

# **Madera County Superintendent of Schools**

## **2011 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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## 2011 Williams Site Visitation Annual Report

Required by  
Terms of the Williams Settlement  
November, 2011

### Background

In May, 2000, the American Civil Liberties Union (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.

Schools are selected for participation in the monitoring visits based on their decile rankings on the Base API released in the spring of each year. The cohort for the current monitoring cycle will continue to be monitored through the 2013 school year. Decile rankings of 1 -3 in the 2009 Base API is the criteria for schools to receive a monitoring visit. La Vina Elementary School in the Madera Unified School District achieved an API decile ranking of 5 on the 2009 base API. However, 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. In total staff from the Madera County Superintendent of Schools Office made a total of 14 school site visits during the first four weeks of instruction in 3 school districts: Chawanakee Unified School District, Chowchilla Elementary School District, and Madera Unified School District. 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.

Even though reporting requirements apply to all school sites and school districts in Madera County, California Education Code Section 1240 requires the county superintendent to visit only 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 school districts 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: Chavez, Millview, and Nishimoto Elementary School and Desmond 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 13, 2011 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 #6-2011-2012 Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for the 2011-2012 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 at either the Spring Valley campus or the North Fork classroom. Sufficiency of instructional materials 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 12, 2011 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 #2011-12.1 Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials 2011-2012 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 27, 2011 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. 09-2011/12: 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.

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 continuing monitoring and/or work with the County of Madera:

Fairmead Elementary:

- Water pressure issues are still a concern at Fairmead. The grounds show a lack of watering due to the water company asking the school to refrain from watering those fields due to the high consumption of water. After discussion with the Superintendent, the watering is now going on at non-peak consumption hours. The amount of sediment in the water is a concern also as it causes continuous maintenance issues. The District Staff continue to be in discussion with the County.

Reagan Elementary:

- There is a squirrel issue that the District Maintenance Department continues to work on at the site. While it has not been completely eradicated, the Maintenance Department is monitoring the issue continually.

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:

Alpha Elementary:

- A fence is needed to block student access to air conditioner units behind the portables. Quotes have been received. Is scheduled to be completed December 1.

La Vina Elementary:

- Cracks in the asphalt on playground. This is in the rotation to be repaired.

Madera South High:

- The district has contacted the Contractor for repairs to the Westside and Northeast baseball diamonds.

Madison Elementary:

- The east side fence next to the where the old ROP building is needs immediate attention. There is a large gap on the bottom of fence and fence is pushed out. This is scheduled to be repaired in December.

Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School:

- The carpets identified for cleaning are going to be shampooed again over the winter holidays.
- The exterior of the buildings are scheduled to be cleaned over the winter holidays.

Nishimoto Elementary:

- The buildings are scheduled to be pressure washed over the winter holidays.

## **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 32 classes within these schools have 20% or more English Learners. All teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

### **Madera Unified School District:**

Self-contained classes:

Alpha Elementary, Cesar Chavez Elementary, George Washington Elementary, James Madison Elementary, James Monroe Elementary, La Vina Elementary, Millview Elementary and Nishimoto Elementary Schools - The review of teachers assigned to these schools revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. A total of 158 classes within these schools have 20% or more English Learners. All teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Departmentalized classes:

Jack G. Desmond Middle School – The review of teachers assigned to these schools revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Jack G. Desmond Middle School has 89 departmentalized classes with 20% or more English Learners. All 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 twelve teacher misassignments as follows:

- One due to the lack of an English Learner authorization.
- Six due to the placement of teachers in grade levels not authorized by their credentials.
- Five due to the placement of teachers in subjects not authorized by their credentials. Four due to the lack of a English learner authorizations

Madera South High School has 757 departmentalized classes with 20% or more English Learners. Ninety-nine percent of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization. There were no vacancies 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 no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School has 169 departmentalized classes with 20% or more English Learners. All of the teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Madera Unified School District is currently in process of correcting the misassignments as appropriate for each assignment and individual, as follows:

- Obtain an English Learner Authorization 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 English Learner Authorization should be corrected by November 21, 2011. The remaining misassignments are scheduled to be corrected at the November 15, 2011, Board Meeting.

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.