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2023 — 2024

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Los Angeles County Office of Education

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Dr. Debra Duardo
Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools

It is hard to believe it has been three years since COVID-19 emerged, upending our lives and drastically changing the landscape of education. The disproportionalities in our schools across the nation were laid bare by the learning disruptions, reinforcing the need for equity and access for all students, especially our Black, Latino, urban, rural and low-income communities. It also highlighted the vital and unique role LACOE plays for our districts and schools across the county — and how we can expand our collective impact even further.

Self-reflection is critical to evolve as an organization. Over the past three years, we have looked inward and outward, taking stock of what and who was lost, and where we grew together. We innovated at every turn. We persisted together. We found responsive ways to meet the unique needs of our districts and schools, and we learned it was healthy to celebrate what we have achieved, even during the most challenging times. As we transition into this next phase of the pandemic, we are using the lessons learned to generate new visions of achievement and continue to partner with districts and schools in this changing educational landscape.

Through LACOE's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, we will move forward boldly and courageously as we continue to create meaningful change for our L.A. County students. The strategic plan will serve as our roadmap towards our future growth and success over the next few years. With students always at the center of our work, we have done intentional planning using data to prioritize our student-centered supports. We will also think of our strategic plan as an ongoing, living document that we can continuously reflect on to ensure we are being responsive to the needs and assets of our schools and communities.

As we prepare this generation of students for success, we are better aligning our priorities to meet the needs of a changed educational landscape with our five pillars of focus:

- **Improve Student Outcomes:** LACOE aims to increase gains in literacy and numeracy rates, reduce achievement gaps and increase access for impacted student groups — all in support of improving student outcomes.

- **Champion Individual and Collective Care and Wellbeing:** Prioritizing the wellbeing of students and staff, LACOE is aligning our efforts, supports, and technical assistance so that all learners are showing up to school every day.
- **Strengthen Community with Children at the Center:** LACOE aims to develop new partnerships, expand the number of Community Schools and ensure the enrollment of LACOE's specialized high schools reflect the County's student demographics — all in service of prioritizing student voices and life outcomes.
- **Communicate Effectively:** Building trust and transparency with our students, staff and communities, LACOE is committed to improving our communication efforts for our internal and external audiences to proactively communicate and respond authentically.
- **Model Organizational Excellence and Innovation:** LACOE is creating opportunities for systemic change focused on efficiency, effectiveness, equity and overall customer satisfaction as we support districts and schools in deleting the digital divide, transitioning to a new uniform budgetary system for those participating in the Business Enhancement System Transformation project and prioritizing customer satisfaction for all of LACOE educational partners.

These pillars will help guide and focus our work as one collective community that will help create a strong foundation in support of our overarching mission, vision and values for Los Angeles County. Lastly, I would like to say thank you. In your school communities, the work you do every day has an incredible impact on the lives of our students and families across the county. Your commitment, passion and care for our students' success and wellbeing has led to many of our accomplishments outlined in our strategic plan and impacted so many young lives. As we look ahead with our roadmap in hand to guide us, let us continue to move forward together as one Los Angeles County. Together as a collective community we are making a collective impact for L.A. County students and families.

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Covering the
Los Angeles County Public Schools
K-12 Superintendents

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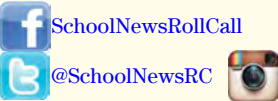
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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



This is our 16th edition highlighting each of the district superintendents in the Los Angeles County K-12 public schools. Our mission is to introduce each superintendent with their brief message to encourage you to visit their individual web sites for in-depth information.

The quality of the public schools in a community sets the standard for the quality of the community. Everyone pays for public education and is a stakeholder.

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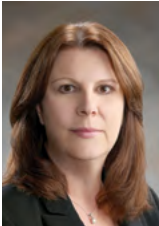
Toan Nguyen
Interim Superintendent

The mission of ABC Unified School District is to develop a community of lifelong learners, creative thinkers, and responsible individuals by providing innovative and high-quality educational programs in a safe and supportive environment. Our mission is always at the forefront of our administrators, teachers, and staff as they serve over 18,000 (K-12) students at our 31 schools. Serving students from the cities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, and portions of Lakewood, Long Beach, and Norwalk, ABCUSD has educated students for nearly 60 years.

ABCUSD is committed to student achievement, with programs and offerings designed to help students realize their academic goals. We offer a wide range of educational opportunities for students and families, including 16 thematic magnet schools, dual language immersion programs, STEM programs, and international exchange programs. We understand technology's unique role in education and are proud to have devices for every ABCUSD student.

We are proud of our National Blue Ribbon Schools, California Distinguished Schools, California School Boards Association Gold Bell Awardees, and Schools to Watch/National Model Middle Schools. These awards prove our focus on teaching and learning to ensure that “every student, in every classroom, every day,” is provided with the best education possible.

Relationship-Driven Excellence and Equity



Denise R. Jaramillo
Superintendent

The dynamic and award-winning Alhambra Unified School District serves 16,000 K-12 students on 17 campuses in a richly multicultural community. In this unique multilingual haven, AUSD's dedication to excellence and equity in whole student learning is based on a system of Positive Behavior Supports for social, emotional and behavioral well-being. It is on that foundation of connection, relationships and emotional self-regulation that our rigorous education for competitive college and careers of the future can be truly empowering.

The District is known for its superlative team of administrators, teachers and staff; an active, supportive Board; engaged parents and students; innovative business, community and academic partnerships; its creative, data-driven, consensus-building approach, and a famously student-centered community.

The depth of AUSD's strong relationships across many fronts has won the District numerous Gold Ribbon, Distinguished Schools and Title 1 Academic Achievement Awards. Additionally, AUSD has won multiple Golden Bell Awards for such efforts as its acclaimed LIFT program, and its sought-out Saturday School Program for parents and students; four Model SARB Program Awards for exemplary practice in student re-engagement; COE Award for Model Continuing High School, among many other honors. AUSD's Dual Immersion Programs in Mandarin and Spanish and World Languages Programs; its VAPA arts education programs; STEM partnerships with UCLA Center X, and Gateway to Success mental health and safety program are winning accolades.

The District's \$259 million school bond approval for technology, safety and building improvements and upgrades will further enhance AUSD's ability to offer each student an environment in which to thrive. It is my privilege to work with and for such a distinguished and accomplished team in our AUSD *Students First* culture.

AADUSD is Stronger Together



Dr. Eric Sahakian
Superintendent

The Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District is located between the Santa Clarita Valley and the Antelope Valley. Established in 1881, our district has the distinction of being one of the oldest districts in the state of California. We proudly serve students over a 200 square mile radius.

Acton-Agua Dulce USD provides innovative programs in support of student achievement with diverse offerings such as Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Antelope Valley College (AVC) and Dual Enrollment offerings for our high school students, Paxton/Patterson- College and Career Ready Lab, and a Makerspace innovate lab. In addition, AADUSD's

increase in student enrollment for the 2022-2023 academic year is a testament to new signature programs, high caliber of teachers, and a commitment to excellence led by a strong, close-knit community.

As we continue to accelerate learning for all students, AADUSD is committed to our MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) framework. Our MTSS efforts provide academic and behavioral strategies for students. Our schools have taken on a school-wide approach in response to varying student needs which includes ongoing data collection and assessments along with parental involvement.

AADUSD was recently awarded the Mental Health Professional Demonstration grant through the U.S. Department of Education. The scope of work supports strategies to address school mental health workforce shortages through efforts that include: growing your own programs; placing supervised interns and practicum students in high needs schools to increase access to services; facilitating increased training for mental health professionals and other key staff to increase capacity to identify and address mental health concerns with youth.

AADUSD will continue to reach new levels of success for our students and community.

Every Student's Name, Need and Story



Greg Nehen
Superintendent

After the chaos of at home learning and the bumpy return of students to campus last year, we are hitting our stride again. An hour North of Los Angeles, nestled in the high desert, is the Antelope Valley Unified School District. The AVUHSD serves a unique blend of 22,000 urban, suburban, and rural students in one of our eight comprehensive high schools, three alternative high schools, as well as an early college high school in partnership with Antelope Valley Community College,

Our focus has shifted from purely academic to teaching the whole student. An embedded socioemotional learning curriculum and increased counseling and mental health supports are in place to ensure all students are safe, secure and in a healthy place to learn. There is also a significant emphasis on developing our MTSS framework districtwide at the Tier 1 level this year.

The district also boasts thriving CTE and STEAM academies and pathways. Using the CPA model and the Linked Learning framework to engage students in learning skills for the future, approximately one third of students are in a career based program of study that is linked to and supported by our local industry sectors. With an emphasis on post secondary options for all graduates, we strive to produce lifelong learners prepared to succeed in our everchanging world.

I am proud to lead a district filled with passionate and skilled educators, students willing to work to reach their full potential, and a community that supports our efforts.

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Arcadia Unified School District

150 S. Third Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006 • 626/821-8300 • www.ausd.net

Celebrating Historic Honors



Dr. David Vannasdal
Superintendent

This year, we proudly celebrate historic honors for our Arcadia Unified schools. For the first time ever, all six of Arcadia Unified's elementary schools, as well as our alternative learning program, have earned concurrent recognition from the California Department of Education (CDE) as 2023 California Distinguished Schools!

Since the CDE's founding of the California Distinguished Schools Program in 1985, all of Arcadia Unified's elementary and middle schools have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools at least once. This is the first time in the program's history that Arcadia Unified's six comprehensive elementary schools, Baldwin Stocker, Camino Grove, Highland Oaks, Holly

Avenue, Hugo Reid, and Longley Way, and our alternative learning program, Rancho Learning Center, have simultaneously held this prestigious title.

This historic distinction signifies how our phenomenal team of educators, counselors, staff, board members, and administrators continuously work together, no matter the circumstances, and partner with our wonderful students and families to find collaborative, creative, and meaningful strategies to support the successful academic and social-emotional development of our students.

In correlation with this phenomenal achievement, Arcadia Unified was named the Best Place to Teach in Los Angeles County and made the Top 5 Best Places to Teach in California, according to *Niche*. At the heart of our work is a steadfast commitment to building a positive school culture and climate. We want everyone here to feel seen, supported, and valued. We truly are so fortunate to be able to hire and work with world-class colleagues who truly challenge and inspire our students to make a positive and profound impact on their world.

Baldwin Park Unified School District

3699 N. Holly Ave., Baldwin Park, CA 91706 • 626/962-3311 • www.bpusd.net

Ensuring High Achievement for ALL Learners



Dr. Froilan N. Mendoza
Superintendent

Baldwin Park Unified dedicates itself to providing students with a high-quality education from childhood to adulthood, ensuring they graduate with the skills and knowledge to succeed in their academic and professional pursuits.

Through our 11 TK-5 elementary schools, three 6-8 middle schools, a 3-8 STEM academy, two comprehensive high schools, a continuation high school, an early childhood education program, and an adult and community education center, the District offers enriching learning opportunities for students of all ages.

We are proud to share that the BP STEM Academy has been recognized with a Golden Bell Award, honoring its success in removing the barriers to access education and establishing an all-inclusive atmosphere that ignites students' curiosity for STEM, giving them a head start in their academic careers.

Baldwin Park Unified is committed to language development and provides students with growth opportunities through our award-winning Dual Language programs, which stretch across all grade levels. The Baldwin Park Unified DL program follows a 90/10 model for kindergarten and first grade, with our fifth- and sixth-grade levels offering 50/50 instruction in Spanish and English.

BPUSD understands the importance of supporting the social-emotional well-being of our students and offers a robust wellness program. We have partnered with Kaiser Permanente to provide several of our schools with wellness centers, where students can have the space and resources to decompress.

The success of BPUSD could not be possible without its teachers and staff, who are dedicated to providing countless opportunities for our students to flourish, engage in rigorous programs and curriculum, and achieve high levels of success.

Azusa Unified School District

546 S. Citrus Ave., Azusa, CA 91702 • 626/967-6211 • www.azusa.org

A Wide Range of Opportunities



Arturo Ortega
Superintendent

The Azusa Unified School District (AUSD) is home to 17 schools proudly serving more than 7,000 students in the San Gabriel Valley from Preschool through adult education!

AUSD college preparatory programs include International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), and an Early College Program. AUSD offers 14 career pathways and academies, including a K-12 STEM Pathway, Academy of Health Sciences, and an Academy of Automotive Design. AUSD is home to an award-winning TK-12 Visual and Performing Arts program, including mariachi, orchestra, and elementary band. California State Preschool, Dual-language Immersion, computer coding, and competitive athletics at the middle and high school levels offer AUSD students a wide range of opportunities.

At AUSD, we strive to equip every student with college and career-readiness knowledge and skills to fulfill their purpose in life and positively impact society. Providing students with a robust variety of academic and extracurricular activities allows them to find programs that fit their interests and goals.

AUSD's graduation rate easily outpaces both the state and national averages. Our two comprehensive high schools were recognized five years in a row as *U.S. News and World Report's* "Best High Schools" in the nation. Recent AUSD graduates have been accepted to a record number of top colleges and universities in California and across the nation and have been offered an impressive amount of scholarships and grants.

AUSD students are problem solvers, critical thinkers, and effective communicators. To learn more about our vibrant community, visit our website, azusa.org.

Bassett Unified School District

904 N. Willow Ave., La Puente, CA 91746 • 626/931-3000 • www.bassettusd.org

Educating Our Students and Community



Dr. Alejandro Alvarez
Superintendent

The Bassett Unified School District is located at the center of the San Gabriel Valley within the City of La Puente, Baldwin Park, City of industry and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles. Throughout its history, the Bassett Unified School District has continued to maintain its focus on providing its students with an educational experience that prepares them for a successful life after high school. The district continues to provide educational services to students as young as eighteen (18) months through high school. In addition, the district offers its community adult education courses at its Adult School that include courses such as Electrician, HVAC, EKG Technician, and Medical Billing Administrative Assistance.

Over the past three years, through the vision and direction of the Board of Education, the district has invested in its K-12 education through implementation of new programs and services. Students who attend the Bassett Unified School District can enroll in programs such as Dual Immersion, Dual Enrollment (College Courses), E-Sports, Project Lead the Way (STEM), and high school credit courses at the middle school. In partnership with Mt. San Antonio Community College, the district now offers an Early College Program at Bassett High School affording our students the opportunity to complete additional college level courses.

As the district continues to move forward, it prides itself in providing its students with an enriched education that allows them with the opportunity to build the essential skills needed to be successful in their future college or career experience.



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Committed to Student Success



Dr. Ben Drati
Superintendent

The Bellflower Unified School District is dedicated to providing an exemplary and authentic educational experience designed to meet the needs of the 21st century. We recognize the importance of cultivating a strong democracy in the United States and beyond, and we are determined to create meaningful change by revitalizing our educational program. We strive to equip students with the necessary skills to become active, engaged citizens and to foster understanding between individuals from all walks of life. We emphasize student engagement through personalization, ownership, and connecting students to the “real world.” We are also committed to building skills, knowledge, self-confidence, and self-efficacy through inquiry. To achieve our goals, we are committed to recruiting, retaining, and providing top-notch, passionate educators and school leaders. We recognize that school leaders have the power to bring out the best in their schools, and we are committed to providing the necessary time and resources for successful transformation. By collaborating and utilizing their expertise, schools can unlock the potential of their students and their school.

Preparing Students to Live Their Purpose



Matthew Wien
Interim Superintendent

Bonita Unified School District offers exciting opportunities for our students, teachers, staff and community to live their purpose. With our top-tier academics and extracurriculars, Bonita Unified is a place where everyone belongs as students develop a love of learning through athletics, arts and activities. Bonita Unified students are supported by dedicated staff, involved parents and community partners, whose efforts have kept the District in the top echelon of schools districts in the state. The collective approach to supporting student success has earned Bonita Unified accolades that include a 2023 California Distinguished School, a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School award, recognition as the “Best School District” in the *San Gabriel Valley* Readers Choice Awards and strong rankings in the Best K-8 Schools and Best High Schools lists by *U.S. News and World Report*.

In addition to fostering academic achievement through rigorous and engaging academic offerings – which include Advanced Placement courses and 21 career technical education pathways – Bonita Unified also encourages students to engage in a wide variety of award-winning athletics and visual and performing arts programs. These co-curricular activities help students develop valuable life skills that include leadership, collaboration, creative thinking, problem-solving and communication. As we continue to inspire and motivate our students, Bonita Unified thanks our community for their constant support. By remaining committed to our core values of equity, mastery and a focus on results, we ensure every Bonita Unified student is prepared to live their purpose.

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.
– Benjamin Franklin

Pathways to Success for Every Learner



Dr. Michael Bregy
Superintendent

Nation-wide, families are attracted to Beverly Hills for the world-class offerings, including our exceptional School District, Police, and Fire Departments. Due to the strong cultural, artistic, and educational backgrounds, our parents and community expect an outstanding instructional program and are committed to excellence in education. Beverly Hills High School recently opened two new state-of-the-art buildings housing modern, student-focused facilities including a Media Center, Career Center, College Center, NormanAid Wellness Center exclusively designed to support every student’s mental wellness, and fully integrated technology-centered classrooms ensuring the innovative delivery of robust academic instruction. BHUSD boasts 22 sports offerings, an award-winning visual arts program, a 3+ median AP Score in all subjects and numerous National Merit Scholar Winners. Our dedicated Middle School offers over 44 electives allowing students to explore their interests in subjects including Robotics, Audio Media Production, Entrepreneurship, Foreign Languages, and more. BHUSD delivers an acclaimed education for all learners. Gifted and Talented Education, Intellectual Intervention, Multilingual Learner Curriculum, Environmental Bridging, and Targeted Specialized Academic Instruction and Related Services are provided through our Special Education programs. These supports range from Occupational Therapy, Student-Driven Support, Counseling, Skill Based Instruction, Specialized Attention, Speech, and Language. The Beverly Hills Unified School District consists of two TK-5 Elementary Schools, one 6-8 Middle School, and one 9-12 High School, with a TK-12 enrollment of 3,200. To learn more about our educational offerings visit bhusd.org/pathways/.

Thriving Students



Dr. Matt Hill
Superintendent

At the Burbank Unified School District (BUSD), we focus on providing quality education to more than 14,000 students via our infant program all the way through our Adult School. BUSD students and schools continue to thrive and excel. Most recently, four of our elementary schools were named California Exemplary Art schools, and our Arts, Media, and Entertainment career technical education pathway received a California School Board Association (CSBA) Golden Bell. Currently, over 96% of BUSD students graduate in five or more years; however, the community and employees of Burbank Unified will not be satisfied until we ensure 100% of our students graduate. A high school diploma is just the beginning for our students. That is why BUSD is working strategically with local, regional, and national partners to enhance, expand, and support educational programs that prepare students for a global, technical, creative, and innovative economy. We have multiple career pathways that our students can explore. Career Technical Education (CTE) provides students with the opportunity to investigate their interests and learn more about possible careers in animation, broadcast journalism, sports medicine, and more. Finally, students and adults also have an opportunity to continue developing their skills at the Burbank Adult School (BAS). We are very excited to see the success of our new partnership with West Coast Customs Academy.

As you can see, Burbank Unified School District is an excellent place for students to realize their highest potential! By continuing to work together, we will build a stronger BUSD!

Staying the Course for Student Success



Steve Doyle
Superintendent

Castaic Union School District has welcomed a return to normalcy after almost three years of the pandemic! We are focusing our efforts on the socio-emotional health of all our students and staff. We are proud of the cohesive way that we support everyone in our school community. The well-being of our community is a top priority!

Our mission is that the Castaic Union School District advances the hearts and minds of students through innovative learning and differentiated teaching to challenge all learners and provide a holistic approach to wellness in a secure, safe environment. The Castaic Union School District will develop independent, high achieving and socially responsible students.

The continued successes of our students validate the direction set by the Board of Trustees and encourage us to stay the course. We are proud of our students, teachers, support staff, and administrators who are dedicated to improving student achievement each and every day. We are confident that our daily classroom instruction focus will enhance the learning outcomes for all Castaic children! We encourage all parents and community members to visit our schools and see the great things happening.

Supporting the Whole Student



Dr. Stephen Nellman
Superintendent

Serving students from the South Bay communities of Hawthorne, Lawndale, and Lennox, Centinela Valley Union High School District is committed to providing an educational environment in which all students succeed. Beyond meeting graduation requirements and attaining academic proficiency, our Graduate Profile ensures CVUHSD students are College and Career Ready Individuals, Effective Communicators, Ethical Leaders, Independent and Collaborative Critical Thinkers and Problem Solvers, and Socially Aware and Responsive Community Members.

The District also recognizes the need to support the whole student by providing a healthy, safe, engaging, supportive, and challenging educational environment. Our safe schools offer students engaging programs such as CTE Academies, Dual-Enrollment and Certification programs, Spanish Dual Language Immersion programs, CA State Seal of Biliteracy, CA State Seal of Civic Engagement, American Sign Language, AVID, Co-Taught Courses for students with disabilities, Honors and AP courses, and College and Career Centers to provide post-high school guidance. Additionally, our District and Site Equity Coordinators, Intervention Specialists, Wellness Centers, and Social and Emotional Supports Specialists create a culture of empathy and respect in our schools.

CVUHSD is committed to placing “Students First” in every decision, and embracing social justice, equity, and inclusion for all. These practices, combined with the support of a highly qualified and culturally competent staff, have permitted our schools to quickly adapt our educational programs to meet the needs of students in these challenging times. If you are interested in our schools and programs, please call (310) 263-3172 for more information. We’d love to have you join the CV family.

A man’s mind, stretched by new ideas,
may never return to its original dimensions.
— Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

Building a Community through Wellness



Dr. Jeffrey D. Jordan
Superintendent

Charter Oak Unified School District remains committed to building stronger relationships within our community. We know the success of our students starts at home, which is why Charter Oak was proud to open the Family Resource Center this year on the Royal Oak campus.

With a focus on providing support beyond academics to all district students and their families, the Family Resource Center offers help to those experiencing foster placement, homelessness and housing insecurities, and financial or transportation challenges. Additional support through emergency food, clothing, school supplies, and referrals to local charities are also available to our families.

These services promote the health and well-being of our families and help build healthier communities. We are proud to provide services personalized to each family’s needs. With every student we serve, we strengthen the trust between the district and future generations.

Research shows that parent involvement drastically improves academic performance. That can only happen if parents feel welcome to visit, communicate, and learn new skills to support their students in this ever-changing world. The Family Resource Center is the first of its kind in our district and has already been an invaluable addition to our community. Our parents know this is a place to gather information and services provided both within and outside district walls.

Once our students’ basic needs are met, there is a foundation for us to help them achieve academic excellence. Through our 21st-century learning approach, incredible faculty and staff, and supportive community, we have achieved much to be proud of and look forward to continuing educating the leaders of tomorrow.

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Dr. James
Elsasser
Superintendent

Over the past three years, Claremont Unified School District has been implementing the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB MYP) for our seventh through tenth grade students. The construct of the IB MYP Program emphasizes creating learning opportunities in every subject area through collaborative approaches to teaching and learning. This allows students to make connections to complex global issues and challenges and increases engagement and relevance in the classroom.

The MYP aligns with the CUSD Commitment by placing students at the center of teaching and learning. The program encourages students to engage in disciplinary and interdisciplinary learning that strengthens a student's ability to connect their learning through real-world application. Students engage in asking (inquiry), doing (action), and thinking (reflection) to foster the development of communication skills, intercultural understanding, and global awareness; qualities that are essential for life in the 21st century.

During each year and subject area of the program, students are required to engage in service learning to promote self-empowerment, international-mindedness, and empathetic thinking. Throughout this process, students collaborate and design service experiences that deepen their standards-based understanding and skills within each subject area, while developing the leadership skills to create change in the world around them.

The MYP is also a direct pathway to CUSD's prestigious IB Diploma Program (DP) that aims to develop eleventh and twelfth grade students physically, intellectually, emotionally, and ethically, to earn a worldwide recognized Diploma. As we work toward full implementation of the IB MYP Program, it is CUSD's commitment to all our educational partners to create learning opportunities that develop students who are prepared for the diverse and dynamic world in which we live.

Continuing Outstanding Achievements



Dr. Darin
Brawley
Superintendent

This past year has shown what can be accomplished when administrators, staff and the entire school community comes together and centers students.

The end of the 2021-22 school year was marked by a high school graduation rate of 90% or higher rate at our high schools — excluding continuation schools. Over 1,000 of them going on to colleges across the country, including those within the University of California and California State University systems, private schools, Ivy League universities, and HBCUs. Our middle college, Compton Early College High School, was ranked #13 in the County, #32 in the state, and #280 in the nation by *US News and World Report*.

We also broke ground on the new Compton High School, funded in part by the voters of the City of Compton and a generous donation from mogul Andre 'Dr. Dre' Young. The state-of-the-art facility, which will also have a performing arts complex, is set to open its doors in 2025. Voters also passed measure AAA, which will invest further in school facilities for students.

2022-23 began with recognition of the great people and programs in our district, including the selection of Catherine Borek, teacher at Dominguez High School, as California's Teacher of the Year by the California Department of Education, and recognition of Washington Elementary as a 2023 California Exemplary Arts Education School.

As we look ahead we are celebrating new programs, such as our new e-sports lab at Davis Middle School and a partnership with Hazel Health, which will provide access to student-centered mental health services.

Educational Excellence, for Every Student!



Dr. Elizabeth
Eminhizer
Superintendent

Covina-Valley Unified School District is committed to providing students with the best programs, opportunities, and resources to help them succeed both in school and in life. Our students exemplify our District's vision of "Educational Excellence, For Every Student, Every Day," through their drive to go above and beyond in their many pursuits.

We are incredibly proud of our exemplary A-G policies and practices, which have resulted in a 2021 65.6% A-G completion rate, underscoring our commitment to preparing students to be college-ready upon graduation.

In addition to our strong focus on A-G completion, Covina-Valley Unified also offers 24 robust career technical education pathways across the District, helping our high school students develop key skills in career fields such as broadcast journalism, business, agricultural science, welding, culinary arts, medicine, and more.

At the elementary level, Covina-Valley offers coding instruction that begins in kindergarten at our schools that partner with Code to the Future. We also provide outstanding dual-language immersion programs in Spanish and Mandarin, giving our students the opportunity to develop both bilingual and bi-cultural literacy. We are currently expanding these programs into our middle schools, allowing our students to continue gaining fluency as they progress through their education.

The incredible opportunities that Covina-Valley Unified offers students would not be possible without the tireless work of our teachers, staff, parents, and community. We are incredibly grateful to have community and industry partners that are so engaged and dedicated to ensuring our students achieve success in their college, careers, and future.

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Culver City Unified School District

4034 Irving Place, Culver City, CA 90232 • 310/842-4220 • www.ccusd.org

Leading the Way with Culver Pride



Quoc Tran
Superintendent

Culver City is known as a small town inside big city Los Angeles, with an excellent public school district based on three pillars: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion.

CCUSD's reputation as a diverse district with high academic standards and achievement includes five elementary schools, with Blue and Gold Ribbon designations. Culver City Middle is a California School to Watch. Culver City High is a California Democracy School.

Embracing the arts with best-in-class arts education begins with visual arts, music and dance in all five elementary schools.

Our middle and high schools offer CTE and afterschool pathways into film, music, visual arts, theater arts and dance. This year we began a Game Design pathway through our signature Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) program, fortunate to benefit from living in the Heart of Screenland.

Our highly competitive sports program, including football, water polo, basketball, and soccer, annually sends teams to CIF playoffs, often bringing home championships.

Symbolic of CCUSD's forward-thinking existence in the public education landscape, CCUSD was the first district in California to offer dual language immersion programs, opening Spanish language K-5th in 1971, and Japanese language K-5th in 1994, which have served as models for other public school districts across the country.

Recently we transitioned our middle and high school English departments from two tiers of "Honors" and "non-Honors" into College-Prep-for-all, focusing on academic rigor for every student. CCUSD is also one of the first districts in the country to add Advanced Placement in African American Studies. We offer multiple dual enrollment opportunities at our local community colleges.

CCUSD does not wait to follow. CCUSD leads the way with immense Culver Pride.

Duarte Unified School District

1620 Huntington Drive, Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5000 • www.duarteusd.org

21st Century Schools – 21st Century Students



Dr. Gordon Amerson
Superintendent

Duarte Unified offers a Competitive Advantage Plan that sets our students on the road to success for college, career, and life. Our school district is built upon Four Pillars that serve as the foundational principles of our organization. These Four Pillars are:

A Focus on Results: The district will reduce the achievement gap equitably between the most successful and least successful students, regardless of their race or ethnicity or social or economic circumstances.

Service-Centered: The district will create a culture of service grounded in the promise that all people will be treated with dignity and respect.

21st Century Schools: The district will prepare teachers and leaders to create the conditions for students to think critically, solve problems creatively and collaboratively, and compete in the world of complex environmental, political, technological, and socioeconomic challenges.

Strong Partnerships: The district will create a culture where partnering entities work together to integrate and complement each other in support of student success.

These Four Pillars support our instructional vision, and guide our professional practices in every classroom at every school across our entire district to ensure success for all students, without exception.

With this foundation, our district is able to offer progressive educational experiences for our students rooted in the arts and sciences. These include exclusive partnerships with the California School of the Arts-San Gabriel Valley, City of Hope National Medical Center, and Early College Program and Career Pathways with industry leaders and institutions of higher learning.

Downey Unified School District

11627 Brookshire Avenue, CA 90241 • 562/469-6500 • web.dusd.net

Our Kids Deserve the Best...



Dr. John A. Garcia, Jr.
Superintendent

Our district is located approximately 12 miles south of Los Angeles within driving distance of scenic mountains and beaches. For decades, our schools have enjoyed the reputation of an outstanding school system. Our mantra is "Our Kids Deserve the Best..." and this drives all of our daily practices. The city of Downey is a highly desirable location for families, because of the opportunities provided by our award-winning schools. Downey Unified's graduation rate of 96% exemplifies our vision of preparing students to be college and career ready, globally competitive and citizens of strong character.

We are proud to have eight of our elementary schools designated as Apple Distinguished Schools, a globally renowned merit where only 34 schools in the state of California and 728 globally have earned this designation. We also have created physical Wellness Centers and/or Spaces at each of our 21 schools where students are able to find support from licensed professionals at any time during the day.

Downey Unified provides students with robotics and coding courses beginning as early as TK and access to state-of-the-art facilities, CIF champion sports and cheer, STEAM classes/programs and countless Career Technical Education pathways.

In addition to our strong academic programs, we offer the national recognized CHARACTER COUNTS! program districtwide. This character education program, which is integrated into academic, discipline, and athletics, is based on the following Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.

On behalf of the Board of Education and our employees, I welcome you to visit the Downey Unified School District.

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East Whittier City School District

14535 E. Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90605 • 562/907-5900 • www.ewcsd.org

Success in the Classroom and Beyond



Dr. Marc Patterson
Superintendent

Through our commitment to developing 21st century learners through the 5 C's of Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking and Community, our 7,800 students continue to achieve high levels of success inside the classroom and beyond.

One of our focus areas this year has been to expand our Broad Course of Study program. This initiative has provided students with enrichment opportunities in the areas of music and art during the instructional day. By offering more robust enrichment programs, or students will be more well-rounded and better prepared for high school. Planning for this program has been years in the making, and we look forward to offering more enrichment opportunities for our students in the near future.

We are also excited about creating makerspaces at each of our elementary schools. These facilities will greatly enhance the learning potential for our students and will create opportunities for engaging, hands-on activities related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

In addition to the work we are doing inside the classroom, we are also proud of the improvement of our facilities thanks to Measures R and Z. This project brought significant updates such as new school offices, updated classroom technology, new playground equipment, new asphalt and HVAC systems. We are grateful to our community in supporting this project and are thrilled for our students to enjoy these upgrades.

On behalf of the Board of Education, we appreciate the continued support of our families and community. We look forward to continuing our mission of opening the door to every child's future and ensuring that our district remains a great place to learn.

El Monte City School District

3540 N. Lexington Ave., El Monte, CA 91731 • 626/453-3700 • www.emcsd.org

Creating Wonder



Dr. Maribel Garcia
Superintendent

At El Monte City School District, we strive to be the beacon of support and encouragement for our students & their families. Everyday students are examining their world and shaping their hopes and dreams.

Our job is to create safe and innovative learning journeys so our students can discover the wonders of this world and the wonders within themselves.

To accomplish this, we are providing unique experiences for students to jumpstart their imaginations about their futures. Some experiences include free Outdoor Science Camp trips for all 6th graders and opening no-cost enrichment camps during weekends and breaks filled with a variety of activities like piano lessons, field trips, culinary courses, and more. We continue to emphasize arts at all our schools, especially music. We have designated music teachers who provide high quality music education to all grade levels. Our dedication to the arts gained national recognition from the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) who named us a 2022 Best Communities for Music Education.

Successful students are not just the result of well-thought educational plans. Parents and guardians play a major role too. They are valuable partners that we want part of our educational process, so we created opportunities for them to learn educational, mental health, and socio-emotional tools to ensure healthy learning continues at home. Workshops are taught by social workers and counselors that we have hired as full time employees throughout EMCSd.

In order to create *wonder*, we need to reimagine what education can be and see it through.

Eastside Union School District

45006 30th Street East, Lancaster, CA 93535 • 661/952-1200 • www.eastsideusd.org

Everyone Contributes, Every Student Achieves



Dr. Joshua Lightle
Superintendent

The Eastside Union School District is made up of four elementary schools, one middle school, and one transitional learning center. The district serves approximately 3,500 students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade in the eastern part of the city of Lancaster in the Antelope Valley region of the County.

Our mission is to provide an inclusive, challenging and innovative education in a safe, positive and rigorous learning environment with dynamic and responsive staff, who encourage unparalleled results for students. We do this by providing our faculty and staff with professional learning opportunities to further their development in providing a rigorous academic

program using a variety of instructional strategies to meet the differentiated needs of every student in the classroom.

Some guiding principles that we believe can be our foundation of success include:

1. Relationships are key. We are in the people business. Developing positive and productive relationships is a key to the success of any organization.
2. Connect peers with purpose. A climate and culture that fosters continuous and purposeful peer interaction will build powerful teams across the District in order to achieve our mission and vision.
3. Build capacity. Investing in the development of individual and collective efficacy will help us accomplish significant outcomes.
4. Learning is the work. For students and staff alike, our primary goal is learning. All decisions at all levels of the organization must reflect this relentless focus on learning.
5. Transparency rules. A clear and continuous display of results, and clear and continuous access to effective, innovative practice is a key to our improvement efforts.

El Monte Union High School District

3537 Johnson Ave., El Monte, CA 91731 • 626/444-9005 • www.emuhd.org

Committed to College and Career



Dr. Edward A. Zuniga
Superintendent

At El Monte Union High School District, our mission focuses on preparing our students to succeed in their academic and personal goals, an effort supported by our rigorous curriculum, career technical education pathways, and strong athletics and arts programs.

El Monte Union is proud to provide students with enriching academic opportunities, activities and expanded social-emotional wellness resources to aid in their success.

This school year, six of our students have been selected as QuestBridge Scholars and will be attending elite schools such as Princeton University, the University of Notre Dame and Stanford University. We are very proud of our students and the inspiring path they have set for others.

To boost college and career opportunities, El monte Union hosted a districtwide college night and college and career family conference, each of which provided students with a first look into higher education. Additionally, we hosted several financial aid and parent and family engagement nights, which helped solidify the bond between our teachers, students and their families.

El Monte Union has launched several programs aimed at providing students with professional and hands-on experience. The City of Hope High School Career Pathway Pilot Program provided nearly 30 of our students with industry experience as they enter the healthcare field, and our Sports Medicine Program is providing students with training alongside professionals in the sports industry.

The District has made exciting improvements and additions to facilities across all campuses to continue enriching the lives of our students and providing them with modern facilities that will inspire and support their academic success.

Premiere Education for All Students



Dr. Marco A. Villegas
Superintendent

The El Rancho Unified School District (ERUSD) is dedicated to uncompromising excellence in academics as well as providing student safety and wellbeing for all students. Our students have access to world-class opportunities, including Project Lead the Way, robotics, academic decathlon, athletics, competitive cheer/dance, premiere music programs, and other engaging enrichment experiences. We offer a diverse array of programs, including Dual Language (Spanish), Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, AVID, and Career Technical Education (CTE) with multiyear options guiding students toward postsecondary education and careers. Starting with a wide offering of early learning programs, including a dual language preschool, our

students are equipped academically, prepared socially, and empowered to participate and thrive in a challenging, diverse world.

ERUSD proudly serves the residents of Pico Rivera. The district educates approximately 7,500 students at 14 distinct schools from TK-12 including an adult education program. Each campus offers a wide variety of options for students allowing us to deliver a quality education for each student, every day. The District’s well-prepared, dedicated, and highly qualified teachers and support personnel are second to none.

Our Board of Education is resolute in the belief that, “All students will receive a world class education and graduate with a valuable diploma, ready for college and careers.” Accomplishing this vision requires all of us to work together in order to bring it to light for all students. We are passionate about doing whatever it takes to prepare students to be successful and contributing citizens of the 21st century.

Innovation on Full Display



Dr. Melissa Moore
Superintendent

In the El Segundo Unified School District, we embrace our mission of Transforming Education for a Changing World by providing our students with a wide range of opportunities to learn, succeed, and innovate.

These efforts were on display in October 2022, when our students led tours of all six ESUSD schools for administrators and members of the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools. The tours focused on the three themes of (1) student-driven thinking, (2) cultivating global citizens, and (3) innovation for college and career readiness. Educators from across the country got to see firsthand the impact of innovation in the classroom.

District staff and students also participated in a panel, where they shared our Graduate Profile, our comprehensive social-emotional learning program, our high school pathways, and how we provide student voice and choice in learning.

As a district, we are intentional about preparing our students to meet the challenges and excel in the 21st century. Our Graduate Profile sets forth the cognitive, personal, and interpersonal competencies students will possess by the time they graduate high school. We make these goals clear to our entire school community so that our collective efforts can be aligned across buildings.

Through RULER, educators, students, and parents alike gain knowledge allowing them to Recognize, Understand, Label, Express, and Regulate their personal feelings. This has had a tremendous effect on all our schools’ climate and culture.

ESUSD continues to embrace a learner-centric, future-forward, and innovative-minded approach to teaching and learning—one that is achieving real results for our students across grade levels.



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Adventures on Our Journey!



Anita Chu
Superintendent

2022-2023 marks a significant milestone in our adventures together! *Adventures in* **Capturing Kids’ Hearts**

The new normal in the post-pandemic era has been marked by a concerning increase in social-emotional, mental, and behavioral challenges among students. To promote whole-child wellness, our team of skilled staff continue to provide individualized support services. Schools are optimizing the purposefully designed “wellness center” to offer an appealing environment for group and individual social-emotional learning. Most excitingly, Garvey has just embarked on a journey to implement “Capturing Kids’ Hearts,” a research-based transformational process that focuses on social-emotional wellbeing, relationship-driven school culture, and student connectedness.

Adventures in **Developing Leaders**

Leadership development has been the heart of the District’s vision. Emerging from the pandemic, we are recommitted to cultivating leaders with academic competencies, emotional strengths, and moral integrity who will and can advance local and global communities. To this end, our schools are reinvigorating signature programs, including the “Leader in Me,” Dual Language Plus, and STEAM/Makerspace programs, to develop future-ready global leaders.

Adventures in **Serving the Whole Family**

Garvey understands the importance of family in fulfilling the whole-child mission. Through the partnership with community agencies, we offer ongoing parent education on academic support at home, physical and mental health workshops, and on-campus health and counseling services. Garvey has embraced the whole family as important partners in our journey.

Despite the prevailing challenges, Garvey is committed to provide a safe, happy, and vibrant haven where all students, parents, and staff can journey and grow together through inspiring, innovative, and impactful adventures.

Proud to be GUSD



Dr. Dominic J.
DiGrazia
Superintendent

The Glendora Unified School District (GUSD) provides the very best in education to students on a daily basis. GUSDs exemplary staff works collaboratively to connect students with their school and community, producing students that are prepared to take on their next challenge.

Our sole purpose is to seek out student success, while partnering with our families every step of the way. We continue to offer all GUSD students access to programs and resources (in and out of the classroom) that not only pique their interest, but also allow them the opportunity to grow as individuals. It is our continued focus on developing the whole child that enables us to be a stellar school district, one filled with dedicated

professionals that allow individual miracles to take place each and every day in our classrooms.

GUSD continues to stand tall with its storied traditions, including our amazing achievements and accomplishments in the areas of academics, arts, and athletics. At the same time, we continue to seek out innovative programs for our students that will enable them to be prepared for their next phase of life once they leave our campuses. Students at all levels have the opportunity to engage in activities related to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) during the school year, and it is our hope that these experiences will spark an interest for a possible future career, perhaps one that is not even currently known at this time.

We wish to thank all of our community partners for making GUSD the special place that it is today. It is your passion and pride, along with your unwavering support, that forges a path for every child in GUSD to succeed and pursue their future dreams and aspirations.

Endless Pathways for Success



Dr. Vivian
Ekchian
Superintendent

In Glendale Unified School District, we are relentlessly focused on maximizing student achievement, fostering students’ social and emotional growth, and creating a vibrant, inclusive environment where all children can learn and thrive. Our track record of success is attributed to the hard work of our talented education professionals and strong support from our highly engaged families and community leaders. Nine Glendale Unified schools have earned the U.S. Office of Education’s highest designation, the National Blue Ribbon. Additionally, 26 Glendale Unified schools have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools and 17 of our district’s 18 Title I schools have been

named Title I Achieving Schools. We proudly offer dual immersion programs in seven languages, Armenian, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish. Glendale Unified also offers six magnet schools focused on technology, world languages, and visual and performing arts, and a wide variety of Career and Technical Education pathways beginning in middle school.

Through a collaborative partnership with Glendale Community College, Glendale Unified offers students multiple opportunities to earn college credit before they graduate from high school, including our Hoover High Early College Academy, Glendale High Cloud Computing and Computer Science Academy, and our Online College and Career Academy virtual high school.

We are committed to elevating student voices, supporting our educators and staff, and partnering with our families and community to offer dynamic learning opportunities for every child.

Small School Preparing for Success



Dr. Dena
Kiouses
Superintendent

Gorman School is a small rural school serving students in grades transitional kindergarten through eighth grade, in Gorman. We are a School of Choice and serve students in the Frazier Park area of Kern County and the Neenach area of Los Angeles County.

In the past couple of years, we have focused on increasing our STEM activities and added middle school FFA, a science teacher, robotics club, and are currently creating a science lab/maker’s space. All students also participate in coding and use their knowledge to create coding projects that illustrate knowledge of coding and core curriculum combined. Students have progressed through block coding. Middle school students have learned block coding, Minecraft for Education, Python, and are now working through HTML. Between coding cycles, students participate in enrichment activities including cooking, art, horse management, and science lab.

Spanish was added this year for all students. Students participate in learning to speak, read, write in Spanish and also learn about cultural events and holidays.

Anyone who has never made a mistake
has never tried anything new.
— Albert Einstein

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

15959 E. Gale Ave., City of Industry, CA 91745 • 626/933-1000 • www.hlpsschools.org

Explore, Learn, Grow: Inspire Deep Learning



Dr. Alfonso Jiménez
Superintendent

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District offers a wide-ranged curriculum consisting of innovative, hands-on learning experiences designed to develop problem-solving skills, promote socio-emotional growth and inspire deep learning for all of our students.

Our top priority is the safety and well-being of our students and staff. In support of this effort, we offer free tutoring and mental health resources, including wellness centers, educational workshops, webinars, and much more.

Hacienda La Puente Unified is dedicated to maximizing the talents of our students and fostering deep learning through applied practices demonstrated in our 21 forward-thinking programs within the District's 11 career technical education pathways.

This school year, we implemented Intersectional Ethnic Studies across the District, launched the Youth Cinema Project, our Virtual Academy and Workman High School's Early College Academy Network. We also celebrated the expansion of C-STEM and robotics, Speech and Debate, Conga Kids and Dual Language Immersion programs.

Our District was recognized for its success in civic education with five of our schools receiving the Civic Learning Award, while Los Altos Elementary School and Orange Grove Middle School were recognized with an Award of Distinction. The District was also presented with the Pivotal Practice Award, recognizing 28 schools, including all four comprehensive high schools, for their success in implementing innovative strategies to support students during state-mandated distance learning.

With a California Dashboard graduation rate of 96%, HLPUSD continues to prepare its students with the skills, confidence and tools to meet the challenges and embrace the opportunities of a changing world.

Hermosa Beach City School District

1645 Valley Dr., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 • 310/937-5877 • www.hbcasd.org

Small + New + Talented = HBCSD



Dr. Jason Johnson
Superintendent

It is enrollment season and we are excited to welcome more families to our small school community. As parents prepare to make the choice this spring to join TK and Kindergarten, we encourage everyone to choose Hermosa Schools. In the past two years, our enrollment has grown by 8%. Here are a few reasons why:

- Parents rate our schools GREAT with an all-time high Net Promoter Score since the survey began in the district.
- In two months, Hermosa schools won back-to-back awards including the California Distinguished School Award and Golden Bell Award for student achievement and whole child programs.
- Parent engagement opportunities are a priority. This month we launched Watch DOGS where dads volunteer for a day across the school campus (thanks fellas).
- Hermosa prioritizes a positive campus culture for middle school students where all are welcome with programs such as the Wellness Center and the Spirit Games.
- Two new schools opened thanks to a school construction bond, making our campuses the newest in the South Bay.
- We are opening a preschool in 2023-2024 at Hermosa View!

Hermosa possesses an 'A' rating on Niche and has become a destination school. Small community, new facilities, and talented teachers makes Hermosa the Best Little Beach Schools.

Hawthorne School District

14120 S. Hawthorne Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-2276 • www.hawthorne.k12.ca.us

Harnessing the Power of the Community



Dr. Brian Markarian
Superintendent

The mission of the Hawthorne School District is to maximize each student's potential to achieve educational excellence and social and emotional well-being. We know that to fully realize this goal, we must work collaboratively and in partnership with the entire community. In support of these efforts, we have launched a community-wide literacy initiative, making reading programs and resources available to all community members, regardless of age or enrollment status. We have also established strong community partnerships in the areas of counseling, mental health, and wellness, making critical services accessible to students, families, and staff. Through the creation and expansion

of our Family Outreach Teacher on Special Assignment, Community Liaison, and School Social Worker positions, we have invested in providing families and community partners with contacts and resources to support them as they work to support our students.

In the 2022-2023 school year, we have turned our sights toward the community schools model, with each school engaging in in-depth planning to identify the specific needs of their school community. Through a thorough asset mapping process, resources both within and outside of the District have been identified as a first step in establishing responsive and comprehensive community schools in the coming year. As we pursue this goal, our schools will expand upon their current broad range of services to provide enhanced and extended supports in the areas of academics, health services, and family engagement.

The Hawthorne School District does not just operate within the community, we are an integral part of the community. We look forward to deepening this commitment in the months and years ahead.

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Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District

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Inspire, Create, and Achieve at HELUS!



Susan Denton
Superintendent

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District (HELUS) remains a long-standing staple in our northern Los Angeles County mountain community. With 176 TK-8 students, we believe in the history and traditions of the district. The Elizabeth Lake School District was formed in 1874, the Lake Hughes School District was formed in 1899. The two districts joined in 1950 and is the oldest school district in the Antelope Valley. Many of our students are second or third generation Mountain Lions who live in the areas of Lake Hughes, Elizabeth Lakes, and surrounding areas including Antelope Valley.

HELUS consistently succeeds in academics and enrichment through collaboration, a dedicated staff, strong ties to the community, and an enthusiastic PTA. Our goal is to maintain a positive school environment that encourages social emotional learning, creates school spirit and a sense of pride, as well as inspires a growth mindset in learning as we pursue excellence in education. We are proud to offer electives for middle school grades, and STEAM field trips for all students. This year we begin the implementation of AVID schoolwide through a pilot program designed for small school districts. Expanded learning and enrichment opportunities include a vibrant robotics team, after-school extended hours of learning through our RISE program, as well as activity clubs sponsored by our PTA. It is our goal and commitment to provide rich learning opportunities for all students as we prepare them for their future college and career aspirations. We take pride in positively communicating with parents about their students' successes and accomplishments, which we share through an increased social media presence. #WeAreHELUS

Keppel Union School District

34004 128th St. East, P.O. Box 186, Pearblossom, CA 93553 • 661/944-2155 • www.keppelunion.org

A World of Infinite Possibilities



Dr. Jacqueline A. Cardenas
Superintendent

The Keppel Union School District encompasses 6 schools that are situated centrally within 300 square miles of the Antelope Valley's picturesque high desert in northeastern Los Angeles County. Dedicated and loyal employees proudly serve 2,720 eager-to-learn preschool-8th grade students from diverse backgrounds. District team members work collectively to open doors for students to "Seek Education, Strive for Excellence, and Aspire to Greatness," which is our District's mission.

Our schools have various signature programs including, The Leader in Me, STEAM, GATE, AVID, the arts, media production, agriculture, and clubs to peak students' interest and provide creative venues for critical thinking, communication, collaboration, character education, and citizenship. Two of our schools are recognized as California Distinguished Schools and we have other award-winning programs as part of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports.

Our district takes pride in providing positive learning environments where student safety and health, academic success, and social and emotional wellness are of highest priority. Robust resources across our district include a School Counselor at every school, an afterschool RISE program for academic intervention and enrichment, Breakfast in the Classroom for all students, a partnership with Save the Children, an inclusion model of Special Education services, access to 24-7 online tutoring, and summer school programming. Other district-centric rich resources are an Enrollment Center and Wellness Center.

Students leave Keppel seamlessly to transition into high school as competent, confident individuals with the motivation to continue opening doors to a world of infinite possibilities for themselves and others in their trajectory of lifelong learning.

Inglewood Unified School District

401 S. Inglewood Ave, Inglewood, CA 90301 • 310/419-2700 • www.inglewoodusd.com

Reimagining IUSD Is Here



Dr. James Morris
County Administrator

Our goal of high levels of academic achievement for ALL children is on the horizon. Over the past years, we have begun implementing strong systems and structures to support improved student achievement and a strong foundation to see steady gains. Our singular focus is a commitment to the belief that all children can learn; all children can achieve at high levels; and that all children of Inglewood Unified School District will become successful contributing members of their communities.

The time to reimagine the Inglewood Unified School District is here. We are steadily climbing toward a pinnacle that will allow us to see continuous improvement. The progress of the past several years has provided us the foundation for improved achievement, as we have challenged ourselves to accelerate the pace of change. The District is on track to embrace and produce achievement excellence, as we enhance our core programs, standard-based instruction, and provide our students with the world class facilities that they deserve.

We must recognize the partners who have been instrumental in improving the District, since the inception of state receivership: California Department of Education, Los Angeles County Office of Education, California Council of Economic Education, IUSD Board of Education, elected officials, labor partners, staff, students, families and many steadfast community partners. Their unwavering commitment to our mission is contributing to a strong foundation for academic excellence and supporting each student, in their journey to a better tomorrow. The future of our community lives in the hopes and dreams of the children we are educating, challenging, and inspiring today.

Together, #WeAreInglewoodUnified

La Cañada Unified School District

4490 Cornishon Ave., La Cañada, CA 91011 • 818/952-8300 • www.lcusd.net

Our Success is Intentional



Wendy Sinnette
Superintendent

La Cañada Unified School District is a learning community committed to personal growth and academic excellence. All facets of the district work to ensure its success is intentional. Part of the fabric of the community, La Cañada schools inspire a national standard for high academic achievement, citizenship, and student well-being. LCUSD emphasizes safety, security, and belongingness as a priority on each of its school campuses. The district operates three elementary schools and a combined grades 7-12 middle and high school. Current student enrollment is approximately 4000. Each school in the district has developed a comprehensive Responsive Teaching Plan and has adopted

Stanford's Challenge Success initiative to ensure that all students receive appropriate tiers of support in mastering academic standards and in developing their social, emotional, and physical health and resilience. La Cañada Flintridge is home of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Descanso Gardens. The professional residents of La Cañada are attracted to the city because of its excellent schools and its strong community spirit. Parent participation and involvement in the schools are extensive as evidenced by a robust La Cañada Educational Foundation which contributes over 2 million dollars annually to the district and the active volunteerism and program support by the PTA at each school site and the Spartan Boosters at LCHS 7-12. Approximately 99% of graduating seniors enroll in post-secondary schools, with students attending their best fit colleges and universities across the nation. All of its schools have been named National Blue Ribbon schools, with Palm Crest and Paradise Canyon Elementary Schools most recently being recognized in 2021. La Cañada High School 7/8 was named a National Forum "School to Watch" school in 2014, 2017, 2020, and 2023. All LCUSD schools have been designated as California Distinguished Schools, with its three elementary schools recognized again in 2023.

Las Virgenes Unified School District

4111 Las Virgenes Rd., Calabasas, CA 91302 • 818/880-4000 • www.lvusd.org

A Destination District



Dr. Daniel D. Stepenosky
Superintendent

Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) is ranked among the nation’s top districts and encompasses 15 schools, spanning preschool through high school, serving the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village. LVUSD is a destination district with superior academics, award-winning music and art programs, and championship athletic programs. The District is known for its incredible team of administrators, teachers and staff, an engaged and supportive School Board, strong city partnerships, and an innovative business community. LVUSD’s accolades include California Distinguished Schools, U.S. News Best High Schools, U.S. Blue Ribbons, California Gold and Green Ribbons, AP Honor Roll District of Distinction, and students who are accepted into the most prestigious universities and colleges.

LVUSD offers a myriad of innovative programs appealing to a diverse student body including Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma, International Baccalaureate Diploma, Early College Academy, GATE, Dual Language Immersion, a Waldorf-Inspired K-8 school, and a variety of career pathways such as Culinary Arts, Sports Medicine, and BroadCast Journalism. Students have access to a robust counseling and wellness program that has specialists available in the areas of college guidance, as well as social-emotional and family counseling. LVUSD has adopted and implemented Social Justice Standards and a Social Justice high school class. Committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion with coursework, curricula, and ongoing teacher training, students feel welcome, included and supported. We are thankful for our outstanding Las Virgenes community who supported the District’s recent \$340 million school bond for technology, safety, building improvements, and upgrades to further enhance LVUSD’s ability to offer each student an environment in which to thrive.

Lawndale Elementary School District

4161 W. 147th St., Lawndale, CA 90260 • 310/973-1300 • www.lawndalesd.net

Students are the “True North”



Virginia Castro
Superintendent

The Lawndale Elementary School District ensures students are the “True North” that guides all decision-making throughout our educational community. Through collaborative professional learning and instructional coaching for certificated and classified personnel, we develop staff capacity and ensure continuous improvement of staff and students.

As an organization, we create positive and inclusive environments by building courageous spaces for our team to understand equity and diversity. We have partnered with Trajectory of Hope, the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, and Nicole Anderson to accompany us on this journey. Only a shift in mindsets can facilitate the necessary shift in practices to act proactively to the unique needs of our community and stakeholders.

We are excited to break ground for our Community Wellness Center at Anderson Elementary School through a partnership grant with Providence Little Company of Mary. The grand opening is in September 2023! The Community Wellness Center will serve the Lawndale community and provide resources, including School Social Workers, Medi-Cal, and physical and mental wellness workshops.

The Dual Capacity-Building Framework and Multi-Tiered System of Support continue to guide our work in family engagement more deeply. Threading both strategies will support school administrators and teachers in bridging classroom-to-home learning. We are proud to have been invited to present at the California Association of Bilingual Education conference on including staff as partners with our workshop titled, “Bringing Teachers Into Meaningful Family Engagement.”

The expansion of the Spanish dual immersion program is flourishing, and all our elementary schools will have full-day Transitional Kindergarten next year. Visit www.lawndalesd.net to learn about the Lawndale Elementary School District.

Lancaster School District

44711 Cedar Ave., Lancaster, CA 93534 • 661/948-4661 • www.lancsd.org

Educating the Whole Child



Dr. Paul M. Marietti
Superintendent

Lancaster School District has been serving students of the Antelope Valley in preschool through eighth grade since 1885. Lancaster School District consists of over 14,000 students in five middle schools, thirteen elementary schools, and programs including alternative and virtual academies.

Lancaster School District strives to create positive learning environments where students experience supportive and secure relationships. We are committed to amplifying achievement for all children, regardless of their circumstances, through social, cognitive, and academic connections with an emphasis on physical and mental health.

Lancaster School District believes human relationships are the essential ingredient and the catalyst for healthy development and learning. We feel our emphasis on addressing student needs has a direct impact on learning. Focusing on children’s social and emotional needs, along with academics, allows our students to be active learners and build on their knowledge through experience, relationships, and social context.

In conjunction with our families, community partners, and charitable organizations, we provide well-rounded educational opportunities for student success. These include mental and physical health, social services, expanded learning opportunities, as well as intersession, summer learning academies, sports, music, arts, college readiness, STEAM, and dual language.

This kind of supports help students overcome barriers to learning, reflect a whole child development, and allows Lancaster School District to maximize opportunities for all students to succeed.

Lennox School District

10319 Firmona Ave., Lennox, CA 90304 • 310/695-4000 • www.lennox.k12.ca.us

Students First!



Gabriela Tavitian
Superintendent

Serving approximately 4,000 students and employing 800 dedicated employees, the Lennox School District is located just 2 miles from the LAX Airport. Lennox proudly serves students in grades preschool through eighth at five elementary schools and one middle school.

The Lennox School District is a special place where students always come first! We are proud to provide our scholars with a strong emphasis on 21st Century Skills along with a commitment to grow strong student leadership skills.

Our District continues to provide innovative and research-based programs that support student achievement. Through our partnership with Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), our students are learning to overcome obstacles and achieve success. All of our schools promote critical thinking, collaboration, and the setting of high expectations to confidently conquer challenges.

Lennox is committed to preparing our students with a strong leadership foundation. Our students and staff have embraced the Leader in Me Model. This model empowers our staff with effective practices and tools to:

- teach LEADERSHIP to every student,
- create a CULTURE of student empowerment,
- and align systems to drive results in ACADEMICS.

The Lennox School District maintains a relentless commitment to ensuring that our students are “On the Flight Path to Success” as we strive to make a positive difference in the life of each student we are privileged to serve. Our District supports the “whole child” through school counselors, parent centers, before and after school programs, dual language programs and engineering academies.

Building on Our Progress



Dr. Jill Baker
Superintendent

In our quest for excellence and equity here in the Long Beach Unified School District, I'm continually inspired by the determination and talent shown by our students and staff. Their work is supported by a carefully crafted Learning Acceleration and Support Plan to help ensure success for all students.

Fortunately, I get to observe much of this work in action. When I visit schools, I see teachers using all of their skills in ways that lead to greater wellbeing and higher achievement for students. Each of these daily victories has added up to a pivotal school year in which students are showing signs of progress.

I also enjoy helping students and schools to celebrate their special occasions, for instance Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science earning a prestigious Gold Pathway certification for Biomedical Engineering, or a team of Wilson High School students winning top national honors for filmmaking, or the many beautiful events in recognition of Black History Month.

To create more opportunities for success (and celebration), we're focusing on the longer term, with a comprehensive strategic planning effort called Vision 2035. This effort allows time and space for students, families, staff and community partners to help us create a vision of how LBUSD – and our students – can thrive for many more years. Campus upgrades also will continue to assure student success in the years ahead. A list of school projects is available at lbschoolbonds.net.

The best is yet to come, and we thank everyone who supports our important work.

Students First!



Dr. William Crean
Superintendent

Serving the communities of Santa Fe Springs, northern Norwalk and a segment of Downey, LLCSD educates approximately 4,000 students in pre-school through eighth grade at seven elementary schools and two middle schools.

Little Lake is proud of our numerous achievements and awards. As we finally approach the end of the COVID pandemic, we have our high quality in-person instructional program back in place, the district is academically and fiscally strong, the community support of our schools and district is exceptionally high, and the initiatives we have put in place continue to move this district forward to greater levels of success. With a heavy emphasis on Students First, the personal, emotional, and social development of our students are supported daily through both counseling services at all sites, the implementation of the Second Step SEL program, and dedication to a districtwide program to address bullying and Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS).

The Little Lake teachers and staff are Fantastic! Not only are they highly qualified by state and national standards, they are caring, knowledgeable and effective in educating our students and in building their self-esteem as solid citizens and capable learners. Little Lake teachers truly exemplify our district beliefs: Students First! Results Matter! Whatever It Takes!

Driving the district's success are a cohesive and focused governance team, highly qualified and dedicated administrators, a district office staff that consistently supports both the district as a whole as well as each of the nine school sites, and a community of parents and guardians that actively engage with us as partners in educating their children and supporting our schools.

Our focus on learning, collaboration, and results drives our daily work. By continuing to focus on our students' needs, the Little Lake City School District is committed to maintaining the educational quality that makes our schools "distinguished."

from heart failure to a
full heart



Athena, A



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One Year In, Thousands of Lives Changed



Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent

It has been an honor serving as the superintendent of Los Angeles Unified for the past year. I am surrounded by dedicated, tenacious and diligent educators, students, families and community partners who are embodiments of the best of Los Angeles. Each day I am energized and heartened as I see in our students the future leaders who will transform the world. I cannot think of more important, critical and timely work than supporting the students of Los Angeles.

When I arrived in February 2022, I knew the challenges and work before us. Together we have accomplished a tremendous amount and the lives of thousands of students have been forever changed. We have decreased chronic absenteeism, stabilized enrollment, improved our financial health, provided tutoring programs for tens of thousands of students, modernized and improved our campuses, implemented eco-sustainable infrastructures and added Acceleration Days that provided additional instruction time and opportunities for credit recovery.

This has been no small feat and it would be reasonable to spend an entire year on just one of those priorities. Together, we addressed them all and I am grateful for the work we have accomplished. But I am now setting our vision on the forthcoming year and the opportunities that lay ahead where we will increase our graduation rate, continue decreasing our chronic absenteeism and investing in the academic experiences of our students.

Through our collective work, every student will leave our classrooms ready to make a difference, ready to enact change and Ready for the World.

Destination District



Jim Combs
Superintendent

The Lowell Joint School District strives to be among the leading districts throughout the State of California, holding true to our traditional American core values since 1906. Our outstanding teachers focus on our #1 priority, which is student success. This is evident in the fact that our students exceed the scores of Los Angeles and Orange County as well as the State of California. We are honored to serve our communities of La Habra, La Habra Heights, and Whittier. Each of our six schools are Gold Ribbon Schools, Distinguished Schools, and California Business Excellence Schools. Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate is also recognized as a three time “Schools to Watch”, awarded six CSBA Golden Bell awards in the last six years, and Magna Awards from the National School Board Association in 2021 & 2022. The importance of education, family, and traditional American values are the bedrock to LJSD, as is our emphasis on higher education, personal integrity, and Character Education.

Specialized academic programs include coding & robotics, STEAM Innovation Labs, and ARTS FOR ALL: band, choir, dance, theater, fine art, and instrumental strings. Rancho-Starbuck is proud to provide students the Pre-AP/IB Honors Academy, Conservatory of the Arts, AP Computer Science, Robotics and Engineering, eSports, and Green Architecture, which transition into our local high schools and onto post-secondary education.

Together the people of Lowell Joint make Lowell a Destination District where we focus on ensuring that our students have the foundation to be globally competitive and grounded in traditional American values.

Students First, Always, And in All Ways



Dr. Ramiro Rubalcaba
Superintendent

In the Los Nietos School District (LNSD), we are building brighter futures for our students one day at a time. By offering innovative programs that highlight S.T.E.A.M. learning and offering community resources to help address barriers to learning, we are helping students create their own paths to success.

We have the incredible honor of preparing our students for the future, and we keep that vision at the forefront of our minds in everything we do at LNSD. Every decision we make, from funding to resources and technology, is about putting the students first.

At the same time, we want to empower our students to be involved in all that is to come to LNSD. We want our students to make informed decisions, offer them various leadership opportunities, and have them start developing their leadership skills today as they take ownership of their own education and their schools.

We have already witnessed how creating open spaces for dialogue can increase parent and student motivation to stay involved in the decision-making process. Events like our Superintendent Meet and Greets, where students and parents were invited to share their thoughts, questions, and concerns in either English or Spanish, showed great success. We look forward to creating more opportunities like these to ensure our students know their voices can make a difference.

As we look to the future, all of us at Los Nietos School District are excited to see our scholars rise to their full potential and become truly successful citizens that will improve the world around them in countless ways.

Helping Students Achieve Their Aspirations



Dr. Gudiel R. Crosthwaite
Superintendent

Lynwood Unified School District is committed to preparing students for academic success by providing a rigorous curriculum and maintaining a positive learning environment where all students can excel.

Lynwood Unified made leaping bounds into the future of education in 2022. We are extremely proud of our evolution, which has led to a significant increase in student achievement across each of our campuses.

We also received an incredible outpour of support from State leaders and received \$250 million to rebuild Lynwood High School. These funds will help us ensure our students continue succeeding and learning in modernized and safe facilities beginning in 2026.

Lynwood Unified is now the only District to have had each of our schools be recognized with Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Awards for their efforts in maintaining a positive and engaging environment that sets our students up for success. The District has also increased its social-emotional resources for staff and students to support their health and well-being.

Providing students with college and career opportunities is one of many ways we aim to inspire them to follow their dreams. The District has hosted dozens of FAFSA and college application workshops, increased career technical education opportunities, and also hosted a Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) caravan event, which provided students with on-the-spot acceptances and over \$7 million in scholarships.

At Lynwood Unified, we are fortunate to have leaders who work tirelessly to ensure our students continue to achieve their academic and personal goals.

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

325 S. Peck Ave., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 • 310/318-7345 • www.mbusd.org

Destination District – Academic Success



Dr. John Bowes
Superintendent

Manhattan Beach Unified School District (MBUSD) is a “Destination District” and is fortunate to be supported by a close-knit community that values the importance of a high-performing public school system. MBUSD has proven to have a history of excellence with a strong record of academic achievement and growth. Our District has received accolades on a state and national level in academic achievement, arts, athletics, sustainability, and music. Our schools continue to be honored as California Distinguished Schools and nationally ranked by the *U.S. News and World Report*. I am proud of our high-quality staff, programs, and educational opportunities that focus on the whole child and on MBUSD’s Personalized Learning

Framework to ensure every student achieves academic success. Over the decades, our goal has been to enrich the educational experience starting in Transitional Kindergarten (TK) to grow and develop our students into the next generation of learners and citizens.

MBUSD serves 5,895 students in TK-12 with one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Each MBUSD school has a unique identity that aligns with our five MBUSD Board Goals. The foundation of our success is also built by our outstanding administrators, teachers, and classified staff.

MBUSD will soon be the first school district to be recognized in the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of Los Angeles region to have all schools implement the No Place for Hate® program. ADL of Los Angeles also serves Riverside, San Bernardino, and Kern Counties. All of us in MBUSD are committed to a climate of care making our district a place where every student feels welcome, supported, encouraged, included, and safe.

Monrovia Unified School District

325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2000 • www.monroviaschools.net

Preparing for College, Career, and Life



Dr. Ryan D. Smith
Superintendent

The Monrovia Unified School District exists to provide all students with an exceptional education, ensuring all graduate fully prepared for college, career, and life. We live that mission daily in the classrooms by ensuring our students have everything they need to succeed.

Monrovia Unified’s strong academic programs begin with early education at Canyon Early Learning Center and extend into elementary and middle school with offerings like robotics and coding, dual-immersion courses in Mandarin and Spanish, and the arts.

At Monrovia High School, our engaging humanities, math and science, and theater arts instructional programs provide students with critical skills. Our award-winning Early College Program allows students to advance their college careers free of cost, even as they take their high school courses. Our Career Technical Education pathways in various fields, such as automotive science, video production, and sports medicine prepare our students to compete for high-wage careers.

Finally, we have options tailored to the needs of individual families. Mountain Park School is one option that has served students who need a flexible schedule and can learn with a virtual platform. MUSD offers independent study courses for all students K-12 at MPS.

Our students continue to excel despite the many challenges we have faced in the last couple of years related to the pandemic. I am grateful to our teachers and staff for working tirelessly on behalf of our scholars.

To learn more about the Monrovia Unified School District, I invite you to check out our website at www.monroviaschools.net

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Mountain View School District

3320 Gilman Rd., El Monte, CA 91732 • 626/652-4000 • www.mtviewschools.com

Inspiring Each Student to Succeed



Raymond Andry
Superintendent

Serving students in preschool through 8th grade, Mountain View School District in El Monte is dedicated to preparing today’s students and tomorrow’s leaders for success. Following our mission to inspire each student to succeed every day, we are strongly committed to supporting the academic, social and emotional growth and achievement of all students.

Each member of Team Mt. View is dedicated to providing the best for students through outstanding instruction, engaging programs and unending support. In Mountain View, we remain steadfast in supporting the academic and social emotional growth of all students with each school having a school counselor serving students and families.

We are proud to provide innovative learning experiences for our students, equipping them with 21st century skills and preparing them to become problem solvers, critical thinkers, effective communicators, and most importantly, positive contributors to their community. This is achieved by focusing on the development of the whole child through programs like STEAM, Project Lead the Way, AVID, Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL), extensive technology learning including in school 1:1 technology devices, Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program, Mandarin Enrichment Program, enrichment with Disney Imagination Campus and Spotify, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), comprehensive Visual and Performing Arts, Band, a strong college and career-bound culture, nationally recognized nutrition and health education, nationally recognized family engagement programs and a Golden Bell award-winning Parent Leadership Academy.

Educating each of our students at the highest level is the commitment of the entire Mountain View team, as each day we strive to make a positive difference in the life of each student we are privileged to serve.



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Re-Engagement and Academic Excellence



Dr. Leticia Hernandez
Superintendent

Newhall School District prides itself on Empowering Every Child Every Day through its many programs. With a supportive Governing Board, exceptional staff, dedicated families and engaged students there are many things to celebrate at NSD. It is our shared commitment to all of our students that is the driving force behind the crucial process we are leading to re-engage students academically.

NSD promotes multilingualism by expanding its coveted Dual Immersion program. This program uses English and Spanish to provide a transformative education for our students. Students are becoming fully fluent in both languages. NSD is also very proud of its three California Distinguished schools that highlighted its level of academic achievement. Through research-based strategies the students receive high quality engaging instruction that meets the needs of all students. Differentiated instruction has been key in accelerating opportunities for students to achieve their full potential.

Our dedication to the whole child is continuously explored through NSD's rigorous Visual Arts and Music program. The arts are alive in NSD! We are proud that all of our students in grades UPK-6 receive instruction by credentialed music and art teachers. Newhall School District strives to maintain an uncompromising commitment to provide all students the knowledge, skill, support and resources necessary for excellent academic achievement and personal success.

It has been nine years since the initial launch of the Palmdale PROMISE strategic plan. PROMISE is an acronym for **P**ursuing **R**emarkable **O**pportunities to **M**arshal Innovation, Inspiration, and **I**magination for **S**uccess and **E**ngagement. Stakeholders often ask if we are changing the goals, values, and objectives of PROMISE. As we often say in Palmdale, "Palmdale LEADS." The Leadership Team and School Board members are still fully committed to the high achievement of all students and the nurturing of a respectful and collaborative district culture. As a result, the District is poised to experience transformational changes in our community. Stakeholders understand the impact of PROMISE on our students, staff, and community. In addition, staff and community have consistently expressed a noticeable shift in positive relationships and high student expectations. Robust instructional programs, professional learning opportunities, and parent support are evident. The idea of what constitutes robust education is being re-envisioned through multilingual learning opportunities, the arts, technology, and much more, translating to a well-rounded education for global competitiveness. There is palpable energy and enthusiasm about what is possible under the PROMISE. Students themselves take a much more visible role in determining their futures and voicing their opinions. Community relationships and partnerships continue to grow, and the City of Palmdale works hand-in-hand with the District to support students and families. The idea of Palmdale emerging as a national model of excellence is empowering and proactive. There are conversations about what it would take to make that a reality. Palmdale School District continues to shine, evidenced by all the awards won during the last few years in the State of California. I am honored to serve as the Superintendent of Schools in Palmdale.

The Palmdale PROMISE



Dr. Raul Maldonado
Superintendent

A Destination District



Dr. John M. Lopez
Superintendent

The Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District is committed to preparing all of our students for college and career readiness, fulfilling our mission to empower them to become life-long learners and successful, productive citizens in an ever-changing world.

We accomplish this with our pillars of Socio-Emotional Learning as a Lever for Equity and Academic Relevance & Rigor. These pillars are supported by our focus on Data Driven Dialogue and Collective Efficacy, creating a multi-faceted approach to our students' academic journey.

Our strong academic programs are reinforced by several initiatives. At the elementary level, these include: computer science integration, English Language Development with science influence, Dual Language offerings, and our Reader by 9 program. Students in our secondary schools deepen their understanding of career options and postsecondary education through robust program offerings including: STEM, Project Lead the Way, Robotics, and Visual and Performing Arts. High school students are also offered access to college credit courses through Early College Academies at their school and other courses provided during the school day and over the summer in collaboration with District's partner Cerritos College.

Norwalk-La Mirada also has an intensive focus on mathematics at every level, adopting high-quality instructional materials to support student learning and offering extensive professional development for staff. Further, with the support of our community, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified has a \$375-million-dollar bond, Measure G, aimed at creating state-of-the-art District facilities.

Meeting the needs of our students in and out of the classroom is a hallmark of the vision of Norwalk-La Mirada Unified. Our students leave well-equipped to succeed in college and careers, making Norwalk-La Mirada Unified a destination district .



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Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District

375 Via Almar, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274 • 310/378-9966 • www.pvpusd.net

Putting Kids First



Dr. Alex Cherniss
Superintendent

PVPUSD is very fortunate to have incredible teachers, principals, staff, and a supportive community. Approximately 11,000 students attend two early childhood centers, ten elementary schools, three 6-8 intermediate schools, two comprehensive high schools, one continuation school, and one distance learning academy. PVPUSD schools continue to be recognized for outstanding achievement at the local, state and national level in academics and extracurricular activities.

Our district focus continues to be on supporting our students both academically and socially-emotionally. We have increased our professional development to empower our teachers and support staff with the skills to help our students develop, provide intervention where needed, and continue on a path of success. An example of this was our district-wide writing program across subject areas at all levels. We continue to look at our course offerings and electives, adding new ones, such as Introduction to Data Science, to provide ample opportunities for our students to explore. PVPUSD has partnered with LA Harbor Community College to provide 3 Dual Enrollment Certificate Pathways: Culinary Arts, Data Analytics, and Business. We are adding our first dual language immersion program in Spanish this fall. And our principals prioritize student engagement with fun and inclusive activities and clubs to promote positive school culture. At the beginning of this school year we also set a goal of training and certifying over 1,000 of our employees in CPR, AED, and First Aid.

I am grateful for the strong support of our community here on the peninsula. Together, in partnership with our 4 cities, we are committed to the development and future well-being of our kids.

Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, CA 91109 • 626/396-3600 • www.pusd.us

Life Skills and Academic Excellence



Dr. Brian McDonald
Superintendent

The award-winning Pasadena Unified School District delivers whole-person education, blending life skills with academic excellence. Preschool-12th grade students get a strong foundation, a sense of belonging, a deep love of learning, and the knowledge that they have the power to make a difference.

Transitional kindergarten, now at 11 locations, is a launchpad for our youngest learners. PUSD's Dual Language Immersion and World Language programs in Armenian, French, Mandarin, and Spanish are offered at 17 schools for students at all grade levels. With a third magnet grant, PUSD is adding environmental science and cross-cultural learning, enhancing visual and performing arts, and offering world language programs.

In a landmark partnership, more than 200 high school students worked alongside professional theatermakers from the renowned Pasadena Playhouse to produce and perform the musical *Into the Woods*. Students gained valuable skills and experience on a professional stage with some of the most respected directors, vocal coaches, set designers, and tech crews in musical theater. The six-month project culminated with performances at the famed Pasadena Civic Auditorium before an audience of 9,000. The stellar performances on stage and in the orchestra, stunning costumes, and imaginative set were simply unforgettable.

PUSD is developing a five-year strategic plan that will define why we do what we do, where we want to go, and how we believe we will get there. Together with students, families, employees, and community members, we are working to inspire the joy of learning in every child, every day.

Paramount Unified School District

15110 California Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-6000 • www.paramount.k12.ca.us

Instruction. Support. Celebration.



Ruben Frutos
Superintendent

Our second semester is well underway, and February is a month full of celebrations in our district. Paramount USD is honored to celebrate Black History Month. We appreciate Career and Technical Education Month, as our district continues to thrive with 11 program pathways. We also honor our school counselors and bus drivers this month. We have much to celebrate, especially the achievements and accomplishments of our students and schools.

Two of our schools, Jackson and Alondra, have been recertified as Schools to Watch, and we are very proud of that recognition. Additionally, Jackson has become an AVID national demonstration site. AVID is a program that encourages college and career readiness and student success through innovative instructional practices, support, and training, and it has been embraced by our schools. Our high school cheerleading team advanced to the national spotlight to compete in the national championship for the first time. And our special needs students won the championship in the first high school basketball tournament between four local high schools.

Our Board of Education recognizes the need to focus our attention on the support and instruction needed to help all our students succeed. Through their leadership, the district developed a district-wide equity initiative and a review of institutional practices to better position the district in assuring student success through our well-known quality instructional programs.

Our schools welcome our students each day with enthusiasm and sensitivity as we implement multi-tiered support systems in all our schools. These efforts are possible through the collaborative efforts of our entire educational community. We thank our school community, as our students are worthy benefactors of our combined efforts.

Pomona Unified School District

800 S. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA 91766 • 909/397-4800 • www.pusd.org

Invention and Community Service



Darren Knowles
Interim Superintendent

The Pomona Unified School District (PUSD) is proud of its award-winning history of innovation and community service. The District has twice won the National School Boards Association's *Magna Award*, and has won the California School Boards' *Golden Bell Award* multiple times. The District has been honored at the White House for its use of technology and partnerships with higher education to guarantee college acceptance for its students.

The 2022-23 school year continues this tradition of innovation. The Garey High School InvenTeam was awarded a patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Patent No. 11,382,564 B2 on July 12, 2022, to the team of 8 student inventors. Their invention allows diabetics to self-monitor foot health. This is not the first time the InvenTeam has won. In 2020, they received a \$15,000 award from Samsung for an invention that curbs vaping. Our young inventors have appeared at several community organizations to share information on how their inventions can improve community health.

Our students are actively involved in the community. This year one student was honored with a Congressional award for community assistance, and another used a cash prize from Honda to help families in need.

Pomona's high schools are consistently listed among the *Best High Schools in the Nation* by *U.S. News & World Report*, and PUSD has secured a \$13.9 million award with the help and leadership of Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez to enrich our programs in Dramatic Arts and Career & Technical Education.

The Pomona Unified School District offers students a fully balanced education, teaching both cutting-edge technology and care for the needs of the community it supports.

RBUSD – Forward Focus



Dr. Nicole Westley
Superintendent

RBUSD, with state-of-the-art facilities, consists of eight elementary schools, two middle schools, one comprehensive high school, one continuation school, one community day school, one adult school, and a district-wide child development center program. RBUSD serves approximately 9,500 TK-12 students, and despite declining enrollment trends throughout California, has only experienced a slight decline in enrollment during the pandemic due to the synergy created between community and schools. We attribute this to: 1) hiring and supporting excellent staff members who are focused on students; 2) strong partnerships with parents, PTA, and the RB Education Foundation; and 3) the passage of a solar and technology bond

aimed at providing modern instructional tools for each RBUSD student and staff member.

The focus on people, facilities, and instruction is why RBUSD has become a destination school district. A forward focus has been the ongoing focal point for the Board of Education, the administration, and the staff. Establishing data-driven educational programs, evaluating the utilization of resources, and enhancing community and city relationships have secured a strong commitment to better serve the total needs of all students in every school. With RBUSD’s community-focused health programs, the whole child’s needs—socially, academically, emotionally, and physically—are the centerpiece of RBUSD. Redondo Beach Unified SD is just that, unified. Students, parents, and staff model learning in and out of the classroom that is collaborative, rigorous, and transformational—this is what makes RBUSD great! The culture of RBUSD does not embrace the status quo, but rather embraces a forward focus as students prepare for an ever changing global society.

Inspiring the Leaders of Tomorrow



Alejandro Ruvalcaba
Superintendent

Proud to be one of the top-performing school districts in the San Gabriel Valley. In 2017 the Rosemead School District received the prestigious recognition of being ranked as one of the top 4 school districts in the San Gabriel Valley. That distinction was affirmed with the recognition of Savannah Elementary School as a 2018 California Distinguished School, Mildred B. Janson Elementary School and Emma W. Shuey Elementary School as a 2020 California Distinguished School, Muscatel Middle School as a 2022 Pivotal Practice school, and Mildred B. Janson Elementary School as a 2023 California Distinguished School. All five of our district schools were named 2019-2020 Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll schools

for high achievement in student success, rated at the “star” category - the highest rating. In 2020-2021, Mildred B. Janson Elementary School was named a Leader In Me® Legacy Lighthouse School, making it the second school worldwide to receive this distinction. And recently, in 2021-2022, Mildred B. Janson Elementary School, Savannah Elementary School, Emma W. Shuey Elementary School, and Muscatel Middle School were named Best Schools by *U.S. News and World Reports*. We are also proud that Encinita Elementary School launched a Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Mandarin program in the 2020-2021 school year. This program reflects our efforts to prepare students to thrive in a global society.

For more information about our amazing school district and/or signature programs, please visit us at www.rosemead.k12.ca.us.

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Innovative Learning for All



Dr. Julie Mitchell
Superintendent

The award-winning Rowland Unified School District has a long-standing tradition of success in the 4 A's: Academics, Arts, Athletics and Activities. Rowland Unified has 19 schools with 13,200 students and serves the communities of Rowland Heights, Walnut, La Puente, City of Industry, and West Covina. As Superintendent, I am proud of our passionate employees that embrace care, compassion, connection and content for all students through new modes of teaching and learning, social-emotional support, integrating technology and working collaboratively to provide innovative learning for all – for our students, staff, and parents.

The District has garnered numerous state and national awards, including California Distinguished and Gold Ribbon Schools, Schools to Watch, California Model Continuation High School, California Association of Bilingual Education for the Seal of Excellence Award and the latest, being accepted into the National League of Innovative Schools by Digital Promise, a national coalition of forward-thinking K-12 school districts with the mission to accelerate innovation in education and improve the opportunity for all to learn through technology and research.

Choices abound with Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), GATE, AVID, International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools, Career Pathways, Dual Language Immersion, music, arts and athletics. Our graduates have not only earned millions of dollars in scholarships, but have been accepted into some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the nation.

A Premier Destination



Dr. Linda de la Torre
Superintendent

The San Marino Unified School District (SMUSD) is a destination district for families looking for top-quality curricula, innovative programs, and dual language immersion at the elementary level. SMUSD provides exclusive courses such as a Humanities course in collaboration with the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, and a STEM course supervised by Caltech professors. The District has a long history of academic excellence and provides students with a well-rounded education that prepares them for success in their academic, professional, and personal lives.

SMUSD has dedicated, highly-trained, and experienced educators who provide students with a rigorous, personalized and engaging educational experience. Parents collaborate closely to ensure that our students receive the best and most comprehensive education.

SMUSD offers various extracurricular activities and programs that allow students to pursue their individualized interests and learn new skills. The curriculum leverages digital tools and encourages critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and a love of learning. The District has something for every student, whether it is sports, visual and performing arts, outdoor education, clubs or volunteering in the community.

SMUSD students feel safe, supported, and valued. The District emphasizes wellness and offers various services and resources to help students and staff succeed academically and emotionally. The District fosters a positive and inclusive school culture in which all students feel welcomed and valued.

The San Marino Unified School District is a top choice for families looking for a high-quality education for their children. Our District provides students with the skills, knowledge, abilities and confidence they need to succeed with a focus on producing astute global citizens in an ever-changing world.

Portrait of a Graduate and Student Agency



James "Jim" Symonds
Superintendent

Seven years ago, the San Gabriel Unified School District began a journey of identifying the competencies we desired to see our graduates of SGUSD possess. Through a collaborative process involving students, parents, administrators, business partners, community members, classified, certificated and confidential employees, we identified these competencies of our graduates. Throughout the process, the most powerful voices in the room were our students. This began a journey of developing not only our Portrait of a Graduate, but creating the conditions and opportunities for our students to become part of the decision-making process in the district in order to shape our Mission and Vision for the future.

Students brought their powerful voices to our Educational Advisory Committee to help develop the Portrait of a Graduate. Students participated in the Budget Advisory Committee, the Mandarin Dual Language Committee, the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, and now our Student Board Members cast preferential votes at our Governing Board Meetings. Elevating the voices of our students and empowering our most important participants has enriched the decision-making process in the district and added a refreshing shift in building our vision for the future.

Our student leaders have seized the opportunity to have their voices heard and with each new opportunity we are reminded of how important it is to involve our students in the critical decisions that impact their future. SGUSD was asked to present the Portrait of a Graduate and the process used in its' development at this year's EdLeader21 Conference in Houston. It has been an amazing experience to witness our students find their voice and agency in SGUSD and it has been so much fun to work with these student leaders.

DEI Vision to Create Better Outcomes



Dr. Mark Kelly
Interim Superintendent

SMMUSD set out with a goal: SMMUSD will demonstrate that student race / ethnicity / language / socio-economic status, sexual orientation, disabilities are not predictors of academic opportunities or outcomes. This makes it possible for SMMUSD to achieve its mission to “**ensure the educational success of all students**” through high expectations and a commitment to excellence to empower them to reach their full potential as responsible, ethical, and productive citizens in a diverse and changing world.

The journey requires continuous dedication of SMMUSD leadership, staff, parents and partners to this vision.

Our definitions: Diversity: When people from various social identities unite around a common goal, acknowledging and valuing individual perspectives, ideas, core beliefs and lived experiences. Equity: When there is an equal opportunity for success by removing real or perceived barriers. Resources, opportunities, and supports are leveraged to address gaps that are a result of system inequalities. Inclusion: When there are purposeful, brave, authentic and empowering opportunities for marginalized groups that creates / fosters a safe space and a true sense of belonging.

Our litmus test: 1. Is it good for kids? 2. Is the benefit for some kids at the expense of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)? 3. Is it sustainable? What does this look like in practice?

Our DEI Change Group and District Leadership Team (DLT) have led this ongoing process, with support of our school board. Management has undergone training as have our new teachers. Currently the DLT is working on a DEI rubric, or growth tool, to support the implementation of equitable practices at the school site and across the system.

Together, WE Achieve More



Dr. Colleen Hawkins
Superintendent

Saugus Union School District (SUSD) is committed to Excellence in Elementary Education. We remain true to our ABC's:

Academics – Our rigorous, articulated curriculum and assessment plan creates the foundation for core subject areas. Each school provides unique and specific programs to meet community needs and interests. SUSD continues growing our Dual Language Immersion Program at Highlands Elementary School. We continue preparing to launch our edible school yard program by completing our science lab and MPR at Cedar creek Elementary School. Cedar creek's program integrates core content into culinary and horticulture lessons allowing students to experience a project-based learning environment focused on health and environmental sustainability. SUSD continues refining its academic programs to ensure we address the individual learning needs of students while extending learning for all students.

Business – We maintain consistent fiscal practices, ensuring SUSD provides outstanding instructional programs and facilities. Measure EE enables us to modernize our facilities, providing 21st Century technology, flexible instructional spaces, and secure campuses. We are examining the seismic and ADA access for each site to ensure they are safe and accessible to all people. We are also examining our facilities to ensure we can properly accommodate the needs of our 4 year old's attending Universal Transitional Kindergarten.

Culture and Communication – A positive school culture is critical to student success. Our ideals of respect, integrity, teamwork, learning, and enthusiasm create this environment. Providing effective, regular communication allows our stakeholders to be informed and to participate in the success of the district. At SUSD, collaboration is a key ingredient for success in the education of all students and in our interactions with each other because we know that **Together, WE achieve more!**

Opportunities for Students Abound



Dr. Geoff Yantz
Superintendent

Established in 1886, South Pasadena Unified School District (SPUSD) serves approximately 4,800 students at three elementary schools, one middle school and one comprehensive high school. SPUSD has earned a reputation for providing high-quality, public education, and attracting families who value challenging academic programs and outstanding teachers. SPUSD students frequently earn honors at the local, state and national level. All three elementary schools and the middle school recently earned both National Blue Ribbon Schools awards and California Distinguished Schools honors, and the high school also has received a Best High School National Ranking from *U.S. News and World Report*.

The District receives vital support from parents and community members through the South Pasadena Educational Foundation, local PTAs, and booster clubs. A \$98 million bond measure has helped improve facilities including a new SPHS STEM Building and Athletics Facility, a renovated SPMS Arts Building, and new arts classrooms at the elementary schools, among other modernization projects. Parcel tax funds, renewed in 2018, help keep class sizes manageable and pay for arts programs, counseling programs, and advanced instruction in core academic areas including science and technology.

Informed by SPUSD's strategic goals, opportunities for students abound in academics, arts, and athletics. From an early age, students are exposed to various pathways including electives in engineering, biomedical science, business, and visual and performing arts. Continually preparing for the future, SPUSD faculty and staff help students reach their individual potential by developing their intellectual abilities, emotional maturity, unique talents, and a sincere love of learning.





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Success for Every Student



Dr. Gary Gonzales
Superintendent

South Whittier School District (SWSD) is an award-winning district that is comprised of 5 elementary schools (TK-6) and a middle school (7-8) located in the unincorporated area of Whittier and proudly serves approximately 2300 students. The District's motto is "Success for Every Student" and is evident through the intentional actions and high expectations of our Trustees and the commitment and dedication of our classified, certificated and administrative staff members. Collaboratively, we work together to ensure that every child has access to a rigorous and appropriate education in a clean and supportive environment where they can grow and thrive academically and emotionally. SWSD is committed to providing every student with a world-class education that includes opportunities such as AVID, Spanish Dual Immersion, Medical Careers class, STEM, Mariachi, Folklorico and concurrent enrollment in a local community college. Additionally, students and families have access to our award winning Mental Health Program and many other services to ensure a well rounded experience. SWSD students develop skills and characteristics that prepare them to transition into high school, college and eventually the workforce. SWSD students are supported in an educational environment where they are engaged in conversation, projects, performances and presentations that utilize critical thinking skills so that they are prepared to compete in and contribute to a global society.

Every SWSD employee has a hand in making the District the best it can be and the power to positively influence students by fostering healthy relationships, supporting students in their challenges, and providing access to a robust and broad curriculum. We look forward to working with the entire community in providing the optimal educational environment for SWSD students.

Each and Every Child - Top Priority



Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi
Superintendent

The Sulphur Springs Union School District (SSUSD), located in Canyon Country within the Santa Clarita Valley, has continued to focus on strengthening relationships and partnerships with families and community members to enhance the educational outcomes for each and every student. There has been a continued focus not only academics, but also the well-being of students. All nine schools comprise of staff that are dedicated and committed to providing the very best education to all students.

In August of 2022, approximately 5,200 students were welcomed by the very best educators in Canyon Country.

Our students continue to arrive to school each and every day ready to learn. The District is very proud to have a very diverse population of students, with over 23 different home languages spoken. When students come to school, educators ensure that not only are academics a top priority, but also social and emotional learning as well. Teachers take the time to educate students around the five core competencies of social emotional learning to further support all students.

Since 1872, when the District opened its doors, there has always been a strong sense of "family" among students, families and staff. After 150 years, this tradition continues, and staff are committed to strengthening partnerships between the home and school to further enhance student learning.

As the proud Superintendent of SSUSD, I will always place all students as a top priority. Further, the Board of Trustees, staff and I will continue to ensure that each and every student achieves educational excellence and social and emotional well-being.



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Students. Community. Tradition.



Dr. Arthur Cunha
Superintendent

Temple City, nestled in the San Gabriel Valley, is comprised of almost 5400 students, served by a dedicated and loyal staff, in a community that values hard work, determination and the traditions of a small town.

Many of our traditions are carried on as a result of numerous staff members who attended our schools and who now have their own children in our schools. Whether it be the annual “High School Musical”, which just happens to be our production this year, Concerts in the Park, The Camellia Festival Parade, Lights on Temple City, Band, Orchestra, Dance and Athletic Events, our schools have numerous opportunities to showcase the many talents of our students and invite the community to partake.

This year, Temple City High School and Oak Avenue Intermediate School hosted Invitational Science Olympiad Events organized by BirdSO, with our high school students placing sixth out of 77 teams. The District is proud to have opened the Temple City Early Learning Academy (TCELA) this year, a preschool serving 3-5 year olds. For our older students, we are adding to the list of articulated classes with Pasadena Community College, expanding CTE opportunities and just recently approved a Financial Literacy course.

In Temple City, schools are not just a part of the community, the community is part of our schools. Working TOGETHER, Temple City Unified School District is a place students are proud to attend, parents are proud to support and staff are proud to work.

75 Years- Then and Now



Dr. Tim Stowe
Superintendent

We are approaching a significant milestone for our Torrance Unified School District as we celebrate 75 years of educational excellence. While TUSD has grown and changed considerably since 1947, our dedication to students, their families, and our staff remains unwavering. Our success is grounded in a shared mission to empower every student, every day, with every opportunity to learn and grow. We accomplish this together, in partnership with teachers, classified staff, administrators, families, and the community. Reflecting on our past, we are proud of the progress we’ve made.

Looking to the future, our focus is on continuous improvement. We are expanding academic programs to include dual language immersion, career-focused pathways, and options for international students to study at TUSD. We are also investing in resources that prioritize wellness and mental health including increased counselors and therapists on campuses, and staff training on social-emotional learning so we can continue supporting students in their well-rounded educational journey.

Through a culture of collaboration, schools, families, and our community continue to work together to create learning environments where students feel safe, supported, engaged, and accepted. Following last year’s recognition, TUSD has once again earned the title of South Bay’s BEST School District for 2022 by the Daily Breeze Readers’ Choice poll.

We enjoy watching our students learn, achieve, and thrive!

A Place to Call Home



Dr. Elizabeth Evans
Superintendent

In Valle Lindo School District our strength is in our community. For the past 160 years generations of families, teachers, staff and community members have worked together to serve students. Together the district has maintained an unwavering commitment to educating students equipped with the skills required to become inclusive and empathic leaders in a world that is rapidly changing. By working together the district has fostered a caring and culturally responsive school climate that celebrates the uniqueness and value of each member of our learning community. Lifelong learning has become an integral part of our society. Students gain strong foundational skills and a passion for inquiry based learning.

Students benefit from student-centered instruction in all core content areas as well as enrichment experiences provided to all students. Students have the opportunity to participate in Mandarin and Spanish dual language immersion, music, art and dance. Valle Lindo School District recognizes that students learn best when they feel a sense of belonging. As a learning community we are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion.

With small class sizes and state of the art classrooms, our teachers and staff are able to partner with families to support every child. New Temple Elementary and Shively Middle School have earned Title I Academic Achievement Awards, Pivotal Practice Awards and have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools and California Gold Ribbon Schools. Valle Lindo School District has been honored with the CSBA Golden Bell Award six times and has been recognized as a Capturing Kids’ Hearts National Showcase District. We invite you to join us to find out more about what makes Valle Lindo School District such a special place to call home.

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Walnut Valley Unified School District

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Inspiring Students to Be Their Best



Dr. Robert P. Taylor
Superintendent

Walnut Valley Unified School District (WVUSD) is a premier school district committed to “KIDS FIRST – Every Student, Every Day.” Our wonderful teachers and staff are dedicated to preparing all students to thrive in a rapidly changing, competitive, global economy by teaching them 21st Century skills through quality programs that include STEAM – science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.

Our schools continue to experience growth in academic achievement and have earned some of the highest honors of any of the unified school districts across the country.

This year, WVUSD earned an A+ grade and top 1 percent ranking in the 2023 Niche report of Best School Districts in America.

Our high performing high schools score in the top 1 percent out of 20,000 public high schools in the nation.

WVUSD has been honored as a National Schools to Watch District. Only 8 school districts in California and 17 in the nation received the prestigious recognition.

Our schools have been distinguished with top honors, including National Blue Ribbon, California Distinguished School, Exemplary Arts Education Programs, CSBA Golden Bell, NAMM Best Community for Music Education, CIF State Champions, and more. WVUSD Teacher of the Year Raelene Waddell, from Westhoff Elementary, was named an L.A. County Teacher of the Year Semifinalist.

Our students, schools, and community are benefitting from nearly \$153 million in local funding made possible by voter approval of Bond Measure WV in November 2016.

We appreciate the ongoing support from our Walnut Valley community with volunteers donating time and resources to enrich the educational experience of our students. We strive to develop first-rate learning facilities.

Westside Union School District

41914 50th St. West, Quartz Hill, CA 93536 • 661/722-0716 • www.westside.k12.ca.us

Setting Achievable Goals



Regina L. Rossall
Superintendent

Located in northern Los Angeles County in the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster, Westside Union School District is pleased to be having an exciting school year. We are pleased to be back on campus at all of our sites, with lifted restrictions that allowed our students to return to a variety of extracurricular activities as well as their regular classes

This year also marked our first under the Universal PreKindergarten program. We opened TK classes on 9 of our elementary sites and began serving 4 year olds, preparing them to be ready for kindergarten this fall. Growth is sure to occur next year as we continue to increase the eligibility pool for the program because of the change in the birthdate rules.

Our 12 schools continue to add to their success at WASC accredited schools. Several schools have now received their 6 year accreditation including 2 middle schools, 2 K-8 schools. Other schools will be having their 3 day visits this spring, but we anticipate that they too will be successful in this process of helping us set achievable goals for our students and staff.

We recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of our Joe Walker Middle School. The school was named for Joseph Walker, a test pilot in our Valley, who was killed in a tragic accident. The school has long honored the memory of his service to our community, to the Air Force and to aviation. Our area is often referred to as Aerospace Valley because of the number of aircraft that are built and tested in our area, including Edwards Air Force Base. Joseph Walker was one of the early aviators in our community, and the students and staff at our school were very excited to honor his memory and thank his family for all they have done to help keep our students aware of the reason for the naming of their school. It was a wonderful weekend celebration of 50 years of great staff, students and community members who've supported our school.

West Covina Unified School District

1717 W. Merced Ave., West Covina, CA 91790 • 626/939-4600 • www.wcusd.org

Uncompromising Excellence



Dr. Emy Flores
Superintendent

The West Covina Unified School District is dedicated to safety, well-being, and uncompromising excellence in education and citizenship. Students at WCUSD have access to world-class opportunities and experiences, including computer science, dance, music, speech & debate, and arts enrichment. We offer a diverse choice of programs, including Dual Language in Mandarin and Spanish, International Baccalaureate TK-12th grade, and Career Technical Education (CTE) with a multiyear pathway to postsecondary education and careers. We also offer students the opportunity to enroll in the Mt. SAC Early College Academy, a fully accredited high school where students can earn two years of free, transferable college credit and an Associate Degree.

Students in WCUSD learn in state-of-the-art facilities made possible by Bond Measure ES. These facilities include updated classrooms, renovated tennis courts, the Aquatic Center/Athletics Complex, the Event Center/CTE building at Edgewood Schools, a CTE/Science building at West Covina High School as well as a Performing Arts Center at West Covina High School and a Gym/Music Building at Hollencrest Jr. High, both scheduled to open in 2023.

At WCUSD, we value partnership and work closely with staff, parents, city and community partners to maximize student support and opportunities. We continue to maximize safety and prioritize students' social and emotional well-being through support from counselors, social workers, and nurses.

We understand that we are living through difficult times and reassert our unshaken commitment to excellence and opportunities for every student. It is an honor to serve as the Superintendent of WCUSD, and I thank our community for entrusting us with the education of our greatest treasure: our students.

Whittier Union High School District

9401 S. Painter Ave., Whittier, CA 90605 • 562/698-8121 • www.wuhd.org

To Achieve and Maintain Excellence



Dr. Monica Oviedo
Superintendent

Whittier Union High School District is committed to doing *Whatever It Takes* to ensure our students have access to the resources they need to succeed and live up to our District motto, “To Achieve and Maintain Excellence.”

Our commitment to Social Emotional Learning and the well-being of students has never been greater. Every District school has one full-time mental health counselor on staff to work with students daily, supported by two Licensed Clinical Social Workers at the District level who work with students with more pressing needs. Calming rooms are available on each campus, allowing students a safe space where they can go to ease their stress and anxiety.

Whittier Union athletic programs continue to create opportunities for students to excel. Our scholar-athletes distinguished themselves by winning or tying for 24 separate league championships in 2022 and three CIF Titles. Highlights include the La Serna High School boys water polo team winning the CIF-SS Division 2 championship, and California High School's cheer squad being named CIF state champion in the small non-tumbling division, while the La Serna High cheer team was named CIF-SS Division 1-AA champion.

At the United Sierra Education Center, we have seen numerous successes. Most recently, the adult school's English as a Second Language program received an award from the California Adult Education Program for being an innovative model program.

We are thankful to our Board of Trustees and team of administrators and educators for their commitment to support our students as they pursue their academic and personal goals.

Emphasis on College and Career Readiness



Mike Kuhlman
Superintendent

The William S. Hart Union High School District serves 7-12th graders and adult learners in the Santa Clarita Valley. Academically, the District consistently ranks in the top tier of districts of its size in California and was named an Exemplary District by the State of California in 2019 (one of only 18 districts statewide).

Over 21,000 students are enrolled in the seven comprehensive high schools, six junior high schools, a California Model Continuation school, an Early College high school, an independent study school, an adult school, and a unique school designed to address the needs of students with significant social/emotional issues. Our newest comprehensive high school, located in Castaic, opened in fall 2019. The District has a strong focus on student wellness and has opened wellness centers at every campus in the District.

The Hart District offers outstanding extra-curricular programs, including athletics and performing arts that are locally, state, and nationally recognized for their excellence. We also place a strong emphasis on college and career readiness, sending more than 90% of our graduates on to four-year colleges or universities, community colleges, or career technical programs.

The Hart District prepares students for post-secondary life with strong collegiate, civic, and business partnerships. Academy of the Canyons and the iCAN Academy, through partnership with College of the Canyons, allow students to take college courses while completing high school graduation requirements. Through the Career and College Readiness Program, students attending any of the District’s schools can begin their career paths as early as junior high. The Hart District offers 30 career paths, and enrollment in career education courses has increased steadily since 2015.

All Means All



Dr. Blake Silvers
Superintendent

Wiseburn Unified School District is a high performing district located just miles from Los Angeles International Airport and within the aerospace capital of the World. Our continued partnerships with Chevron, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, Raytheon, and others have helped propel Wiseburn forward in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Additionally, our commitment to promoting literacy and writing, the Arts, Social Emotional support, and athletics provide for a well-rounded educational experience for our students while maintaining a commitment that every child has an opportunity not only to achieve, but to excel. Our engaging, highly trained teaching and support staff continue with innovative instructional strategies through Cognitively Guided Instruction, Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop, student-centered learning, and inquiry-driven pedagogy, which is driven, in part, by an ongoing relationship with the Cotsen Foundation. Wiseburn also continues to benefit from the highly unique partnership with the DaVinci Schools where project-based, real world learning support and challenge all students to be college and career ready. In Wiseburn we are driven by our commitment to live up to the statement that “all means all.” Every child, every day provides a lens from which we can ensure our commitments of safety, student-centered and future ready students, community engagement, and organizational strength. We are proud of our continued growth and accomplishments.

Preparing Students for Their Futures



Dr. Susan Andreas-Bervel
Superintendent

Wilsona School District is dedicated to “Building the Foundation of Life-Long Learning!” Wilsona is located in Lake Los Angeles in the Antelope Valley, serving 1,225 students.

The district currently has 2 schools, Vista San Gabriel Elementary School and Challenger Middle School. Our school community works together to ensure our students receive the services and supports needed for continuity in their education. The Wilsona School District was awarded the prestigious CSBA Golden Bell Award in December 2022, in recognition of the community outreach and engagement during the COVID pandemic, which helped get necessary resources to families and the entire community.

Our visionary Board of Trustees spearheaded Bond Measure WE in November 2018 to modernize our schools. We are very proud to have new roofing and HVAC systems, and are finalizing the plans to modernize classrooms into 21st Century learning environments. The District also is proud of the 3 new Kindergarten classrooms that were open to students in Fall 2022!

Wilsona has wonderful students, committed teachers, and caring support staff, who focus every day on serving the needs of our families. Each employee brings their own unique talents, supporting our students to excel and reach their potential. We are proud of our expansion of electives and extracurricular activities, such as music, art, dance, and career-technical education, that allow students to be creative and think critically.

I am proud to serve as Superintendent of this wonderful district, where everyone works together to ensure our students grow, thrive and are prepared for their future!

Philatelist

C.E. Hall is an independent fire investigator that collects stamps in his spare time. He sees each stamp as a small piece of art with a history from the time it is printed to its last owner. Returning from an investigation he buys a stamp album that belonged to an old German woman that was not what she appeared. Now a powerful, influential secret organization that wants its album back at all cost. The album could expose political business to embarrassing and unlawful acts over the past 56 years. C.E. is in a race to discover the secret of the album before the organization finds him and the album. The trail is littered with murder and secrets of the past.

Morning Dove

A madcap satire set in a small beach town. When an early morning small fire breaks out in a vacant theatre, the town gossip, Mabel, starts a chain of events that has local, state and federal governess in a state of panic. Mabel's odd behaviors make for a hilarious story.

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Parent To Parent



Jodie Lynn

A Helicopter Parent

Q. I have been a helicopter parent for so long that my children, ages seven and nine, are extremely apprehensive of taking any risks in various activities or doing anything where they may get even slightly hurt or disappointed. What have I done and how do I correct it?

A. There have been overbearing and overprotective parents for years; don't beat yourself up too badly. It's easy for parents to go overboard when it comes to their kids. However, this can continue into college years and beyond, but it doesn't have to. Let go of this habit, even if it takes a lot of time; it's necessary. Your parenting style and the way you view your children will need to change. You'll need to allow them to get used to the idea that they can actually try things on their own and whatever the outcome, it's all going to be okay in the end. Go ahead and sign them up for things that they are truly interested in and will most likely do well at. A few successes will build their self-confidence and they will perhaps want to do more things that are new and different. Just be sure that you stop yourself if you think about interfering unnecessarily, even if you know that they're heading for something rough. It's the mistakes and bumps in life that we all learn from that make us stronger individuals, better able to handle future situations. We have to be allowed to fail.

Activities Away from Technology

Q. My 10-year-old son only wants to stay indoors, play video games and eat chips and the like. He doesn't like sports. I'm trying to get him outdoors and moving but he complains about the heat. Any ideas on how to get him away from becoming a couch potato and away from the TV?

A. There are plenty of programs that your son might like such as swimming, drawing, painting, camping, making pottery, volunteering at a pet shelter, cooking, graphic design for kids, etc. The whole idea is to get him into a scheduled activity three to five days a week. Some of the facilities where the activities take place have lunch served to the kids. It's usually a pretty healthy one at that. They should give you a weekly copy of them. If not, ask for one. Some programs allow kids to bring their lunch. This means that he will be eating less of the bad things and more of the good. He might even decide that eating fruit is a good break from chips. If your son can find something he likes and can participate in it with a friend, he'll be more willing to stick with it, especially if there's no pressure to be a super star. This will also give him less time to play video games or to watch TV.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. www.ParentToParent.com

Getting a Driver's License

Q. What is the point in forcing a 16-year-old kid to get their driver's license if they don't want to drive? My husband and I do not agree on this topic. Our daughter doesn't want to drive and her dad is really trying to convince her to anyway. She has anxiety and the more he talks about it the more she backs away and gets upset.

A. While getting a license among teens was wildly popular just a few years ago, more and more are not so keen on the idea in today's society. A large percentage of teens are realizing that it's a big move to start driving and more responsibility than initially perceived. In fact, driving can be scary to many individuals regardless of their age, especially if they have anxiety. There are many reasons for the current trend of teens not wanting a license and a lot of parents are quite happy about it. Car insurance alone for a teen driver is expensive but other things like the cost of an additional car, gas and car repairs can be overwhelming. The constant worry and concerns about the safety of other drivers as well as that of the teen only adds to the challenges of the situation. Don't push your daughter to drive if she doesn't want to. It could actually make things much worse in the end. She's only 16, give her some time to come to terms with it instead of piling on extra anxiety. It's not worth it.

Learning to Communicate

Q. My brother's wife is always making excuses for their kids regarding just about everything. When they start to talk on whatever the topic is, she completes their sentences and basically they have grown to look to her to speak for them. When I take them out by myself, they can barely explain things or answer questions about the topic at hand. How can I help her to realize that they need to learn how to speak for themselves?

A. As parents we want to protect our kids from making poor choices, maybe because we've made a similar one and know what the results could potentially turn out to be. Unfortunately, they need to be able to make mistakes so that they too can learn from them; it's how everyone learns best in building life skills. If we talk for them and make excuses for them, not only will they become dependent on us but they will not be able to communicate well and make wise decisions. If you can talk to your sister-in-law about it without causing friction, do so in a way that helps her understand that her current protection of them is enabling their dependency on her. If you feel it's an impossible task, talk to your brother first. If neither one can see your point, don't push the issue. Just do the best you can with the kids when you have them by encouraging them to think and speak on their own. Sooner or later they'll ask her to stop.



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