

February 13, 2018

Ms. Melinda Bird
Disability Rights California
350 S. Bixel Street, Suite 290
Los Angeles, California 90017

Dear Ms. Bird:

Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) is Kern County's Office of Education and exists to provide support to Kern County school districts and to provide direct educational services to students. KCSOS does not oversee or govern any one Kern County district, but rather serves and supports them all through various programs, fiscal accountability, approval of district Local Control and Accountability Plans, formulation of new curricula, assistance with staff development and training programs and collaboration with community partners for the benefit of Kern County students. KCSOS also provides direct instruction to students who have been expelled from their home district, students who are incarcerated or are on probation, students with special needs and early learners through a network of preschools.

On June 7 and 8 and August 30, 2017, Disability Rights California conducted monitoring inspections of three Kern County Juvenile Correctional Facilities: Juvenile Hall, Camp Erwin Owen and the Larry J. Rhoades Kern Crossroads facility. During each inspection DRC staff was accompanied by staff from Disability Rights Advocates (DRA), Kern County Probation Department and Kern County Superintendent of Schools.

DRC has written a lengthy investigation report based upon their visits to the Kern County Juvenile Correctional Facilities. As part of their report, DRC reports on concerns related to Kern County Probation and their role as the County Correctional Agency and KCSOS in our role to provide education within the facilities. We work cooperatively with Probation so that the educational needs of students can be met while they are incarcerated. However, as we have pointed out to you, we do not maintain the juvenile facilities and have no authority to determine the rules under which they are operated. For this reason, we cannot respond to those items in your report which fall within Probation's responsibility.

Ms. Melinda Bird
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KCSOS respectfully disagrees with many of the assertions that DRC/DRA have made in their inspection report. KCSOS strongly believes that we do in fact provide safe, supportive and positive educational learning to all students residing in these facilities. We will continue to work closely with the Kern County Probation Department in improving the educational services provided to all students residing in local facilities, including integrating the requirements of SB 1143 and other best practices to support our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary C. Barlow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Mary Barlow, Ed.D.
Kern County Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Mrs. Desiree Von Flue
Mr. Carlos Rojas