

**MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY  
REPORT TITLED:**

**SCHOOL SAFETY – A PRIORITY**

**Discussion**

The Board of Supervisors welcomes this opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury report titled "School Safety – A Priority". The Board of Supervisors shares the concern about school safety but has no direct authority over school operations. The Board of Supervisors supports and encourages the ongoing cooperation of law enforcement and school authorities to keep our schools safe and is ready to assist if called upon.

**Pursuant to the request of the Grand Jury, the Board is responding to the following:**

- F2. Standard operating procedures for emergency services personnel is an "All Hands-on Deck" response.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors agrees and commend County/City/State/Federal/Tribal law enforcement agencies for their pre-planning that includes incident training exercises and coordination with other emergency responders throughout the region in preparation for any major event. The Board of Supervisors agrees with and incorporates by reference the response of Sheriff Matthew Kendall.

- F4. Due to the County's geographical challenges, including cities and remote rural areas, there is no optimum incident response time by emergency services personnel. According to a 2013 FBI study, almost 70% of gun related active assailant events last just five minutes. A third of those last fewer than two minutes.

The Board of Supervisors agrees that Mendocino County's geographical terrain presents challenges for emergency service responders; however, it is our understanding that responders at all levels have done extensive preplanning to respond to incidents that may occur. The Board of Supervisors agrees with and incorporates by reference the response of Sheriff Matthew Kendall.

- F5. Response time to an incident of five minutes or more is not acceptable. According to a 2013 FBI study, almost 70% of gun related active assailant events, last just five minutes. A third of those last fewer than two minutes.

The Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with this statement which appears to be an opinion and not a conclusion or judgement based on verified facts. While a response time of five minutes or less is optimal, the verified facts,

as noted by the Grand Jury in Finding 4, is that geographically dispersed and remote locations present challenges for emergency responders.

**Response to Recommendations:**

- R1. The BOS work with the County Sheriff's Department to develop a plan inclusive of law enforcement agencies (city, county, state) to place an officer in a locale where the average campus incident response time should be no greater than five minutes. (F1-F5).

The Board of Supervisors has no direct authority over operations of the County Sheriff's Office but is willing at any time to work with the County Sheriff's Office if requested by the Sheriff.

- R2. The MCOE work with the BOS to develop a strategic plan for the most expeditious response time to any school site incident. (F1-F5).

The Board of Supervisors has no direct responsibility over school operations but is willing to work with the Mendocino County Office of Education on important issues involving Mendocino County youth, if requested by the Superintendent of Schools.