



Contra Costa County Office of Education

77 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 • (925) 942-3388
Karen Sakata, Superintendent of Schools

August 2, 2018

Civil Grand Jury-Foreperson
725 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94553

Re: Response to the 2017-2018 Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 1810, "Chronic Absenteeism in West Contra Costa County School Districts."

Dear Foreperson:

Pursuant to the California Penal Code 933.05(a), the Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools files this response with regard to the 2017-2018 Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 1810, "chronic Absenteeism in West Contra Costa County School Districts."

Findings:

Response for Finding F1.
The respondent agrees.

Response for Finding F2.
The respondent agrees.

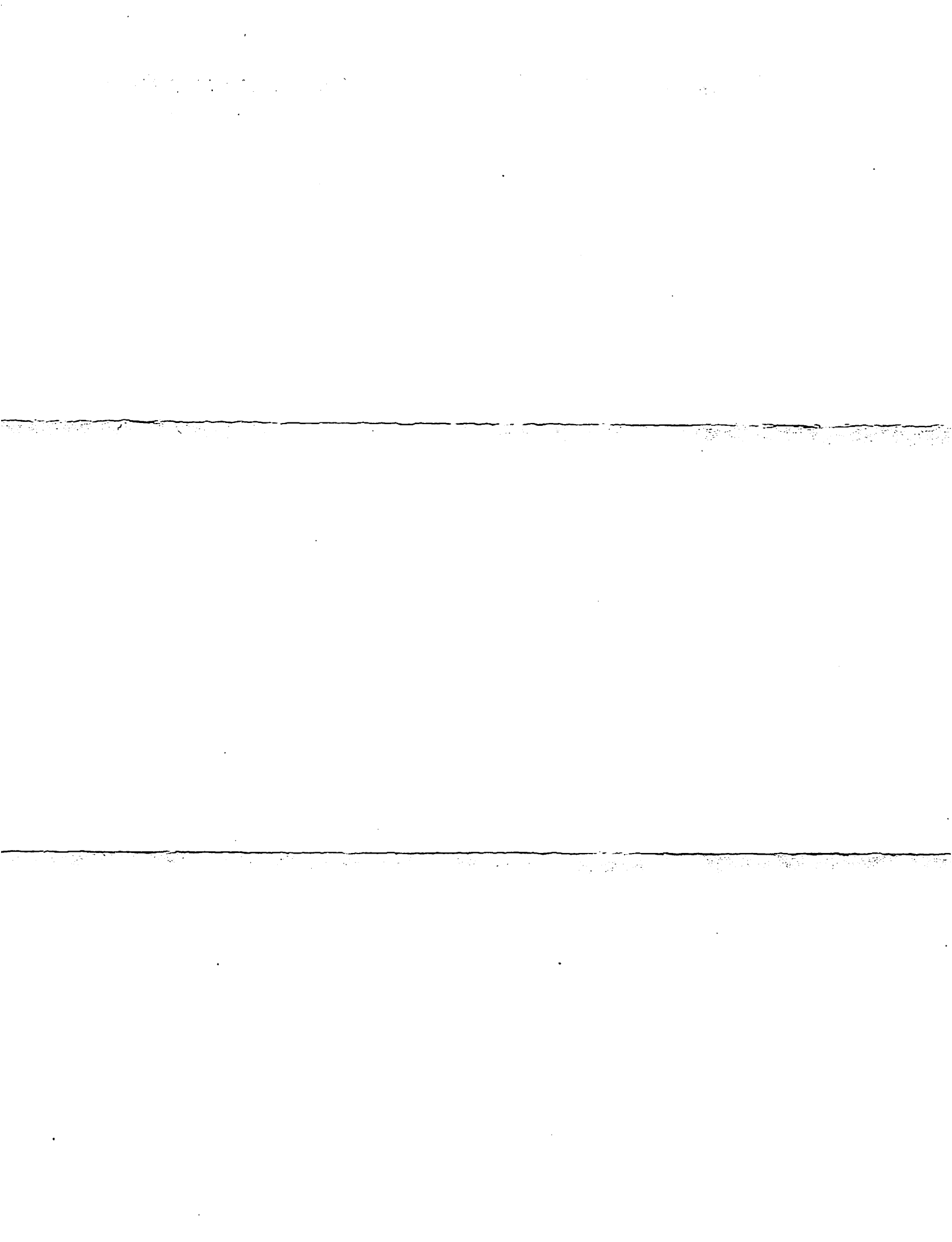
Response for Finding F3.
The respondent agrees.

Response for Finding F7.
The respondent partially disagrees.

The respondent is not aware to what extent each district advertises the Every School Day Counts campaign slogan; however, all schools received multiple resources to post, distribute or otherwise use as they see fit. These include banners, district customized Principal toolkits, key messages, contest flyers, etc.

Recommendations:

Recommendation 4: The Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools should consider expanding its Attendance Awareness *Every School Day Counts* campaign through community television and radio, social media, and school marquees prior to the 2018 fall semester.



1. This recommendation has been partially implemented. The County Office of Education routinely sends messages out through eBlasts and Twitter. In the 2018/19 school year, there are plans to routinely show Attendance Works videos on Contra Costa TV and continue to use social media. The respondent does not have any jurisdiction over district or school marquees.

Recommendation 5: The Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools should consider highlighting the importance of attending kindergarten through its Attendance Awareness *Every School Day Counts* campaign in time for the 2019 school year.

1. This recommendation was implemented in prior campaigns and will continue to be implemented in the 2018/19 Attendance Awareness campaign. The County Office of Education will highlight the importance of attending kindergarten through its Attendance Awareness *Every School Day Counts* campaign by sharing key messages, sample parent letters and videos, and research related to the link between attendance in kindergarten and reading at grade level by third grade.

If you need further information or clarification, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Lynn Mackey
Deputy Superintendent of Schools

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