

PITTSBURG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Janet Schulze, Superintendent
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October 31, 2016

Michael Simmons, Foreperson
Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
725 Court St
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553

Re: Response to 2015-2016 Contra Costa Grand Jury Report 1604, "Are our Schools in Compliance with the EpiPen Law, SB 126699"

Dear Foreperson Simmons:

The following is the Pittsburg Unified School District's response to Grand Jury Report No. 1604, "Are our Schools in Compliance with the EpiPen Law, SB 1266."

Response to Findings

Finding #1:

Mylan Specialty Division supplies pens at no cost to public schools in the District.

The Pittsburg Unified School District agrees to this finding. The District participates in the Mylan program EpiPen4Schools. Supplies of EpiPens were ordered for the 2014-2015 school year, 2015-2016 school year and the 2016-2017 school year.

Finding #2:

Myland Specialty Division will replace Pens at public schools in the district that have expired at a discount rate.

The Pittsburg Unified School District agrees with this finding. We had to replace expired Epi-pens during the 2015-2016 school year and they were ordered at a reduced price of \$112.10 per box.

Finding #3:

FARE and CDC Statistical information project a range of 4 percent to 7.7 percent of student may have an allergy that is unknown to parents and diagnosed.

The Pittsburg Unified School District agrees with this finding. Students have been known to have allergic reactions when no known allergies existed. Staff is trained on identification of allergic reactions and on EpiPen administration in case of emergencies.

Finding #5:

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

The Pittsburg Unified School District agrees that SB 1266 does not clearly address the use of Pens off campus for students that do not have any known allergies. Pittsburg Unified School District current practices are as follows: the school supply of EpiPens stays at the school site; if a student has a prescribed EpiPen, staff may bring that EpiPen to off campus activities and/or fieldtrips to be used specifically for the prescribed student only.

Finding #7:

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

The Pittsburg Unified School District agrees that SB 1266 does not require follow up procedures for reporting the use of a Pen. PUSD has put into place the following procedures if an EpiPen is administered:

1. If an EpiPen is administered, 911 is called.
2. Parent is immediately called and advised that the EpiPen was administered and that 911 has been contacted.
3. The school will advise the parent to get the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan form filled out by the student's primary physician and returned to school for any future emergencies.
- 4 the Epipen Log is to be filled out.
5. The school nurse will follow up with the student and parent.
6. Information is entered in Aeries information system enabling school staff to be aware.

Response to Recommendations

Recommendation #3:

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.

The recommendation is implemented at the Pittsburg Unified School District. The Superintendent's designee, the Director of Student Services ensures that each school site is in compliance of SB 1266 at the beginning of each school year. The Student Services department orders new EpiPens for the school sites when needed and distributes them. Epipen training is offered each school year to at least two staff members at each school site.

Recommendation #4:

Each of the School District Boards should direct their 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.

The Pittsburg Unified School District feels that this step is unnecessary due to the fact the district has been implementing our current practices for 3 years and the District has a Director who oversees the program effectively. PUSD can report this to their Board as requested or as an information item.

Recommendation #8

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.

The Pittsburg Unified School District will consider the practical and legal issues of supplying Pens for field trips and other off-site school events. The district already has policies in place for field trips and off-site school events for students who have been prescribed their own EpiPen.

Recommendation #10:

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

The Pittsburg Unified School District agrees with the recommendation and has already developed and implemented such policies and procedures.

Recommendation #12:

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.

The Pittsburg Unified School District agrees with the recommendation. The Parent and Family Liaison Coordinator is working with the school site Parent Liaisons to hold a parent informational meeting regarding the risks of anaphylaxis and the schools emergency procedures regarding use of EpiPens and will develop informational handouts for parents.

Sincerely,

Dr. Janet Schulze
Superintendent
Pittsburg Unified School District