

Madera County Superintendent of Schools

2015 Annual Report: Williams Site Visitations

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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November, 2015



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2015 Williams Site Visitation Annual Report
Required by
Terms of the Williams Settlement
November 2015

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 more current API deciles 1-3 schools for the purpose of school sites subject to site visitations. The current list was determined using the 2012 base API. For Madera County the following sixteen schools are part of that list: Fairmead Elementary and Wilson Middle in 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 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.

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 2012 base 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 2012 base 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 two Madera County school districts subject to site reviews. Those schools were Fairmead Elementary and Wilson Middle in 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 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 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 in the four/six 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 sixteen schools visited in Madera County were unannounced visits. Cesar Chavez Elementary, Dixieland Elementary, Millview Elementary, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle Schools of the Madera Unified School District received unannounced visitations. School 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 sixteen 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.

Chowchilla Elementary School District

Board of Trustees Sufficiency Hearing and Action: At the September 14, 2015 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 #2015-16.1-Sufficiency of Approved Textbooks & Instructional Materials, in which a sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials was declared.

Site Visitation Findings: Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Fairmead Elementary and Wilson Middle Schools: It was found that 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 22, 2015 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, a public hearing on “Textbook and Instructional Material Compliance & Certification of Provision of Sufficient Standards-Aligned Instructional Materials for Grades K-12” was held. Following the public hearing, the Board passed Resolution No. 10-2015/16: Textbook and Instructional Material

Compliance & Certification of Provision of Sufficient Standards-Aligned Instructional Materials for Grades K-12.

Site Visitation Findings: Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Alpha, Cesar Chavez, Dixieland, La Vina, James Madison, Millview, James Monroe, Nishimoto, Parkwood, and George Washington Elementary Schools; Jack G. Desmond, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Thomas Jefferson Middle Schools; Madera South High School: It was found that there was a sufficiency of instructional materials for students in all classrooms visited.

II. Required Classroom Postings for Uniform Complaint Procedures

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

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 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 sixteen 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. District and site personnel responded with written statements as to any immediate corrective actions taken.

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:

Wilson Middle School: The library overhang is scheduled to be repainted during the week of November 23, 2015.

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 those findings scheduled for corrective action:

Dixieland Elementary School: Affixed to the back wall of the cafeteria is the wiring for the sound system, which is regularly used. The sound system wires are exposed and could potentially be a tripping hazard. It is recommended that a housing box is installed to store the sound system wires in a safe and orderly fashion. The district IT department is working on this issue.

George Washington Elementary School: Bolts/holes were stripped out of a climbing toy on the kindergarten play structure. The specific parts are on order from the manufacturer of play structure.

V. Teacher Vacancy, Assignment, and Credentialing

Teacher assignments, credentials, and English Learner student data have been monitored for the schools below. This monitoring revealed there are three teacher misassignments at Madera South High School and six teacher vacancies at the following schools: Fairmead Elementary, Dixieland Elementary, Jack G. Desmond Middle, James Madison Elementary, and Madera South.

Chowchilla Elementary School District

Fairmead Elementary: The review of teachers assigned to Fairmead Elementary School revealed no teacher misassignments. There is one teacher vacancy. Fairmead Elementary School has 13 self-contained classes 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 29 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 revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Alpha Elementary has 30 self-contained classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

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

Dixieland Elementary: The review of teachers assigned to Dixieland Elementary revealed no teacher misassignments. There is one teacher vacancy. Dixieland Elementary has 17 self-contained classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

George Washington Elementary: The review of teachers assigned to George Washington Elementary revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. George Washington Elementary has 36 self-contained classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Jack G. Desmond Middle School: The review of teachers assigned to Jack G. Desmond Middle School revealed no teacher misassignments. There is one teacher vacancy. Jack G. Desmond Middle School has 88 departmentalized classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

James Madison Elementary: The review of teachers assigned to James Madison Elementary revealed no teacher misassignments. There is one teacher vacancy. James Madison Elementary has 30 self-contained classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

James Monroe Elementary: The review of teachers assigned to James Monroe Elementary revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. James Monroe Elementary has 35 self-contained 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 revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. La Vina Elementary has 17 self-contained classes with 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 three teacher misassignments. There are two teacher vacancies. Madera South High School has 192 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 Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School has 128 departmentalized 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 revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Millview Elementary has 37 self-contained 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 revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Nishimoto Elementary has 35 self-contained classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Thomas Jefferson Middle School: The review of teachers assigned Thomas Jefferson Middle School revealed no teacher misassignments or vacancies. Thomas Jefferson Middle School has 53 departmentalized classes with 20% or more English Learners. 100% of teachers in those classes hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Summary of Misassignments

Madera South High School

Two teachers were found to be teaching subjects outside of the authorizations on their credentials.

One teacher has an expired preliminary certification as of 9/1/15, which has not yet been cleared. Official notification of the specific misassignments was sent to Madera Unified by the Madera County Office of Education on October 20th, 2015. Per the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) regulations, Madera Unified has 30 days to correct the misassignments once they are notified by the Madera County Office of Education.

In the two 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.