



**Santa Cruz County
Civil Grand Jury**

Santa Cruz Grand Jury <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

Grand Jury Report



Faris Sabbah <fsabbah@santacruzcoe.org>

Mon Aug 23, 2021 at 5:04:17 PM

To: Syda.Cogliati@santacruzcourt.org, grandjury@scgrandjury.org

Dear Judge Cogliati,

I hope this email finds you well.

Please receive our response to the "Turn On, Tune In, and Drop Out" Grand Jury report.

Please let me know if you have any questions,
Faris



DR. FARIS SABBAH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Faris Sabbah

County Superintendent of Schools

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pronouns: he, him, his



Santa Cruz County Office of Education

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**The 2020–2021 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury
Requires the**

**Superintendent,
Santa Cruz County Office of Education**

**to Respond to the Findings and Recommendations listed below
which were assigned to them in the Report Titled**

**Turn On, Tune In, and Drop Out
Broadband Access in Santa Cruz County
by August 23, 2021**

Responses are **required** from elected officials, elected agency or department heads, and elected boards, councils, and committees which are investigated by the Grand Jury. You are required to respond by the California Penal Code [\(PC\) §933\(c\)](#).

Your response will be considered **compliant** under [PC §933.05](#) if it contains an appropriate comment on **all** findings and recommendations **which were assigned to you** in this report.

Please follow the instructions below when preparing your response.

Instructions for Respondents

Your assigned [Findings](#) and [Recommendations](#) are listed on the following pages with check boxes and an expandable space for summaries, timeframes, and explanations. Please follow these instructions, which paraphrase [PC §933.05](#):

- 1. For the Findings, mark one of the following responses with an “X” and provide the required additional information:**
 - a. **AGREE with the Finding**, or
 - b. **PARTIALLY DISAGREE with the Finding** – specify the portion of the Finding that is disputed and include an explanation of the reasons why, or
 - c. **DISAGREE with the Finding** – provide an explanation of the reasons why.
- 2. For the Recommendations, mark one of the following actions with an “X” and provide the required additional information:**
 - a. **HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – provide a summary of the action taken, or
 - b. **HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – provide a timeframe or expected date for completion, or
 - c. **REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – provide an explanation, scope, and parameters of an analysis to be completed within six months, or
 - d. **WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – provide an explanation of why it is not warranted or not reasonable.
- 3. When your responses are complete, please email your completed Response Packet as a PDF file attachment to both**

The Honorable Judge Syda Cogliati Syda.Cogliati@santacruzcourt.org and

The Santa Cruz County Grand Jury grandjury@scgrandjury.org.

If you have questions about this response form, please contact the Grand Jury by calling 831-454-2099 or by sending an email to grandjury@scgrandjury.org.

Findings

F3. Starting in 2020, large increases in potential funding and across the board regulatory reform have widened the opportunity for local governments to implement broadband access.

- AGREE**
 PARTIALLY DISAGREE
 DISAGREE

Response explanation (required for a response other than **Agree**):

F4. An important beneficial outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic has been broadband access and computers for distance learning. Underserved areas, such as the Pajaro Valley where the county's need was the greatest, were significantly improved.

- AGREE**
 PARTIALLY DISAGREE
 DISAGREE

Response explanation (required for a response other than **Agree**):

Internet connectivity has improved countywide. All school districts in the county, especially PVUSD, helped reduced the percentage of students without connectivity from 17% to 3%. However, the number of student who have broadband speeds is limited. Most students were provided hotspots that have connectivity at speeds much lower than broadband speeds.

Recommendations

- R5.** Within the next six months the Board of Supervisors should coordinate with the County Office of Education to determine the costs and logistics for continuing internet access in time for the 2022-2023 school year. (F4)

- HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – summarize what has been done
- HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe
- REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)
- WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – explain why

Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:

We need more information about this recommendation. The state has earmarked funding for infrastructure for wide array broadband access for the community. We would welcome collaborating with the Board of Supervisors on this effort. We will reach out to members of the Board of Supervisors to discuss our mutual interest to provide broadband access to our community.