

Madera County Superintendent of Schools

2010 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

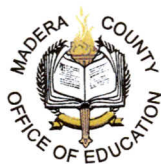
Madera County Board of Supervisors

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2010 Williams Site Visitation Annual Report

Required by
Terms of the Williams Settlement
November 2010

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 the 2007-2010 school years. 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 Elementary 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.

The API base year changed again from 2006 to 2009 deciles 1-3 schools for the purpose of school site visitations for the 2010-2013 school years. For Madera County this meant that Wilson Middle School in the Chowchilla Elementary School District and Sierra Vista Elementary in the Madera Unified School District achieved scores of decile 4 or above and were no longer subject to site visitations. However, Ronald Reagan Elementary School in the Chowchilla Elementary School District fell into decile 3 and Cesar Chavez Elementary School and Madera South High in the Madera Unified fell into deciles 2 and 3 respectively. La Vina Elementary School in the Madera Unified School District achieved an API score ranking them in decile 5 on the 2009 base API. Because of their participation in the Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA), they are required to be monitored for Williams by the county superintendent of schools per California Education Code Section 52055.740.

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 2009 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 2009 API, and California Education Code Section 52055.740 requires school participating in QEIA be visited. Additionally 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 and Reagan Elementary Schools of the Chowchilla Elementary School District; Chawanakee Academy of the Chawanakee Unified School District; and Alpha, Chavez, La Vina, Madison, Millview, Monroe, Nishimoto, and Washington Elementary Schools; and Martin Luther King, Jr. and Desmond Middle Schools; and Madera South High School 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 textbooks as defined in Section 60119” of California Education Code, in the subject areas of English/language arts, mathematics, history/social science, science, foreign language and health, and sufficient laboratory science equipment for grades 9-12; 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 "the safety, cleanliness, and adequacy of school facilities, including good repair;" 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 plus foreign language and health to use in class and to take home each. 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 14 schools visited in Madera County were unannounced visits: Fairmead and Reagan Elementary Schools of the Chowchilla Elementary School District and Washington Elementary and Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School 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

Of the 14 school sites visited, the following findings apply to access and sufficiency of instructional materials. Site visitation reports contain additional information regarding findings that may have been remedied during or soon following the site visitation.

Chawanakee Unified School District

Board of Trustees Sufficiency Hearing and Action: At the September 14, 2010 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 #2-2010-2011 Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for the 2010-2011 School Year in which a sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials was declared.

Site Visitation Findings: Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Chawanakee Academy: Chawanakee Academy is an independent study program. At the time of the site visit no students/parents were present on the Spring Valley campus, and two students with their parent were present in the North Fork classroom. Each student present had sufficient instructional materials. Further sufficiency was demonstrated through school site documentation. There was a sufficiency of laboratory science equipment.

Chowchilla Elementary School District

Board of Trustees Sufficiency Hearing and Action: At the September 27, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, a public hearing on sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials was held. Following the public hearing, the Board passed Resolution #2010-11.1 Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials 2010-2011 School Year in which a sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials was declared.

Site Visitation Findings: Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Fairmead and Reagan Elementary 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 28, 2010 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. 12-2010/2011: Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance and Certification of Provision of Sufficient Standards-Aligned Instructional Materials for Grades K-12.

Site Visitation Findings: Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Alpha, Chavez, La Vina, Madison, Millview, Monroe, Nishimoto, and Washington Elementary Schools; Desmond and Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle Schools; and Madera South High

School: It was found that there was a sufficiency of instructional materials for students in all classrooms visited, that immediate corrective action was taken, or that corrective action was taken within three days of the visitation as certified in individual site reports. There was a sufficiency of laboratory science equipment at Madera South High School.

II. Required Classroom Postings for Uniform Complaint Procedures

The required and up-to-date Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures notification was properly posted throughout the 14 school sites reviewed in each of the three school districts.

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

Remote review of SARCs for the 14 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 14 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. The following represent those findings scheduled for corrective action during winter break:

Spring Valley Campus:

- Repair siding on south wall of restrooms and room 24.
- Repair skirting and paint ramp on room 23.
- Paint east wall of restrooms.

Chowchilla Elementary School District

School Site Visitation Findings: Facilities

Certification was received verifying that corrective action has been taken on all findings reported in the site visitation report. The following represent those findings requiring correction from the County of Madera or the City of Chowchilla:

Fairmead Elementary:

- **The well is still a health issue with low/inconsistent pressure. This is an issue for the Madera County Government. The Chowchilla Elementary School District Superintendent continues to communicate with Madera County to have the issue remedied.**

Reagan Elementary:

- The Chowchilla Elementary School District Superintendent is in communication with the City of Chowchilla for the irrigation of the grass median strip and planting strips that line Fig Tree Road on the approach to the school. Lack of proper irrigation is causing the lawn to die.

Madera Unified 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 only those schools where findings are scheduled for corrective action:

Chavez Elementary School:

- The dead tree inside the play yard near the ponding basin is scheduled to be removed in November.
- The receiving area outside the kitchen is fenced off from the playground with a cinder block wall; however, on the playground side, there is a gap between the block wall and a round pillar that a child could fit through, getting into an area where vehicles come and go and accessing the cafeteria kitchen. This gap is scheduled to be closed during the winter break.
- The carpet in room 601 is scheduled to be replaced during the winter break.

Desmond Middle School:

- The non-functioning hand dryers in the boys' restroom on the 300 wing and the girls' locker room will be repaired as soon as the ordered parts have been received.

La Vina Elementary:

- The excessive clutter in room 6 continues to be removed.

Madera South High:

- The cracked tile by the drinking fountain at the central restrooms and the missing tile by the north drinking fountain are scheduled to be replaced when the tiles on order have been received.
- The heavy water stains on the exterior of the windows on the ground floor of the Academic A building continue to be removed.

Madison Elementary:

- The tree growing into the south fence is scheduled to be removed by the end of November.
- The loose carpet is scheduled to be repaired during the November break.

Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School:

- The soiled carpet in rooms 6 and 22 are scheduled to be cleaned during the winter break.
- Room 8: The lack of drainage on the front and side of this building is causing the wall inside the classroom to rust badly. District grounds staff are investigating a way to install a drainage system.

V. Teacher Vacancy, Assignment, and Credentialing

Teacher assignments, credentials and English Learner student data have been monitored for the 14 schools:

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 and Ronald Reagan Elementary – The review of teachers assigned to these schools revealed no teacher vacancies or misassignments. A total of 37 classes

within these schools have 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Madera Unified School District:

Alpha Elementary; Cesar Chavez Elementary; George Washington Elementary; Jack G. Desmond Middle; James Madison Elementary; James Monroe Elementary; La Vina Elementary; Millview Elementary and Nishimoto Elementary. The review of teachers assigned to these schools revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. A total of 293 classes within these schools have 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Madera South High School – The review of teachers assigned to Madera South High School revealed ten teacher misassignments as follows:

- Four due to the lack of a English learner authorizations
- Three due to the placement of teachers in grade levels not authorized by their credentials
- Three due to the placement of teachers in subjects not authorized by their credentials

Madera South High School has 281 departmentalized classes with 20% or more English Learners. 95.5% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization. No vacancies were reported for Madera South High School.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School – The review of teachers assigned to Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School revealed one teacher misassignment due to the placement of a teacher in a subject not authorized by his credential. Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School has 132 departmentalized classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization. No vacancies were reported for Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School.

Madera Unified School District plans to remedy misassignments for Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School and Madera South High School as appropriate for each assignment and individual, as follows:

- Obtain or renew the appropriate credential, permit or waiver for the assignment from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.
- With consent of the School Board, authorize local teaching assignments through various Education Code options, such as:
 - EC§44258.3 - Assessment Panel
 - EC§44256(b) and EC§44263 - Board Resolution
 - EC§44258.7(c)(d) - Committee on Assignment

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing requires that misassignments be corrected within 30 calendar days of when the school district is notified that a misassignment exists. Therefore, the eleven misassignments within Madera Unified are anticipated to be corrected on or before November 17, 2010.

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.