

July 15, 1998

Judge Charles W. Campbell, Jr.
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Judge Campbell:

I have reviewed the 1997-98 Grand Jury Final report titled, *The Juvenile Justice System of Ventura County*. I believe that the report is generally very accurate. There were a few statements, which were extracted from handouts provided by our schools, that have subsequently been updated. Dr. Kristine Robertson, Principal of the Court Schools, provided the following information, which more accurately reflects the current status of programs operated by my office.

Page 7 – Second Paragraph

The Juvenile Court School curriculum follows the state framework and standards in English, Health and Mathematics. History/Social Science and Science standards are currently being developed in keeping with the proposed state standards.

Page 7 – Third Paragraph

Juvenile Court Schools students are enrolled on an average of three weeks up to a year or more depending upon the program and other legal/court factors.

Page 7 – Fourth Paragraph

Two resource specialists and two paraeducators work with identified special education students. There are seven certificated and classified staff who provide services to bilingual students. All of these staff members have been trained in Specific Designated Academic Instruction in English strategies.

Page 7 – Fifth Paragraph

The most recent information on attendance shows that since July 1, 1997 the Court Schools have provided educational services and programming to 2,300 students.

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Page 7 - Eighth Paragraph

Frank A. Colston School currently has an average of 250 instructional minutes per day. This was done to facilitate the programming of the multi agency partners. Students attend 220 instructional minutes on Monday and Friday and 270 minutes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This schedule meets the state mandate of an average of 240 instructional minutes over a 10-day period.

I have reviewed the recommendations and have taken particular note of Item 3 which suggests, "The Ventura County Juvenile Court Schools and Academy High School provide exiting students with an unofficial transcript of work accomplished and a brief written description of courses taken." I have referred this item to Jim Compton, Director of Alternative and Career Education for further study. Dr. Robertson has already indicated to me that staff will seriously consider this recommendation as they begin to develop new courses of study.

Please be assured that I share the Grand Jury's concern regarding the periodic overcrowding of current juvenile facilities. My staff and I stand ready to assist in the development of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Complex Master Plan. Additionally, I am ready to work collaboratively with other county department heads to seek funding sources for this much-needed project.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to this well-done report. If you have further questions, do not hesitate to give my staff or me a call at 383-1901.

Sincerely,



Charles Weis, Ph.D.
County Superintendent

cc:

Foreman of the Ventura County Grand Jury
Dr. Kristine Robertson, Principal, Court Schools
Mr. Jim Compton, Director, Alternative and Career Education
Ms. Kathy Greaves, Principal, Community Schools
Ms. Sandra Shackelford, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services