

## Disability Rights California Inspection UNOFFICIAL Report

Yolo County Board of Education Update  
Tuesday, August 22, 2017

### **Background:**

Disability Rights California's (DRC) tag line is: *California's protection and advocacy system*. DRC inspects juvenile detention facilities, as well as other institutions, across the state of California to ensure proper services, supports, and policies are in place to serve individuals with special needs. They also investigate facilities regarding services, supports and policies in support of individuals with special needs if a complaint is submitted to their agency.

On July 31, 2017, DRC conducted an inspection of the Yolo County Juvenile Detention Facility of probation operations and partner agency services, including services offered by the Yolo County Office of Education (YCOE). Yolo County Probation and YCOE will receive an official report of findings and recommendations from the DRC during the fall 2017 semester. During the spring 2018 semester DRC will conduct a subsequent inspection to monitor progress toward recommendations they have made. This report provides a summary of their unofficial findings and suggestions per a debriefing phone call conducted on August 15, 2017. For purposes of this report to the YCOE Board, information regarding education is provided in more detail, while probation items are simply listed.

### Acknowledgements (unofficial)

1. Yolo County agencies were gracious in hosting the DRC visit
2. Yolo County Probation and YCOE have begun the work of changing culture through some behavioral interventions and support
3. Systems are in place for smooth transitions for youth received special education services
4. Dedicated and caring educational staff is in place
5. Individual Learning Plan(ILP) document is well structured
6. Systems are in place for home district and YCOE communication and credit updates
7. Youth have access to technology in the classrooms

### Concerns (unofficial)

1. Extended detention for youth in Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) program
2. Use of pepper spray
3. Suicide protocol
4. Educational testing and differentiation\*

- a. The number of youth in the ORR program tested and identified for special education or 504 plans should likely be higher based on past trauma and assumed need for mental health services
  - b. It is difficult to track down student records in the ORR program
  - c. Students need to be more knowledgeable about their IILP's
  - d. Need additional academic testing and benchmarking to determine student success
  - e. Need more direct instruction opportunities
5. Disability accommodations and self-referrals for youth
  6. Disproportionality of youth of color in custody
  7. Communication with ORR youth regarding early release based on good behavior

**\*YCOE program related concern; all others pertain to Yolo County Probation**

**Solution that addresses YCOE program related concern (unofficial)**

- a. Discuss concerns about any youth not progressing academically, socially, and/or behaviorally at staff meetings to decide if a Student Success Team (SST) meeting is needed
- b. Continue to work with probation and prior placements to secure academic records for youth in ORR program
- c. Support teachers and paraprofessionals with training and time to work with youth 1:1 and/or small groups on ILPs
- d. Identify clearer benchmarks for youth in the ORR program to monitor success
  - a. Provide a more structured process for SST's at Dan Jacobs
- e. Continue to collaborate with and support teachers in deliver instruction in multiple modalities including direct instruction, credit recovery, blended learning, and project-based learning