



LAKE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

TO TEACH. TO SERVE. TO LEARN.

August 17, 2020

County of Lake
Lake County Grand Jury
PO Box 1078
Kelseyville, CA 95451

RE: 2019/20 Grand Jury Report – PSPS-5 Days in October

R3. *Lost school time could be partially remediated by putting inclement weather days back into district calendars to add emergency flexibility. Districts and unions should negotiate mutually acceptable terms for schools to adapt to PSPS impacts.*

I AGREE: Historically, the Lake County Office of Education has aligned educational program calendars with the local or host school district. This allows for continuity of services for LCOE students provided by local districts.

The Lake County Office of Education will confer with employee groups to implement five (5) inclement weather/emergency days built into the 2020/2021 school year. This practice will continue in future school year calendars.

Sincerely,

Brock Falkenberg



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County of Lake
Lake County Grand Jury
PO Box 1078
Kelseyville, CA 95451

RE: 2019/20 Grand Jury Report – Tax Default Auctions

R3. *All elected city officials and elected county officials should exercise extreme prudence in making disparaging claims (be they in public or to other governmental agencies) against the performance or motivations of any other elected official. If such claims are to be made, multiple/independent verifications of information/data supporting such claims should be fully explored.*

I AGREE: While not involved in the conversation/issue identified in this section of the report, I find it important to respond.

The office of the County Superintendent of Schools is defined in the state constitution. As such the Lake County Office of Education is an agency of the State of California not the County of Lake. While this is the case, LCOE relies heavily on the County of Lake to fulfill our obligations, and I appreciate the services they provide.

The Lake County Office of Education is in the education business. The ultimate outcome of our efforts is to prepare children to become contributing, thinking, caring members of our community, and the larger society. It is about preparing educated young adults for success. Key to this effort is developing and sustaining positive relationships with students, parents, teachers, school staff, administrators, and our community.

Positive relationships are the only way we can assure lasting impacts for our efforts to support youth, families, schools, and districts.

All staff, myself included, at the Lake County Office of Education, endeavor to have strong, positive working relationships with our stakeholders and collaborating agencies. When disagreement occurs, we strive to resolve things privately, cooperatively, and collegially. We make decisions based on accurate data.

For more information about the importance of fostering positive relationships at the Lake County Office of Education, please visit our website's homepage, at www.lakecoe.org and scroll down to the Superintendent's Initiatives. You will find an article that I wrote last year about fostering positive relationships.

Sincerely,

Brock Falkenberg

Brock Falkenberg, Superintendent of Schools
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County of Lake
Lake County Grand Jury
PO Box 1078
Kelseyville, CA 95451

RE: 2019/20 Grand Jury Report – Assessing the Homelessness in Lake County

R4. *Coordination between several governmental and NGO groups could refine the actual number of homeless in Lake County. While federal standards still stipulate the PIT count as a formal number, having a unified estimate from Continuum of Care, PIT, Partnership Health Plan and LCOE could provide county and city governance as well as NGO service organizations a more accurate means to determine types and amounts of necessary services.*

As I reply to this recommendation I feel it is important to explain to the community that the definition of homeless for the Point In Time (PIT) count is different than the definition of homeless that schools use. The PIT count is based on the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homeless and the schools' definition is based on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Because of the difference in regulations, the annual homeless count in schools tends to be significantly higher than the annual PIT statistics.

I AGREE: with the statement in the recommendation that a unified estimate and definition of homelessness would lead to a more accurate reflection of homelessness in Lake County.

The Lake County Office of Education is currently engaged in the homeless count in the following manner:

1. Two staff sit on the Continuum of Care Committee (COC).
2. One Staff member sits on the Executive Committee of the COC.
3. LCOE Healthy Start staff serve as the County Liaison for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. In this role they train and coordinate school district liaison staff.
4. Countywide McKinney-Vento Homeless statistics are shared with COC by school. However, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prevents student, family or personal information from being shared.
5. LCOE Healthy Start staff (12 individuals) physically participate in the PIT count. Frequently, they lead the teams to locations we know families are located.
6. LCOE Healthy Start staff purposely engage unattached youth so they know what to expect and how to be included in the PIT count.

Please suggest other ways that LCOE could collaborate to enhance county accuracy.

Sincerely,

Brock Falkenberg