



# HOLLISTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## DISTRICT GRAND JURY RESPONSE

September 2, 2025

Honorable Judge J. Omar Rodriguez  
Presiding Judge of the San Benito County Superior Court  
450 Fourth Street  
Hollister, CA 95023

**RE: Hollister Elementary School District: Responses to "The 2024-2025 San Benito County Civil Grand Jury Consolidated Report"**

Dear Judge Rodriguez and San Benito County Civil Grand Jury Foreperson:

On behalf of the Hollister Elementary School District ("District"), I want to thank you for the time and effort taken by the San Benito County Civil Grand Jury ("Grand Jury") to conduct its safety analysis of Calaveras Elementary School ("CES"). The District has given the Grand Jury's findings serious consideration and this response will identify several actions recently or already approved and implemented by the Board consistent with the Grand Jury's recommendations.

The District's responses to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations are set forth below in accordance with the format required by Penal Code section 933.05

Sincerely,

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**Kim O'Connor**  
Board President  
Hollister Elementary School District

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### **RESPONSE TO FINDINGS 1-3**

- F1. There is no articulated or written supervision assignment for campus monitors. During the CGJ site visit, campus monitors were observed viewing/scrolling on their phones, and visiting with peers, distracting them from their duties.**

**Response:** The District disagrees and agrees with this finding as it applies to CES. (Pen. Code, §933.05(a)(2).)

**Explanation:** We disagree that there is no articulated or written supervision assignment for campus monitors. CES provides campus monitors with written "Campus Supervision Guidelines for Yard Duty/Safety Monitors" which include supervision assignments. Each campus monitor is assigned to one of the five designated supervision zones and is directed to stay within their designated zone at all times during their shift. Additionally, the Principal supervises the campus monitors several times a day to ensure they are adequately patrolling and maintaining a safe and secure campus. Furthermore, the Vice Principal frequently serves as an additional layer of supervision in conjunction with the Principal.

We agree that campus monitors periodically engage in conversation with their colleagues or check their phones while patrolling the campus. Given the nature of their position, campus monitors must communicate with their colleagues to ensure effective student supervision. However, these conversations are work-related and are not detrimental to student safety. Finally, we agree that using personal cell phones may distract the campus monitors from their duties. Accordingly, the Campus Supervision Guidelines outline rules prohibiting cell phone use while supervising students. Rules regarding cell phone use are provided to the campus monitors and are enforced by the Principal and Vice Principal.

- F2. CES is not adhering to the mandates of AB 1747 and California Education Code (EC) Sections 32280-32289.5: CSSP in development of their school plan.**

**Response:** The District disagrees and agrees with this finding as it applies to CES. (Pen. Code, §933.05(a)(2).)

**Explanation:** We agree that CES' School Site Council did not sign the CSSP as evidence of participation and acceptance. However, we disagree that CES has not adhered to other requirements of AB 1747 and EC Sections 32280-32289.5, including providing the opportunity for meaningful public engagement in safety planning.

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CES is required to complete a CSSP annually with the opportunity for public input. The CSSP development process starts with the District's Director of Educational Services who utilized the expertise of our safety consultant Knowledge Saves Lives, a safety and emergency preparedness company composed of current and former law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency professionals to produce a customized CSSP template for the District. This template was reviewed and tailored to the CES school site by the site Principal and School Site Council, comprised of administration, staff, and District parents. The Principal addresses any questions or comments related to the plans prior to the Board meeting in which plans are placed on the agenda and approved by the Board.

The above-mentioned process occurs at CES in May of each school year, such that the CSSP is approved in advance for the following school year. In August, the CES Principal reviews the CSSP with the staff at their first staff meeting of the school year.

- F3. Student and staff safety is adequate during school hours of operation in the interior of the campus. Campus safety is not as secure as it can be on the exterior of the campus. For example, CES does not have a gated, age-appropriate play/exercise facility for TK and Kindergarten pupils.**

**Response:** The District agrees that student and staff safety is adequate during school hours of operation in the interior of the campus. The District also agrees that campus safety was not as secure as it could be on the exterior of the campus. Finally, the District agrees that CES does not have a gated play/exercise facility for TK and Kindergarten pupils. However, the District disagrees with the finding that CES does not have an age-appropriate play/exercise facility for TK and Kindergarten pupils. (Pen. Code, §933.05(a)(2).)

**Explanation:** CES is a closed campus surrounded by a perimeter of steel fencing. Steel gates leading to the exterior of the campus are locked from the outside. In addition to the perimeter fencing, four campus safety supervisors and one campus monitor patrol the campus during school hours. The campus supervisors and monitors utilize a radio system such that safety hazards on both the interior and exterior of the campus are immediately communicated. CES has a visitor kiosk where visitors are checked in and their identity verified. The campus also has two security cameras that face the exterior of the campus. CES is in the process of further securing student access to the exterior of the campus as described in greater detail below.

CES has an age-appropriate play/exercise facility for TK and Kindergarten pupils. Play/exercise facilities at CES are grouped by age to ensure age-appropriate play and

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reduce safety concerns. The referenced facility is limited to use by TK through second grade pupils and this cohort is assigned different lunch and break times than the older cohorts for safety purposes. This facility is not gated because it is already enclosed by the larger perimeter fence surrounding the entirety of the campus.

### **RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS 1-3**

- R1.** The school principal should develop an assignment plan for all campus monitors before the start of the 2025-2026 school year. The principal, or their designee, must routinely observe campus monitors to ensure they are at their assigned position and focused on the safety of the children at the time and duration expected. This needs to be an ongoing and continuous process.

**Response:** This recommendation was implemented at all times prior to the Grand Jury Report and will continue to be implemented in the future. (Pen. Code, § 933.05(b)(1).) It has always been and will continue to be our practice to have an implemented written assignment plan for all campus monitors. Additionally, it has always been and will continue to be our practice for the Principal to routinely observe campus monitors to ensure they are at their assigned position and focused on the safety of the children. Furthermore, the Principal's supervision is an ongoing and continuous process.

- R2.a.** CES should adhere to the mandates of California Education Code (EC) Section 32281(a) requiring key stakeholder participation in the development of the Comprehensive School Safety Plan. The school should schedule a series of meetings, document participation, and have the plan dated and signed off as evidence of participation and acceptance. This plan should be in place no later than September of each school year.

**Response:** With respect to the School Site Council signing the CSSP as evidence of participation and acceptance, this recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the near future. (Pen. Code, §933.05(b)(2).) The CSSP is currently in place for the 2025-2026 school year and the School Site Council will meet at their earliest opportunity in October 2025 to sign off on the plan. For each upcoming school year, the School Site Council will sign off on the CSSP on or around May when they review and approve it.

With respect to all other aspects of this recommendation, these practices were implemented at all times prior to the Grand Jury Report and will continue to be

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implemented in the future. (Pen. Code, §933.05(b)(1).) It has always been and will continue to be CES' practice to provide key stakeholder participation in the development and approval of their CSSP. The School Site Council holds at least one meeting prior to final approval of the plans by the Board on or around May, to allow for input on the development of the plans.

- R2.b.** As part of that plan, CES should develop a written major disaster plan and share it with the district office, staff, and parents. Emergency supplies and a safe water supply should be safely stored in each room.

**Response:** With respect to the development of a written major disaster plan, this recommendation was implemented at all times prior to the Grand Jury Report and will continue to be implemented in the future. (Pen. Code, § 933.05(b)(1).) It has always been and will continue to be CES' practice to have a written major disaster plan. CES' major disaster plan is incorporated in the CSSP on pages 47 through 63. This plan is made publicly available to administration, staff and parents on the District's website.

With respect to storing emergency supplies and a safe water supply in each room at CES, this recommendation requires further analysis. (Pen. Code, §933.05(b)(3).)

**Explanation:** Each *classroom* at CES is stocked with emergency supplies, not including a safe water supply. We agree that a safe water supply would be valuable in the event of an emergency and will consider implementing this recommendation in the future. However, there may be instances where it is not practicable to store a water supply in every *room* at CES as recommended, depending on the nature of the room, the cost associated with doing so, and maintenance of the water supply in accordance with other regulations and guidelines. The timeframe for completion of our analysis will be no later than December 2025.

- R3.** CES should explore the implementation of exterior electronic devices to enhance the monitoring of student movement during school hours, as well as possible intruders prior to the new school year for 2025-2026. Additionally, the school should install a gated, age-appropriate play/exercise facility for TK and Kindergarten pupils.

**Response:** With respect to the implementation of exterior electronic devices, this recommendation has been implemented. (Pen. Code, § 933.05(b)(1).) The District explored the idea of enhancing the monitoring of student movement by implementing additional exterior devices. The school is in the process of installing devices on all steel gates leading to the exterior of the campus which alert school officials when exterior

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accessing doors are opened. CES estimates installation will be completed by September 2025.

With respect to installation of a gated age-appropriate play/exercise facility for TK and Kindergarten pupils, this recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. (Pen. Code, § 933.05(b)(4).)

**Explanation:** This recommendation is not warranted because the play/exercise facility for TK and Kindergarten pupils is both age-appropriate and is already enclosed by the larger perimeter fence surrounding the campus. We value your recommendations and the importance of campus safety. The District is currently engaged in a facilities master plan study with an anticipated delivery date to the Board of January 2026. Based on the results of this study, your recommendation of additional fencing may be an expenditure that CES would consider in the future, if reasonable.

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