Madera County Superintendent of Schools

2021 Williams Annual Report

Presented to

Chowchilla Elementary School District Board of Trustees

Madera Unified School District Board of Trustees

Madera County Board of Education

and

Madera County Board of Supervisors

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2021 Williams Site Visitation Annual Report
Required by
Terms of the Williams Settlement
November 2021

Background

In May 2000 the American Civil Liberties Union and other public interest advocates representing students across the state filed a lawsuit against the State of California, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education, and the California Department of Education. The lawsuit claimed that the State failed to provide poor and underprivileged students with equal educational opportunities. Allegations included that the following conditions existed in schools with poor and underprivileged students:

1. Lack of sufficient educational tools, e.g. textbooks, instructional materials.
2. Inadequate facilities, e.g. lack of heating/air conditioning, unclean restrooms, etc.
3. Lack of credentialed teachers.

The Williams Settlement covered a broad scope of issues regarding instructional materials, facilities maintenance, teacher credentialing and assignment monitoring, enhanced public reporting in the School Accountability Report Cards (SARC), and Year-Round Schools operating on the Concept 6 calendar [not a year-round calendar operating in Madera County at the time or since].

In August 2004 Governor Schwarzenegger settled this lawsuit. The initial result of the settlement was the enactment of five pieces of legislation to ensure monitoring of conditions at school sites with student scores in the lower third deciles or Deciles 1, 2, and 3 Schools on the 2003 Academic Performance Index (API). An additional outcome was a new oversight role for county superintendents for schools in deciles 1-3 on the 2003 base API. Subsequent legislation changed the API base year from 2003 to more current API deciles 1-3 schools for the purpose of school sites subject to site visitations.

While some reporting requirements applied to all school sites and school districts in Madera County, the current list of schools visited is based on the 2012 Base Academic Performance Index. (Ed. Code Section 1240)

Site visitations require verification of sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials; the adequacy, health and safety of school facilities; appropriate posting of the uniform complaint procedures [UCP]; and review of School Accountability Report Cards [SARC]. While monitoring of teacher credentialing, vacancies and misassignments were initially part of the Williams settlement, the passage of AB 1219 in 2019 moved this monitoring to the spring separate from this report.

The findings of the required visitations are to be reported to the governing boards of those schools, the Madera County Board of Education, and to the Madera County Board of Supervisors. This report contains the findings of visits to the school sites in the two Madera County school districts subject to site reviews. Those schools were Fairmead Elementary and Wilson Middle in the Chowchilla Elementary School District; and Alpha Elementary, Cesar Chavez Elementary, Jack G. Desmond Middle, Dixieland Elementary, Thomas Jefferson Middle, La Vina Elementary, Madera South High, James Madison Elementary, Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle, Millview Elementary, James Monroe Elementary, Nishimoto Elementary, Parkwood Elementary, and George Washington Elementary in the Madera Unified School District.

The visits as specified in California Education Code Section 1240 are:

1. To ensure that students have access to sufficient instructional materials in four core subject areas of English language arts, including the English language development component, mathematics, history/social science and science in all schools visited, plus world language and health at the secondary level; and

2. To assess compliance with facilities maintenance to determine the condition of a facility that poses an emergency or urgent threat to the health or safety of pupils or staff; and

3. To determine if the school has provided accurate data for the annual school accountability report card related to instructional materials and facilities maintenance; and

The standards set forth in the law define “sufficient” instructional materials to mean every pupil, including English learners, has a textbook and/or instructional materials in the four/six core areas to use in class and have access at home each night. Facilities standards for each school district receiving state funding for facilities maintenance are required to establish a facilities inspection program and to ensure

that each of its schools is maintained in good repair. "Good repair" is defined as maintaining schools that are clean, safe, and functional.

The School Site Review Team is required to visit a minimum of 25% of core curriculum classrooms at the elementary level, and 20% of sections of core subjects at the secondary level with a prescribed array of programs, e.g. review of courses for English Language Learners. Additionally, ancillary facilities such as restrooms, multipurpose rooms, computer labs, libraries, resource classrooms, and special day classrooms are subject to site review.

Findings

Findings in the required areas were as follows:

I. **Access and Sufficiency of Instructional Materials in the Four Core Areas**
Of the sixteen school sites visited, the following findings apply to access and sufficiency of instructional materials. Site reports contain additional information regarding findings that may have been remedied during the site visit.

Chowchilla Elementary School District

Board of Trustees Sufficiency Hearing and Action: At the September 13, 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, a public hearing on "Sufficiency of Approved Textbooks & Instructional Materials" was held. Following the public hearing, the Board passed Resolution #2021-22.2 - Sufficiency of Approved Textbooks & Instructional Materials, in which a sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials was declared.

Site Visitation Findings: Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Fairmead Elementary and Wilson Middle Schools: It was found that there was a sufficiency of instructional materials for students in all classrooms visited.

Madera Unified School District

Board of Trustees Sufficiency Hearing and Action: At the September 28, 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, a public hearing on "Textbook and

Instructional Material Compliance and Certification of Provision of Sufficient Standards-Aligned Instructional Materials for Grades K-12" was held. Following the public hearing, the Board passed Resolution No. 12-2021/22: Textbook and Instructional Material Compliance and Certification of Provision of Sufficient Standards-Aligned Instructional Materials for Grades K-12.

Site Visitation Findings: Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Alpha, Cesar Chavez, Dixieland, La Vina, James Madison, Millview, James Monroe, Nishimoto, Parkwood, and George Washington Elementary Schools; Jack G. Desmond, Martin Luther King Jr., and Thomas Jefferson Middle Schools; Madera South High School: It was found that there was a sufficiency of instructional materials for students in all classrooms visited.

II. **Required Classroom Postings for Uniform Complaint Procedures**

The required and up-to-date Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures notification was properly posted throughout the sixteen school sites reviewed in each of the two school districts.

III. Verification of Data on School Accountability Report Card (SARC)

Remote review of SARCs for the sixteen schools was conducted by a Madera County Superintendent of Schools' Williams Team member. Review of SARCs for the Chowchilla Elementary School District and Madera Unified School District schools revealed SARCs were up to date in all sixteen schools reviewed as per current State Board of Education template requirements.

IV. Facilities Review Based on the Facilities Inspection Tool (FIT) Developed by OPSC

A thorough review of the sixteen school sites was conducted using the State of California mandated Facilities Inspection Tool (FIT) developed by the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC). In the typical facilities school site review, district office level maintenance and operations representative(s) and the school site maintenance and operations staff accompanied review team member(s). This process serves to enhance the understanding of the need for corrective actions. Maintenance and operations staff members were accommodating in the process. District and site personnel responded with written statements as to any immediate corrective actions taken.

Chowchilla Elementary School District

Certification was received verifying that corrective action was taken on the two findings. At the time this report was written, there were no facilities findings for the schools visited in Chowchilla Elementary.

Madera Unified School District

Certification was received verifying that corrective action has been/will be taken on findings. The following represents the remaining finding scheduled for corrective action:

James Monroe Elementary School

There is one floor electrical outlet cover on order to replace the one that is missing in the library. It anticipated it will be received and replaced by the middle of November 2021.