

# Yuba City Unified School District



July 23, 2025

David Ashby, Presiding Judge  
Sutter County Superior Court  
1175 Civic Center Boulevard  
Yuba City, CA 95993

**ENDORSED FILED**

SEP 24 2025

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SUTTER  
CLERK OF THE COURT  
By JACKIE LASWELL Deputy

**Superintendent**  
Doreen Osumi

**Governing Board**  
Merrylee Bonslett  
Kjerstin Ciociola  
Jasmin Dhami  
Harjot Kaur  
Londa Lamb  
Shelley Priddy  
Greg Quilty

To the Honorable Judge Ashby:

On Monday, June 30, 2025, representatives from the City of Yuba City and Sutter County met with the district to review the findings and to discuss the recommendations made in this report. Please accept the following as the response to the specified Findings and Recommendations under Penal Code Section 933.05.

## **FINDINGS and RESPONSES - Tierra Buena School:**

**YCUSD Response to F-TB1:** A minor accident within school boundaries was not reported to the Yuba City Police Department. The District partially disagrees with this finding. The Yuba City Police Department was not notified because:


The California Vehicle Code-VEH 12517.1, states that


(a) A "school bus accident" means any of the following:

- (1) A motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1000), or personal injury, on public or private property, and involving a school bus, youth bus, school pupil activity bus, or general public paratransit vehicle transporting a pupil.
- (2) A collision between a vehicle and a pupil or a school bus driver while the pupil or driver is crossing the highway when the school bus flashing red signal lamps are required to be operated pursuant to Section 22112 or when the school bus is stopped for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils.
- (3) Injury of a pupil inside a vehicle described in paragraph (1) as a result of acceleration, deceleration, or other movement of the vehicle.

(b) The Department of the California Highway Patrol shall investigate all school bus accidents, except that accidents involving property damage and occurring entirely on private property shall be investigated only if they involve a violation of this code.

509-822-5200

 www.ycUSD.org

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Suite # 200  
Yuba City, CA 95999

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COUNTY OF SUTTER

The collision that is referenced in this finding was a minor collision that occurred on the roadway upon entry to the Tierra Buena school bus loading zone on Butte House Road. The YCUSD bus had no students aboard at the time; therefore, it was not defined as a school bus accident and was not necessary to report to law enforcement. School bus collisions are reported to the California Highway Patrol and NOT to local sheriff or police departments.

The District staff followed all required protocols and laws as defined by the California Vehicle Code as they relate to school buses.

**YCUSD Response to F-TB2:** Congestion due to pick-up and drop-off causes road blockages requiring untrained professionals to mitigate the conflict between residents and school traffic.

The District agrees with this finding.

**YCUSD Response to F-TB3:** The existing solar-powered stop sign with flasher at Butte House and Hooper Roads has become seasonally inoperable due to tree shade on powering solar panels.

The District agrees with the finding; however, the solar-powered stop sign with flashers at Butte House Road and Hooper Roads is the responsibility of the City of Yuba City.

**YCUSD Response to F-TB4:** Vehicle backups for drop-off and pick-up at Tierra Buena lead to the unsafe use of the center lane to bypass the congestion.

The District agrees with this finding.

**YCUSD Response to F-TB5:** Crossing guards at Tierra Buena Elementary School would benefit from formal training and certification from the Yuba City Police Department or a public safety program delivered by Yuba City Unified School District.

The District agrees with this finding.

**YCUSD Response to F-TB6:** Yuba City's haphazard annexation process over the past 30 years has created leapfrog urbanization that assumed once-rural schools into its urban boundaries, without provision of sufficient investment in road and pedestrian infrastructure.

The District is unable to respond to this finding as the annexation process over the past 30 years is outside of the District's jurisdiction.

#### **FINDINGS and RESPONSES - Bridge Street School:**

**YCUSD Response to F-BS1:** The lack of "School Ahead" and only one "Students Walking" signage posted on either Plumas or Bridge Street near the school site is inconsistent with other nearby Yuba City Unified School District's signage.

The District partially disagrees with this finding, as signage may be different from other nearby Yuba City Unified schools' signage. However, street signage is outside the jurisdiction of the District.

**YCUSD Response to F-BS2:** In 2023, the school's senior staff worked with Yuba City Unified School District, Yuba City Public Works, and Yuba City Police Department as collaborators on a "Safe Routes to School" grant application, but it wasn't submitted.

The District partially disagrees with this finding as the District has collaborated with the City of Yuba City on a number of "Safe Routes to School" grant applications. However, the district is unable to respond to all of these findings, as submission of the Safe Routes to School grant was outside our jurisdiction.

**YCUSD Response to F-BS3:** While the crossing guards at Bridge Street Elementary School work under its senior staff's supervision, they do not receive some traffic safety training from Yuba City Unified Schools District's Office of Student Services. Improvements to crossing guards' training may be realized through a collaboration between Yuba City Unified School District's student safety program and Yuba City Police Department.

The District agrees with this finding.

**YCUSD Response to F-BS4:** As a result of limited hours and low compensation, there has been a high turnover in trained crossing guards, leading to the use of untrained classroom staff or other untrained crossing guards.

The District partially disagrees with this finding. The District cannot surmise that turnover of crossing guards is a result of "low" compensation, but does concur on the limited hours that may impact employment.

**YCUSD Response to F-BS5:** While some schools within Yuba City Unified School District have traffic signage compliant with the higher standards set by the State's Department of Transportation's MUTCD, Bridge Street School does not.

The District partially agrees with this finding. Street signage is outside the jurisdiction of the District. However, agrees that signage may be different throughout the District.

**YCUSD Response to F-BS6:** A cursory examination of which YCUSD schools have adequate traffic signage and which do not would suggest that those schools with high Title I enrollment could benefit from additional signage and crossing guard training.

The District partially disagrees with this finding. Street signage is outside the jurisdiction of the District. However, the District does not believe that the lack of signage is related to Title I identification.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS and RESPONSES**

**R1:** The Sutter County Grand Jury recommends the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools, the Yuba City Unified School District's Governing Board, and the Franklin School District Board of Directors, adopt a formal and automated traffic incident reporting procedure with reporting automatically sent to and included in Yuba City Police Department's and Sutter County Sheriff's Office's annual traffic incident reports by the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

**YCUSD Response:** As shared in Finding F-TB1, bus-related collisions are defined and governed by the California Vehicle Code-VEH 12517.1, and reported to the California Highway Patrol as required in the California Vehicle Code. Collisions occurring on streets surrounding district schools, not involving district vehicles, are managed by the individual citizens involved in the collision and outside the jurisdiction of the district.

Additionally, the district does not have the resources to create an "automated" traffic incident reporting system that would send reports automatically to YCPD and the Sutter County Sheriff's office.

**R3:** The Sutter County Grand Jury recommends the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools, the Yuba City Unified School District's Governing Board, and Franklin Elementary Schools District's Board of Directors adopt a policy requiring all crossing guard employees, or volunteer crossing guards, undergo and maintain certified training for road crossings, including use of proper high-visibility vest and hand-signage, by the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

**YCUSD Response:** YCUSD will implement annual crossing guard training for all crossing guards at the start of the 2025-2026 school year. Additionally, any crossing guards hired throughout the school year will take the training prior to starting in their position.

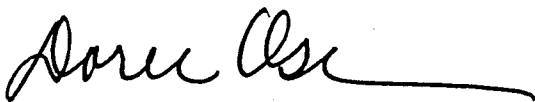
ALL YCUSD crossing guards are provided with high-visibility vests and hand signage. YCUSD crossing guards will be directed and reminded frequently that their high-visibility vests and hand signage are to be used whenever they are working in their crossing guard positions.

**R6:** The Sutter County Grand Jury recommends that the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools and Yuba City Unified School District's Governing Board apply for "Safe Routes to Schools" grant funds to promote student walking and biking commutes to their respective schools.

**YCUSD Response:** Yuba City Unified School District has worked collaboratively with the City of Yuba City on Safe Routes to Schools grants in the past to provide the necessary infrastructure around our schools. The District has a current Wellness Policy and Wellness Committee to address the educational components to promote a healthier lifestyle. Additionally, the District has partnered with the Blue Zones Project and has several schools Blue Zones approved. Through this initiative, schools have formed "walking school buses" to promote walking to school as a healthy lifestyle choice.

The district leadership team will consider other opportunities to promote walking and biking to school through educational campaigns, events, and activities, as well as partnering with community agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doreen Osumi", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Doreen Osumi

Superintendent