

July 26, 2024

Judge Lauren C. Bowers

The Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Civil Grand Jury

Superior Court of El Dorado County

2850 Fairlane Court, Suite 120

Placerville CA 95667

VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL (court-admin@eldoradocourt.org)

Subject: 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 Mother Lode Union School District 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?" The following is the written response from the Mother Lode Union School District in regard to Findings F7, F9 and Recommendation R8.

FINDINGS

F.7 It is unclear when or if the county school districts provide student training on recognizing sexual harassment and how to report it.

We are an elementary school district serving Transitional Kindergarten to Eighth grade students, therefore, student training on recognizing sexual harassment varies based on the age of the student. For primary grade students, generalized discussions take place in the classroom setting regarding personal space, privacy and protecting one's own body. Students in primary grades are taught to find a trusted adult to report needs and concerns. Through our adopted Social Emotional Learning curriculum harassment in general is addressed. This curriculum is taught by both the classroom teacher and the school counselor at each campus.

Beginning at grade five into middle school, students receive a more comprehensive instruction in regard to health education including sexual health education. As part of the Positive Prevention Plus Curriculum used for 5th grade at the Charles Brown Learning Academy and Herbert Green Middle School. Sexual Harassment and proper boundaries are part of this curriculum.

All classified and certificated staff members are trained annually on how to recognize signs of sexual harassment and potential abuse. With this training, staff is aware in monitoring unusual changes in student behavior indicating a student may have experienced sexual harassment or sexual abuse. In

conjunction, staff are trained on how to appropriately respond and access support for identified students.

Students, families, and staff are trained annually to use We Tip, an anonymous online/call system to report incidents that endanger the health, safety and/or wellbeing of oneself or others.

F.9 EDCOE and County School District Websites are out of compliance with Title IX requirements

The Mother Lode Union School District does agree with this finding. While the district does link non-discrimination policy, complaint procedures, and coordinator contact information on its website, navigating and finding this information through a simple Title IX search is difficult.

RECOMMENDATION

R.8 EDCOE and County school districts should bring their Title IX website requirements up to date by December 31, 2024

Training will take place for all required Mother Lode Union School District staff during the fall of 2024 in the updated Title IX regulations. Following this training all required documents will be placed on an easy to find menu at the Mother Lode Union School District Website. This will take place prior to the end of the 2024 calendar year as recommended.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Mahoney', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Larry Mahoney

Interim Superintendent, Mother Lode Union School District