



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 JRF Inspection Report below.

Response to 2015 JJC Juvenile Facility Inspection –JRF

C. General Comments

“Currently, the San Diego County Office of Education conducts “intersessions” which amounts to vacations for the teachers. During these sessions, classes are handled by substitutes, who do not always follow the curriculum of the regular teachers. These appear to be detrimental to the wards in regards to credits, control and actual learning. It is suggested that this be remedied to provide a continuum of education needed by the wards in the program to make up credits and to work toward graduation.”

SDCOE Response:

SDCOE disagrees with the General Comments 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.

Best Regards,

Rich DeNardo on behalf of Stacy Spector
Stacy Spector, Executive Director