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Press Release

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CCOE Response to the July 2023 Colusa County Grand Jury Special Education Investigation Report

In compliance with the California Penal Code Section 933, Colusa County Superintendent of Schools Michael P. West has compiled his response to the July 2023 Colusa County Grand Jury Final Report findings and recommendations. Upon review of the Special Education Investigation, Superintendent West has acknowledged and commented on the findings. While concerns and questions have arisen due to the content found within the report, Superintendent West addresses these concerns and provides the Grand Jury and all Colusa County Residents with accurate information in his response.

Superintendent West's response, in summary, provides data which disproves much of what was stated in the July 2023 Colusa County Grand Jury Final Report, with the only parallel viewpoint being that California is witnessing a teacher shortage, and subsequently a Special Education teacher shortage.

Regarding all other facets of the inquiry, Superintendent West states:

“I must express my deep disappointment with the recently published Grand Jury report. I want to emphasize that all inquiries made by the Grand Jury were answered in accordance with established procedures, legal requirements, and industry best practices. Our responses were provided in writing and were aimed at providing clear and accurate information to address their concerns. It has come to light that the sub-committee responsible for compiling the report did not acknowledge receipt of the materials we provided as well as failed to interview the head of our Special Education Department (SPED). Despite this, the members of our SPED team have continued to uphold the standards of integrity and excellence that the Colusa County Office of Education has always been known for.”

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Thompson, Presiding Judge, received Superintendent West's response to the Colusa County Grand Jury Special Education Investigation Report via certified mail on October 2, 2023. To view Superintendent West's full response, [click here](#) or visit www.ccoe.net and look under the Quick Links tab.