

# **Madera County Superintendent of Schools**

## **2009 Annual Report: Williams Site Visitations**

**Presented to**

**Chowchilla Elementary School District Board of Trustees**

**Chawanakee Unified 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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**November 2009**

## 2009 Williams Site Visitation Annual Report

Required by  
Terms of the Williams Settlement  
November 2009

### 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 Elementary Schools; and 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: Monroe, Alpha, and Madison Elementary Schools of the Madera Unified School District and Chawanakee Academy of the Chawanakee 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, soon following the site visitation, or by the eighth week of school .

#### 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 #2-2009/2010 at its September 10, 2009 meeting.

Site Visitation Findings: Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Chawanakee Academy: Chawanakee Academy is an independent study program. They received an unannounced visit, and at the time of the visit there were not any students present at either the Spring Valley campus nor the North Fork classroom. Sufficiency was demonstrated through school site documentation.

Chowchilla Elementary School District

Board of Trustees Sufficiency Hearing and Action: At the September 28, 2009 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 #2009-10.1 Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials 2009-2010 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 October 27, 2009 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 No. 17-2009/10: Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance and Certification of Provision of Sufficient Standards-Aligned Instructional Materials for Grades K-12.

Note: At the September 22, 2009 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 No. 11-2009/10: Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance and Certification of Provision of Sufficient Standards-Aligned Instructional Materials for Grades K-12. Whereas, information provided at the public hearing and to the governing board at the public meeting detailed that insufficient textbooks or instructional materials were provided to students in the following subjects and grade levels:

Chavez Elementary	Grade 5 ELA Practice Book	97% (86/89)
Millview Elementary	Grade 5 ELA Practice Book	11% (12/111)
Lincoln Elementary	Grade 5 ELA Practice Book	20% (20/102)

The identified insufficiency was remedied as of October 5, 2009, the eighth week of school, and a new resolution of sufficiency of instructional materials was brought to the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on October 27, 2009.

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, that immediate corrective action was taken as certified in individual site reports, or that requisitions were already in place to purchase instructional materials to remedy shortages.

## **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.

Note: Each year all districts in Madera County submit quarterly reports on Williams Uniform Complaints to the Madera County Superintendent of Schools. Bass Lake Joint Union Elementary School District reported in their October 2009 quarterly report that a parent inadvertently completed and submitted a uniform complaint form at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year stating her student lacked textbooks or instructional materials to use in class. The district determined that due to the parent's limited English abilities, the Williams complaint was a misunderstanding, and that the District does have sufficient textbooks and instructional materials.

## **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 Elementary School District, Chawanakee Unified School District and Madera Unified School District schools revealed SARCs were up to date 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 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 and/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. The following represent those findings scheduled for corrective action this school year:

Spring Valley Campus:

- Room 25: There is one sagging ceiling tile and one loose ceiling tile.
- Room 25: There is chipped paint on the white bookcase.

The following represents those findings that will receive corrective action before Kindergarten students re-enter Room 23 in November at the Spring Valley Campus because of safety issues:

- There is a cable cord hanging loose on the wall by the television.
- The front of the counter top is chipped and has sharp edges in several locations.

Chowchilla Elementary 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 Elementary:

- **The well is still a health issue with low/inconsistent pressure. This is an issue for the Madera County Government. The County Board of Supervisors has obtained a grant for phase 1 of replacing the well. They need 2<sup>nd</sup> phase to obtain a storage tank.**
- The boy's restroom closest to the office will have a lock replaced on a partition when the new part is received.
- In December 2009 the small northeast structure on the playground will be painted.
- In December 2009 the window sills and casings will be painted in the original classroom wings.

Wilson Middle School:

- When new batteries are received, they will be placed in all the exit signs in the gymnasium to allow signs to function with battery backup.
- In December 2009 the large crack in the wall where the tile meets the cement wall will be repaired in the girls' restroom in the gymnasium.
- During the summer 2010 break, the following items will receive corrective action in the gymnasium:
  - The lower red walls have scuffed paint.
  - The upper white walls are very dusty/dirty.
  - There are holes in the walls.

- During the summer 2010 break, the following items will receive corrective action in the classrooms:
  - Room 1: The cabinets are scratched.
  - Room 8: There are stains on the carpet.
  - Rooms 11 & 27: The wall covering is torn.
  - Room 21: The wall covering is torn and dirty.
  - Room 25: There are scratched cabinets and dirty wall coverings.
  - Room 29: The carpet is worn.

### 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):

#### Desmond Middle School:

- The protective grate around the tree in front of the library is broken and has sharp edges. The sharp edges have been covered until the grate can be replaced this year.

#### La Vina Elementary:

- The basketball court has gravel in the asphalt protruding from ¼ to ½ inch. It will be resurfaced in the summer of 2010.

#### Madison Elementary:

- The wall baseboards in Room K-A are peeling and are scheduled to be replaced this school year.

#### Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School:

- The baseball fields need to be cleaned and leveled to eliminate injuries. The softball fields need to be leveled and edged. This work is scheduled for spring 2010.
- The basketball courts have gravel exposed from ¼ inch to ½ inch and the asphalt has from 1 inch to 2 inch cracks in the play court area that can cause tripping. They will be resurfaced in summer 2010.

#### Millview Elementary:

- There is standing water next to Room P5.
- There are unused tree poles that need to be removed along the fence line.



- There is a hole adjacent to the tree next to the southeast corner of the tetherball court.
- There are gopher holes at the 3<sup>rd</sup> tree from the northeast backstop – work order has been submitted.
- There is standing water at the northern soccer goal, the northeast backstop, various areas in the play field, and along the fence line – work orders have been submitted.

#### Monroe Elementary:

- The carpet is worn and frayed in Room 22.
- By Room 40: There is standing water around surrounding trees and large exposed roots posing a trip hazard.
- There are sharp tips and missing slats in the fence by the planters – parts are on order.
- There are missing slats on the fence by the north apartments – parts have been ordered.
- The pink slide is weathered and cracked on the north play structure – new slide has been ordered.
- There is a low area between the lawn and the sidewalk near Room 19 posing a trip hazard – work order has been submitted.

#### Nishimoto Elementary:

- The area of the west fence line, from the north to the south, has dead grass in need of watering. This is possibly due to some sprinkler heads being removed and lying on the ground. There also appears to be a rodent problem in the area – work order was submitted.
- The grass in the northwest corner is very dry. It appears that the sprinklers in that area are not working and need to be repaired – work order was submitted.
- There is a rodent problem along the west fence line – work order was submitted.
- The rubber surface was removed from the Kindergarten playground near the slides and the monkey bars and needs to be reapplied – work scheduled to be done.
- Room 1502: There are chipped and dirty ceiling tiles that need to be replaced – work order submitted.

#### Sierra Vista Elementary:

- There is standing water along the fence line by the northeast transformer – work order has been submitted.

#### Washington Elementary:

- Room 13: The bookshelves have chipped/cracked paint – on custodian's to-do list.
- Room 13: The shelves need paint – on custodian's to-do list.
- Room 26: The book shelves have peeling paint - on custodian's to-do list.
- The third set of boys' rest rooms: The entry needs paint – scheduled to be painted in summer 2010.

- All fixtures in every set of restrooms need to be resurfaced – scheduled to be done in 2009-2010 school year.
- On the play court area the drains are plugged and the concrete is unlevel and has numerous cracks and holes – scheduled to be resurfaced in 2009-2010 school year.
- Buildings 31 through 34 need paint – scheduled to be painted in summer 2010.

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

### **Chawanakee Unified School District**

Chawanakee Academy – The review of teachers assigned to Chawanakee Academy revealed no teacher vacancies or misassignments. Chawanakee Academy has no classes with 20% or more English Learners.

### **Chowchilla Elementary School District**

Fairmead Elementary – The review of teachers assigned to Fairmead Elementary School revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Fairmead Elementary School has 13 self-contained classes and 1 departmentalized class with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Wilson Middle School – The review of teachers assigned to Wilson Middle School revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Wilson Middle School has 59 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 - The review of teachers assigned to Alpha Elementary School revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Alpha Elementary School has 23 classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Desmond Middle School – The review of teachers assigned to Desmond Middle School revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Desmond Middle School has 122 departmentalized classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School – The review of teachers assigned to King Middle School revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. King Middle School has 137 departmentalized classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

La Vina Elementary - The review of teachers assigned to La Vina Elementary School revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. La Vina Elementary School has 31 classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Madison Elementary - The review of teachers assigned to Madison Elementary School revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Madison Elementary School has 17 classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Millview Elementary - The review of teachers assigned to Millview Elementary School revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Millview Elementary School has 31 classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Monroe Elementary - The review of teachers assigned to Monroe Elementary School revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Monroe Elementary School has 24 classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Nishimoto Elementary - The review of teachers assigned to Nishimoto Elementary School revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Nishimoto Elementary School has 26 classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Sierra Vista Elementary - The review of teachers assigned to Sierra Vista Elementary School revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Sierra Vista Elementary School has 24 classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Washington Elementary - The review of teachers assigned to Washington Elementary School revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Washington Elementary School has 21 classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

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.