



# 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 GRF Inspection Report below.

### **Response to 2015 JJC Juvenile Facility Inspection –GRF**

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

1. That the SDCOOE work with the Supervisor of GRF in regards to the graduations of the girls so that none will miss the opportunity to receive their diplomas prior to graduating the GRF program. Additionally, coordination should be done to return the girls to their regular high school upon completion of the program, rather than Court Schools or Community programs.

#### **SDCOE Response:**

The JCCS principal, guidance counselor, and staff work directly with the Probation supervisor at GRF to ensure all students who complete their high school graduation requirements receive their diploma prior to exiting GRF. Graduations are held on site in the day room at GRF. Transition support is provided to all students exiting GRF and school placements are made based on the individual needs of the each student and in accordance with AB 2276.

2. That SDCOE improve the Intersession program to provide a continuum of services to the youth, and avoid a disruption of the CORE program during the intersessions.

#### **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.

3. That there be an increased number of referrals for IEP services and for those with active IEP's, increased referrals to Educationally Related Mental Health Services.

**SDCOE Response:**

JCCS conducts a search and serve for every student upon enrollment in GRF, and all court school programs, to determine if a student has an existing IEP. If a student has an existing IEP, services are provided in accordance with the IEP. If any stakeholder believes a student may have special needs, a referral for special education eligibility can be made to the JCCS Special Education staff on site at the KMJDF/GRF. Similarly, any stakeholder can make an Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) referral to the JCCS Special Education staff at KMJDF. JCCS school psychologist reviews all relevant academic records, school-related behaviors, and communicates with clinical staff at GRF. After this information is gathered, if it is determined that mental health issues are adversely affecting the student's educational benefit, a referral for an ERMHS assessment is initiated.

Best Regards,

*Wicki DeNardo on behalf of Stacy Spector*

Stacy Spector  
Executive Director