint School District staff of special education operations at school district board meetings which are open to the public and for which agendas are widely published in the community, as required by law.
- Regular meetings of the School Parent Club. These meetings, which are open to the public, are composed of both special education and regular education parents, district and county office personnel. These meetings have agendas that address the curriculum and learning needs of all students.
- Annual information sent to parents by the school district in accordance with law contains information on all school district services and parents and student's rights related to those services.

We will work with the Marin County Office of Education Special Education Department and the SELPA to explore additional ways of implementing this recommendation.

Response to the Grand Jury Report

Union Joint School District Board of Trustees

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Recommendation #2

The Marin County Office of Education and all school districts should inform the public that state and federal funding is inadequate, and that the shortfall forces school districts to divert money intended for mainstream education into federal and state mandated Special Education.

Response:

Each year, the Union Joint School District Budget is developed in a public board meeting that involves a review process by board members, staff and the public. The Board of Trustees receives input on priorities. They are also acutely aware of the shortfall in adequate funding for special education. The Union Joint School District is represented on the Joint Legislation Action Committee (JLAC) that advocates for adequate funding for special education programs. Our district will continue to inform the community about the concerns of funding for special education.

Recommendation #4

SELPA and all school districts should give serious consideration to centralizing the assessment process as much as possible, while still maintaining the personal touch necessary for good assessments. At the very least, there should be, as one of our respondents described it, “an organizing principle” behind every assessment.

Response:

The Union Joint School District is a small, one-room school district with enrollment of 20 to 25 students annually. We rely on the Marin County Office of Education for special education services. The staff that provides services to our district participate in SELPA countywide training which is focused on standardizing the assessment process

Recommendation #5

The SELPA staff should be housed outside the core of Marin County Office of Education offices, if not in a separate location, then at one end of the building with its own entrance to the street, if possible. Being so situated would enhance the perception of independence from Marin County Office of Education.

Response:

The Union Joint School District is represented on the Operational Steering Committee. Our district would follow the recommendation of this committee should they determine a move is necessary which could assist with the perception of independence from the Marin County Office of Education.