

*For Immediate Release
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**2013-14 Yolo County Grand Jury Issues Report on Efforts of Yolo
County Office of Education and Local School Districts to Implement
Common Core and the New K-12 Finance System**

The 2013-14 Yolo County Grand Jury issued a report reviewing how the Yolo County Office of Education and the five Yolo County school districts are implementing the Common Core State Standards and the new K-12 finance system adopted by the State of California.

Common Core State Standards are educational standards adopted by the State of California and 45 other states. They represent a major shift in teaching techniques with a focus on a student's ability to think critically, to solve problems and to learn content.

The new K-12 finance system was enacted as part of the 2013-14 California Budget Act and consists of two parts: Local Control Funding Formula which determines amount of funding and Local Control Accountability Plan which sets forth the plan for how funding will be allocated.

The Grand Jury found that Yolo County Office of Education and the five local school districts (Davis Joint Unified School District, Esparto Unified School District, Washington Unified School District in West Sacramento, Winters Joint Unified School District and Woodland Joint School District) are implementing the Common Core State Standards on schedule with clear guidelines from the California Department of Education.

However, the Yolo County Office of Education and the local school districts are facing challenges in implementing the new K-12 finance system because the California Department of Education has been slow to release needed regulations, templates and assessment tools. Local educational agencies received new regulations at the end of January 2014 and are facing a June 30 deadline to complete budgets and Local Control Accountability Plans.

Because regulations and templates regarding the new K-12 finance system are still being developed by the State, the Grand Jury found it was too early to determine if the Yolo County Office of Education and the five local school districts will successfully implement the new K-12 finance reforms.

The entire report may be read at www.yolocounty.org/grand-jury