

**Madera County Superintendent of Schools  
2020 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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**Madera County Superintendent of Schools**

2020 Williams Site Visitation Annual Report  
Required by  
Terms of the Williams Settlement  
November 2020

**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]; review of School Accountability Report Cards [SARC]; and information relative to teacher credentialing, vacancies, and assignments.

In September 2020 CA Senate Bill 820 was approved by the Governor Newsom. It provides the following exemptions to the *Williams* inspection requirements during the portion of the 2019-20 school year in which schools were closed during the pandemic, and during the 2020-21 school year:

- The county superintendent of schools may rely on information obtained through means other than a physical visit to the school site, including school administrator or teacher surveys, to complete the required annual report for deciles 1-3 schools.
- Waives the requirement for the county superintendent of schools to annually conduct a visit of deciles 1-3 schools for any school that does not offer in-person instruction from March 2020 to June 2021, inclusive. If a school resumes in-person instruction and the county superintendent is unable to visit the school site in sufficient time to include observations in the annual report, the site shall be prioritized for a visit as soon as possible during the following school year.
- Waives the requirement that 25% of the deciles 1-3 site visits be unannounced. An unannounced visit may still be undertaken at the discretion of the county superintendent in compliance with local and state public health orders and guidance.

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 obtained through a review of required documentation for 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, mathematics, history/social science and science in all schools visited, plus foreign 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
4. To determine teacher vacancies, assignments and credentials.

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. Site principals have signed an assurance for sufficient instructional materials, as students are learning from home at the time this report was written. 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. Because of the pandemic and the fact that school sites were closed during the first 20 days of instruction and continue to be closed, facility monitoring will be conducted on site at a later time in the 2020-2021 school year when students have returned to school.

The teacher vacancies, assignments, and credentialing are required components of the Annual Report since 2007; however, with the passage of AB 1219, credential and teacher vacancy results will be moved to the spring.

## **Findings**

Findings in the required areas were as follows:

### **I. Access and Sufficiency of Instructional Materials in the Core Areas**

The Principals of the sixteen schools monitored assure that their students have the core instructional materials adopted by their school boards.

### **Chowchilla Elementary School District**

Board of Trustees Sufficiency Hearing and Action: At the September 14, 2020 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 #2020/21.2 - Sufficiency of Approved Textbooks & Instructional Materials, in which a sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials was declared.

### **Madera Unified School District**

Board of Trustees Sufficiency Hearing and Action: At the October 13, 2020 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. 8-2020/2021: Textbook and Instructional Material Compliance and Certification of Provision of Sufficient Standards-Aligned Instructional Materials for Grades K-12.

## **II. 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.

## **III. Facilities Review Based on the Facilities Inspection Tool (FIT) Developed by OPSC**

A thorough review of the sixteen school sites will be conducted using the State of California mandated Facilities Inspection Tool (FIT) developed by the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) at a later date during the 2020-2021 school year provided that the Public Health Directives are lifted in Madera County and school

visitations can be conducted. 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.

#### **IV. Teacher Vacancy, Assignment, and Credentialing**

The passage of AB 1219 changes the certificated assignment monitoring timeline and responsibilities of the Superintendent of Schools in that process. Effective with the 2019/2020 school year, all school districts, county offices, and charter schools will be annually monitored by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), and county offices of education. CTC will produce lists of potential misassignments in the spring each year for school districts and county offices to clarify or correct. This data will be released each spring and districts will have the opportunity to clarify and correct that data in the 60 days following its release. The 2019/2020 data was not released when expected because of the impact of COVID-19, and is not intended to be released publicly as this was the first year the data was gathered and reported out by CTC. The 2020/2021 school year data is to be released in the Spring of 2021 and at that time, MCSOS will produce a report and send to those entities that are to be informed.