

Angelo Rodriquez High School

2003-2004 Grand Jury Report

I. Reason for visitation

The Grand Jury elected to visit a random selection of schools in the County.

II. Procedure

The Grand Jury:

- Toured the school facility
- Talked with administrators, teachers, classified personnel and students
- Observed students in classes, and moving from class to class
- Observed libraries, computer labs, cafeteria, gyms and classrooms
- Reviewed health, safety and emergency procedures

III. Background

1. Angelo Rodriquez High School is located at 5000 Red Top Road, Fairfield on 50 acres in the Western portion of the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District. It was completed and occupied in the fall of 2001. Access signs to its parking lots are confusing, especially for visitors.

2. Angelo Rodriguez High School, which accommodates 3,000 students in four grades (9-12) by the 2004-2005 school year, is the district's newest of three comprehensive high schools offering a wide selection of classes and activities. The campus includes three two-story academic wings, a large, well-supplied library, cafeteria and gymnasium. The campus, in general, was clean and has a "no gum" policy.

3. The staff at Angelo Rodriquez High School is composed of 66 certificated staff members, one principal, two assistant principals, three counselors, one librarian, one part-time psychologist, one part-time nurse and one part-time speech therapist. There are 32 classified personnel to assist in the operation of the school.

4. Angelo Rodriquez High School operates on an alternating block schedule, "A" and "B" days in which students attend three of their six classes (102 minutes each) and a tutorial period (40 minutes) each day. Wednesday is collaborative planning day for teachers and periods are reduced to 40 minutes. Students carry six classes with opportunities for Advanced Placement and Honors courses, Special Education Programs, Advancement via Independent Education Development (AVID), Gifted And Talented Education (GATE), a Language Acquisition Program and Resource and Special Day Class programs.

5. Students may all choose to participate in the Interscholastic or Intramural Athletic Programs, Cheerleading Squads, Marching Band, Concert Band, Choir, Drama, Conflict Management and clubs. There are currently ten recognized student clubs on campus representing a variety of student interests.

6. While Angelo Rodriquez High School offers many elective classes such as computer, photography and creative writing, it does not offer Home Economics or shop-type Vocational classes.

IV. Findings and Recommendations

Each finding is referenced to the background paragraph number

Finding #1 – Directional and access signs to the school’s parking lots are insufficient and confusing. (1)

Recommendation #1 – Post clearer directional and access signs for the school location and parking areas.

Finding #2 – During the Grand Jury visit, the library appeared to be underutilized. Staff indicates that hours of library access before and after school are insufficient for student needs. (2)

Recommendation #2 – Create more opportunities for student access to the library before, during and after school hours.

Finding #3 – Although it is a new school with a “no gum” policy, the school walkways had numerous gum ‘spots.’ (2)

Recommendation #3 – Enforce the “no gum” policy and De-gum’ or steam clean and hose down walkways frequently.

Finding #4 – Angelo Rodriquez High School does not offer Home Economics or shop-type Vocational programs. (6)

Recommendation #4 – The Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District allow courses of study that encompass the Vocational Arts at all high schools or designate a high school as a Vocational Arts High School.

V. Comments

Gum on walkways is not attractive nor is it conducive to the good health of the student population. This is a visual example of what happens when policies are not enforced.

Not all students matriculate to college. For those who don’t, Vocational Arts *could* make their high school and life experience a more meaningful one

VI. Affected Agencies

- Solano County Office of Education
- Fairfield - Suisun Unified School District
- Fairfield - Suisun Unified School Board
- Angelo Rodriguez High School