



Board Agenda Item 45

DATE: November 28, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Nerland, County Administrative Officer
Michele Cantwell-Copher, Ed.D., Fresno County Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2023 Annual Williams Lawsuit Agreement Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Accept the 2023 Annual Williams Lawsuit Agreement Report from the Fresno County Office of Education.

As part of the Williams Lawsuit Agreement of 2004, California Education Code Section 1240 requires that the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools visit schools identified in Fresno County and report to your Board the results of the visits at a regularly scheduled November Board meeting.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

There are no alternative actions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no increase in Net County Cost associated with the recommended action.

DISCUSSION:

As part of the Williams Lawsuit Agreement of 2004, California Education Code Section 1240 requires that the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools visit schools within Fresno County and report the result to your Board. This annual report concerns the visits to 77 Fresno County schools from August through September 2023, as well as a review of the School Accountability Report Cards for the 2022-23 school year.

The purpose of the visits was to complete the following:

1. Ensure students have access to “sufficient” instructional materials in four core subject areas (English language arts, mathematics, history/social science, science) and, as appropriate, science laboratory equipment, foreign languages, and health;
2. Assess compliance with facility maintenance to identify conditions that “pose an emergency or urgent threat to the health or safety of pupils or staff” and ensure facilities are in good repair; and
3. Determine if the school has provided accurate data for the annual School Accountability Report Card related to instructional materials and facilities maintenance.

The standards set forth in the law that define “sufficient” instructional materials as meaning that every pupil,

including English learners, have textbooks in the four core areas for classroom use and to take home. Facilities standards specifies each school district that receives state funding for facilities maintenance is required to establish a facilities inspection program and ensure that each school is maintained in good repair which is defined as maintaining schools that are clean, safe, and functional. The School Accountability Report Cards are updated to report the information required by the Williams Lawsuit Settlement Agreement.

REFERENCE MATERIAL:

BAI #30, November 29, 2022

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED AND/OR ON FILE:

On file with Clerk - Annual Letter and Report

CAO ANALYST:

Ronald Alexander