

2008 Williams Site Visitation Annual Report
Required by
Terms of the Williams Settlement
November 2008

Background

In May 2000, the ACLU 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].

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). One 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 the 2006 API deciles 1-3 schools for the purpose of school sites subject to site visitations. For Madera County this meant Madera High School, Madera South High in the Madera Unified School District; Chowchilla High in the Chowchilla Union High School District; and Fuller Elementary School in the Chowchilla School District achieved scores in decile 4 or above and were no longer subject to site visitations. However, Chawanakee Academy of the Chawanakee Unified School District fell into decile 3 and was subject to site visitation. Due to a significant number of students coming from schools in deciles 1-3, two new schools in the Madera

Unified School District, Nishimoto Elementary and Jack G. Desmond Middle schools required site visitations.

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.

While some reporting requirements applied to all school sites and school districts in Madera County, the Madera County Superintendent of Schools requirement to conduct school site visitations is limited to those schools in deciles 1-3 on the 2006 API.

California Education Code Section 1240 requires the county superintendent to visit those schools in Madera County identified as performing in deciles 1-3 on the 2006 API. The findings of those visitations are to be reported to the governing boards of those schools and to the Madera County Board of Supervisors. This report contains the findings of visits to the school sites in the three Madera County school districts subject to site reviews. Those schools were Fairmead Elementary and Wilson Middle schools of the Chowchilla School District; Chawanakee Academy of the Chawanakee Unified School District; and Alpha, La Vina, Madison, Millview, Monroe, Nishimoto, Sierra Vista, and Washington schools; Martin Luther King, Jr. and Desmond Middle Schools of the Madera Unified School District.

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

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;” 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 in the four core areas to use in class and to take home each night to complete required homework assignments. 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.

As required by law, 25% of the visitations are to be unannounced. Four of the 13 schools visited in Madera County were unannounced visits: La Vina and Nishimoto Elementary schools, and Desmond and Martin Luther King Jr. Middle Schools of the Madera Unified School District received unannounced visitations. Site visitations occurred within the first 4 weeks of the applicable school year as mandated.

The teacher vacancies, assignments, and credentialing are required components of the Annual Report since 2007.

Findings

Findings in the required areas were as follows:

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

Of the 13 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 or immediately following the site visitation.

Chawanakee Unified School District

Board of Trustees Sufficiency Hearing and Action: The Chawanakee Unified School District Board of Trustees declared its sufficiency of instructional materials with the passage of Resolution #8-2008/2009 at its September 11, 2008 meeting.

Site Visitation Findings: Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Chawanakee Academy: There was a sufficiency of instructional materials in the classrooms visited.

Chowchilla School District

Board of Trustees Sufficiency Hearing and Action: At the October 6, 2008 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, a public hearing on sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials was held. Following the public hearing, the Board passed Resolution 2008-09.4

Availability of Textbooks and Instructional Materials 2008-2009 School Year in which a sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials was declared.

Site Visitation Findings: Textbooks and Instructional Materials
Fairmead Elementary and Wilson Middle Schools: 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 23, 2008 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, a public hearing on “Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance and Certification” was held. Following the public hearing, the Board passed Resolution #5-2008/09: Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance and Certification of Provision of Sufficient Standards-Aligned Instructional Materials for Grades K-12.

Note: The new county-wide business software accounted for some delays in receipt of some instructional materials, namely consumable practice books. District or site personnel provided regular updates as to availability of materials, and all materials were received prior to Board of Trustees’ September 23rd declaration of sufficiency of instructional materials.

Site Visitation Findings: Textbooks and Instructional Materials
Alpha, La Vina, Madison, Millview, Monroe, Nishimoto, Sierra Vista, and Washington Elementary Schools; Desmond and Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle Schools: It was found that there was a sufficiency of instructional materials for students in all classrooms visited or that immediate corrective action was taken as certified in individual site reports.

II. Required Classroom Postings for Uniform Complaint Procedures

The required and up-to-date Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures notification was properly posted throughout the 13 school sites reviewed in each of the three school districts. Any outdated postings were removed and replaced with the appropriate up-to-date postings.

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

Remote review of SARCs for decile 1-3 schools was conducted by a Madera County Office of Education Williams Team member. Review of SARCs for the Chowchilla School District and Chawanakee Unified School District schools revealed SARCs were up to date as per current State Board of Education template requirements.

Information required in the SARCs can be found easily on each of the school’s websites in Madera Unified School District. Please note specific information required for Williams compliance for instructional materials and facilities are linked from the SARC document to separate documents on the website. Williams guidelines specify required textbook and facility information be included in the body of the SARC document. With a reported change

in SARC publication vendor for display of current year SARC reports, it is anticipated this format will be utilized.

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

A thorough review of the 13 school sites was conducted using the State of California mandated Facilities Inspection Tool 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 and were able to describe or delineate future deferred maintenance or modernization projects and projected schedules. District or site personnel also responded with written statements as to any immediate corrective actions taken.

Chawanakee Unified School District

School Site Visitation Findings: Facilities

Chawanakee Academy:

- Certification was received verifying that corrective action has been/will be taken on all findings reported in the site visitation report with some exceptions. No documentation of corrective action or planned corrective action was submitted for the following:
 - Lighthouse Site:
 - Bent top rail on portions of the north fence
 - Unfinished east fence
 - Large cracks in the sidewalks at the front and rear of the mail building
 - Very small classroom for the seventeen Kindergarten students
 - North Fork Site:
 - Buckling seal throughout the two panes of glass near the door of the classroom
 - Sierra View Site:
 - Dead insects on the window sills
 - Live spiders above the window

Chowchilla School District

School Site Visitation Findings: Facilities

Certification was received verifying that corrective action has been/will be taken on all findings. The following represent those findings scheduled for corrective action:

Fairmead School:

- Erosion gully outside of water well scheduled to be concreted November 2008.

- Irrigation system scheduled to be split in November 2008 in order to obtain maximum water pressure for improved irrigation of grounds.
- Burrowing animals will be baited and holes will be filled in November 2008.
- Areas of the blacktop and concrete will be refinished during summer 2009.
- Tree roots causing trip hazards in blacktop area will be trimmed during summer 2009.
- Basketball poles and backboards will be replaced during summer 2009.
- New rain gutters are scheduled to be installed in December 2008.
- Tree branches rubbing power/telephone lines are scheduled to be trimmed in January 2009.

Wilson School:

- Room 13 had a moldy/musty odor. The teacher and students were moved the day of the site visitation to an empty classroom on campus, and the air conditioning unit was thoroughly cleaned the following day. The district also had a hazardous materials company inspect the classroom for mold growth one week after the Williams team visited. The inspection determined that the mold level was within the normal range. The teacher and students returned to Room 13 after the inspection. The room is scheduled for deep cleaning during the December break, and all old and unused materials will be removed.
- Deep cleaning of student restrooms is scheduled during November break.
- Missing vents where cats are nesting are scheduled to be replaced during December break after cats have been caught.
- Siding on greenhouse is scheduled to be replaced summer 2009.
- Meeting with City of Chowchilla is scheduled in fall 2008 to apprise City of the extent of the disrepair of the sidewalk on the corner of Robertson Blvd. and 13th.
- The center courtyard's concrete and tree root problems are scheduled for repair during summer 2009.
- Deep cleaning of classrooms is scheduled for November and December 2009 breaks.
- Cabinets in need of refinishing are scheduled for December 2009.

Madera Unified School District

School Site Visitations: Facilities

Certification was received verifying that corrective action has been/will be taken on findings. The following represent only those schools where findings are scheduled for corrective action or where corrective action has not been certified as completed at that specified school site(s):

La Vina:

- West fence is scheduled to be replaced this fiscal year.

- Chipped Formica on a bookcase – work order request was submitted by school, but it is uncertain what action will be taken.
- Door blowers to keep flies out of cafeteria – work order request was submitted, but it is uncertain what action will be taken.

Martin Luther King Jr.:

- The large cracks in the basketball court area have been placed on the deferred maintenance schedule, but date for repairs was not specified.
- No documentation was provided about planned repairs to the scratched mirrors in the boys' restroom in the gymnasium.
- It should be noted that the floors, windowsills, and countertops were messy and dirty in all the classrooms visited.

Millview:

- Perimeter fencing is scheduled to be replaced during summer 2009.
- Concrete base along edge of northeast field posing a trip hazard is scheduled to be removed in the winter of 08-09.
- No documentation was provided regarding the exposed bolts and worn paint on the northeast backstop.
- No documentation was provided regarding the repainting of wooden ball boxes in rooms 2, 8, 12 and 17, nor the repainting of a metal bookshelf and metal cabinet in Room P1.

Monroe:

- Fencing on the east and west side of the school is scheduled to be replaced during summer 2009.
- Remodeling of restrooms will be scheduled during 2008-2009 school year as part of deferred maintenance.

Sierra Vista:

- The district is to be commended on the remodeling of the school office that is currently taking place. This will allow for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Loose fencing is scheduled to be repaired during summer 2009.

Washington:

- Washington's administration is to be commended on the work that took place to clean a specific classroom that had noted in several previous Williams visits as being quite cluttered and messy. This room is now spacious, clean and orderly.
- Both section and perimeter fencing on all sides of the campus is scheduled to be replaced during the 2008-2009 school year.
- New drinking fountain fixtures are scheduled to be replaced during the 2008-2009 school year.
- The concrete in the play court area is scheduled to be replaced in summer 2009.

- The repainting of the nurse's office and the portable buildings on the west side of the campus will be scheduled to be repainted, but it was not specified when the painting will occur.
- All exterior doors and casings on all classrooms and all railings on the portable classrooms are scheduled to be repainted in summer 2009.

V. Teacher Vacancy, Assignment, and Credentialing

Teacher assignments, credentials and English Learner student data have been monitored for the schools below. This monitoring revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies.

Chawanakee Unified School District: Chawanakee Academy –Chawanakee Academy has no classes with 20% or more English Learners.

Chowchilla School District: Fairmead Elementary – Fairmead Elementary School has 18 classes with 20% or more English Learners. Wilson Middle School has 100 departmentalized classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Madera Unified School District: Alpha Elementary, La Vina Elementary, Madison Elementary, Millview Elementary, Monroe Elementary, Nishimoto Elementary and Washington Elementary - A total of 203 classes within these schools have 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Teacher assignments, credentials and English Learner student data have been monitored for the schools below. This monitoring revealed misassignments as follows:

Madera Unified School District: Sierra Vista Elementary - The review of teachers assigned to Sierra Vista Elementary School revealed one teacher misassignment due to lack of English Learner Authorization, and no vacancies. Districts have 30 calendar days to correct any misassignments as of the date of notification. Further information regarding the correction of this misassignment will be included in the second quarterly report. Sierra Vista Elementary School has 30 classes with 20% or more English Learners. 97% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

County credentialing staff will begin monitoring assignments of the teachers in the schools listed below:

Madera Unified School District: Desmond Middle and Martin Luther King Jr. Middle – No vacancies have been reported for either school site. Assignment monitoring findings for these schools will be reported in the second quarterly report.

In the three school districts subject to site visitations, site and district staff members provided clarification to questions, were attentive to findings and made every effort to correct any finding that was readily remedied. Teachers and students were cooperative and appeared well informed about the purpose of the Williams Team visit.