



# BUCKEYE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brenda Hanson-Smith, Ph.D., Scott Masten, Ph.D., Kirk Seal, Gloria Silva, Jon Yoffie

P.O. Box 4768, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
5049 Robert J. Mathews Parkway, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
(530) 677-2261 - (916) 985-2183  
Fax (916) 934-0920  
[www.buckeyeusd.org](http://www.buckeyeusd.org)

July 30, 2024

VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL ([court-admin@eldoradocourt.org](mailto:court-admin@eldoradocourt.org))

Judge Lauren C. Bowers, Presiding Judge  
El Dorado County Civil Grand Jury  
Superior Court of El Dorado County  
2850 Fairlane Court, Suite 120  
Placerville CA 95667

RE: Buckeye Union School District Response to Grand Jury Report "County Office of Education: Are Schools Doing Enough to Address Sexual Harassment?" Case 24-07

Dear Judge Bowers:

The Buckeye Union School District (BUSD) has received and read the 2023-2024 El Dorado County Grand Jury Report entitled "County Office of Education: Are Schools Doing Enough to Address Sexual Harassment?" Following is the written response from BUSD in regards to Findings F-7, F-9 and Recommendation R-8.

### FINDING NO. F-7:

It is unclear when or if the county school districts provide student training on recognizing sexual harassment and how to report it.

### RESPONSE TO FINDING NO. F-7:

#### 1. BUSD's Approach to Sexual Harassment Education and Reporting - Developmental Appropriateness:

- Younger Students (Transitional Kindergarten to Grade 5):
  - Focus: General discussions on personal space, privacy, and protecting one's own body.
  - Key Instruction: Encouraging students to find and report to a trusted adult about their needs and concerns.

- Older Students (Grade 6 to 8):
  - Curriculum: Positive Prevention Plus Curriculum at Rolling Hills Middle School, Camerado Springs Middle School and Valley View Charter Montessori School.
  - Focus: Comprehensive instruction on health education, including sexual health education and recognizing sexual harassment.
- All Students/Parents & Guardians:
  - Annual Notice to Parents –
    - Pursuant to Education Code Section 231.5, each family/student as part of the Annual Notice (Education Code Section 48980), receives a link to a written copy of the District’s policy on sexual harassment. The purpose of this policy is to provide notification of the prohibition against sexual harassment as a form of sexual discrimination and to provide notification of how to report it, file a complaint and other available remedies. An electronic signature is collected by the District in which the parent or guardian acknowledges that he or she has been informed of his or her rights. Pursuant to parent or guardian request, the annual notification may be provided to the parent or guardian in a hard copy format.
- All Students – Student/Parent Handbook Review:
  - All school sites have a Student/Parent Handbook, which is gone over with students at the beginning of each school year, as developmentally appropriate. Each Student/Parent Handbook includes a reiteration of the District’s prohibition against all forms of inappropriate conduct, including sexual harassment and sexual discrimination. Specifically, the handbook includes the following relevant provisions:
    - Anti-Bullying: Students are not allowed to bully other students or provoke conflicts. Behavior or statements that degrade an individual on the basis of his/her race, ethnicity, culture, heritage, gender, sexual orientation, physical/mental attributes, religious beliefs or practices shall not be tolerated. Instruction and counseling are provided to promote positive relationships, acceptance and inclusion. {Reference: Board Policy 5131.2}
    - Sexual Harassment: The district prohibits sexual harassment at school and at school-sponsored or school-related activities. Anyone who engages in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action. Staff will clearly communicate to students that sexual harassment is prohibited and advise students to report any sexual harassment that they experience or observe. The district’s sexual harassment policy contains specific steps and assurances. This policy is available in the school office. {Reference: Board Policy and Administrative Regulations 5145.7}

## 2. Staff Training:

- Annual Training: All classified and certificated staff are trained annually to recognize signs of sexual harassment and potential abuse.
- Monitoring: Staff are trained to monitor unusual changes in student behavior that may indicate sexual harassment or abuse.
- Response and Support: Staff are trained on how to appropriately respond to and support students who are identified as experiencing harassment or abuse.

## 3. Reporting System:

- STOPIT Program: An anonymous online/call system for reporting incidents that endanger the health, safety, or wellbeing of oneself or others.

FINDING NO. F-9:

EDCOE and County School District Websites are out of compliance with Title IX requirements.

RESPONSE TO FINDING NO. F-9:

The Buckeye Union School District's website is Title IX compliant, with one exception namely 34 CFR Part 106.45(b)(10) which requires all Title IX training materials to be made publicly available by posting on the school district's website due to the fact that the training materials are proprietary and are copyrighted. BUSD is working with the publisher of the materials to address this requirement.

RECOMMENDATION R-8:

EDCOE and County school districts should bring their Title IX website requirements up to date by December 31, 2024

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION R-8:

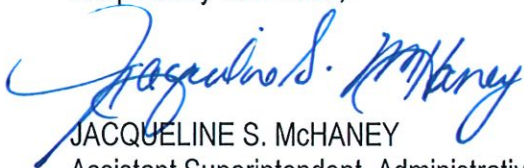
The Buckeye Union School District's website is Title IX compliant, with one exception namely 34 CFR Part 106.45(b)(10) which requires all Title IX training materials to be made publicly available by posting on the school district's website due to the fact that the training materials are proprietary and are copyrighted. BUSD is working with the publisher of the materials to address this requirement and is proposing that Public School Works authorize the District to post the training materials with the statement set forth below:

It is important to understand that the materials posted to this website are proprietary and are copyrighted. Your right is a right of inspection and review of the materials on this site, only. No other right is granted beyond viewing. You are not authorized to copy, use, adapt, save, repost, share publicly, or alter any contents from this site. You are not permitted to use the materials on this site for training, or for any commercial purpose. Proceeding to use and access the content on this page demonstrates your acceptance and understanding of these terms and conditions. Buckeye Union School District's training materials used to train the school's Title IX personnel can be found at: [Insert Link]

If the District is unable to secure consent to publicly post these materials, then the District will make the materials available for inspection upon request. In addition, the District will create and/or obtain alternative materials that contain the same general concepts, that can be posted on the District's website.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to discuss the information provided herein further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,



JACQUELINE S. McHANEY  
Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services

JSM:jsm

cc: Dr. David Roth, Superintendent