



West Contra Costa Unified School District
Special Education Department
2465 Dolan Way, San Pablo, CA 94806
Phone: 510-307-4641 Fax: 510-724-9883

Matthew Duffy
Superintendent

Steve Collins
SELPA Director

July 19, 2016

Sent via Email and U.S. Mail on July 12, 2016

Michael Simmons
Civil Grand Jury -- Foreperson
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553-0091
epant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov

Re: *Response to Contra Costa County 2015- 2016 Grand Jury Report 1604*

Dear Mr. Simmons:

The West Contra Costa Unified School District has reviewed the findings and recommendations of the Contra Costa County 2015-2016 Grand Jury Report 1604. The District intends to fully comply with SB 1266 to ensure that all schools are stocked with epinephrine auto-injectors (Pens) and that appropriate staff are trained to administer them to students who are suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering from, a severe allergic reaction. The District's response to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury Report is below.

F1: Mylan Specialty Division supplies pens at no cost to public schools in the district

District Response to F1: West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD or the District) is not using Mylan Specialty Division at this time to acquire no cost EpiPens. The Pens are being provided, instead, at no cost to the District by Meridian Medical Technologies, Inc.

F2: Mylan Specialty Division will replace Pens at public schools in the district that have expired at a discounted cost.

District Response to F2: WCCUSD is not using Mylan Specialty Division at this time to replace expired EpiPens. The pens are being replaced, instead, at no cost to the District by Meridian Medical Technologies, Inc.

F3: FARE and CDC statistical information project a range of 4 percent to 7.7 percent of students (7,200 to 13,850 out of the estimated 180,000 students in Contra Costa County's eighteen school districts) that may have an allergy that is unknown to parents and undiagnosed.

District Response to F3: WCCUSD projects that a range of 4 percent to 7.7 percent of its approximately 29,000 students may have an allergy that is unknown to parents and is undiagnosed. The District is addressing this issue by following the requirements of SB 1266 including, but not limited to, ensuring that staff at school sites are trained to identify symptoms of anaphylaxis and to administer EpiPens.

F5: SB 1266 does not clearly address the use of Pens at off-campus school activities or events.

District Response to F5: WCCUSD presently directs site administrators to designate a trained staff member to carry an EpiPen on school field trips.

F7: SB 1266 does not require follow up procedures for reporting the use of a Pen.

District Response to F7: WCCUSD has developed a protocol for site administrators to follow to report the use of a Pen.

F9: It is unknown whether all of the schools in West Contra Costa Unified School District are in compliance with SB 1266.

District Response to F9: WCCUSD will ensure that the District, including all school sites, is in compliance with SB 1266. The District schools that did not provide sufficient information to the Grand Jury have been verified in compliance by the District. These schools are (with date of verification of initial compliance by the District): El Cerrito High 4/13/15, Richmond High 1/4/16, Downer Elementary 2/2/15, Dover Elementary 10/13/14, Korematsu Middle 9/14/15 and Ellerhorst Elementary 1/7/2015. On the dates that the District verified compliance, the schools were trained in SB 1266 requirements, EpiPen administration, and provided EpiPens. Expired EpiPens were replaced in all district schools in May 2016 when reverification of compliance was completed. All elementary schools have two adult strength and two junior strength Pens. All secondary campuses have been provided four adult strength Pens. The WCCUSD is also complying with the requirements of SB 1266, in addition to the individual school sites.

R1: The West Contra Costa Unified School District should contact those schools within their district and verify the schools are in compliance with SB 1266.

District Response to R1: WCCUSD contacted all schools within the District in May 2016 and reverified that they are all in compliance with SB 1266. The District will continue to verify the compliance of all schools at least once per year.

R3: Each of the School District Boards should direct the School District Superintendent to contact all schools in their district at the start of each school calendar year to confirm that they are compliant with the requirements of SB 1266.

District Response to R3: The Board of WCCUSD will direct the District Superintendent to contact all schools in the District at the start of each school calendar year to confirm that they are compliant with the requirements of SB 1266.

R4: Each of the School District Boards should direct the School District Superintendent to report to the Board at the start of each school calendar year that the School District is compliant with the requirements of SB 1266.

District Response to R4: The Board of WCCUSD will direct the District Superintendent to report to the board at the start of each school calendar year to confirm that all schools in the District are compliant with the requirements of SB 1266.

R8: The School Districts should consider the practical and legal issues of supplying Pens for field trips and other off-site school events, and working with school nurses to develop policies and procedures for their use at these events.

District Response to R8: WCCUSD will continue to consider the practical and legal issues of supplying Pens for field trips and other off-site school events. The school nurses of the District have already created policies and procedures for the use of EpiPens on school field trips. The District will consider whether and how to provide Pens at other off-site school events.

R10: The School Districts should consider working with school nurses to develop policies and procedures for reporting the use of Pens.

District Response R10: WCCUSD is continuing to work with its school nurses to develop policies and procedures for reporting the use of Pens. The District has already created a protocol for reporting the use of Pens which is in use.

R12: The School districts should consider helping parents understand the risks of anaphylaxis and the protocols in place for emergency administration of epinephrine. The School Districts should consider "identifying funds" to carry out these activities.

District Response to R12: The District has decided to offer trainings at the biannual Parent University organized by the Special Education Department (this event is open to all parents regardless of whether their child has a disability) to help parents understand the risks of anaphylaxis and the protocols in place for emergency administration of epinephrine. The District has identified parent education funds for this purpose. The District will also consider additional strategies to help parents understand the risks of anaphylaxis and the protocols in place for emergency administration of epinephrine.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the District's response. I can be reached by email at scollins@wccusd.net or by phone at (510) 307-4633.

Sincerely,



Steve Collins
SELPA Director
West Contra Costa Unified School District

cc: Matthew Duffy, Superintendent, West Contra Costa Unified School District