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K – 12 Public Schools

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## 5th Annual Edition

Covering the  
Los Angeles County  
Public Schools K-12  
Superintendents

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



It is with great pleasure and pride that we publish this fifth edition highlighting each of the district superintendents in the Los Angeles County K-12 public schools. Our goal 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 our communities are directly related to the quality of our public schools and Los Angeles County has much to be proud of!

Each district is dealing with unprecedented economic challenges; however, their number one focus is educating our youth to reach their potential.



## Los Angeles County Office of Education

9300 Imperial Hwy., Downey, CA 90242  
562/922-6360 [www.lacoe.edu](http://www.lacoe.edu)



**Dr. Arturo Delgado**  
Superintendent

I am pleased to welcome you to *School News Roll Call's* Los Angeles County Superintendents Issue for 2012-2013.

As with previous annual editions, you will find here essential information not only about your own community school district, but the many neighboring districts, sampling the rich diversity that is Los Angeles County public education.

There are 80 K-12 school districts spread across the 4,000 square miles of our county. The Los Angeles County Office of Education, which I direct, exists to serve all those districts and their 1.6 million-plus students. We do this in many ways.

As mandated by the state Legislature, "LACOE" certifies the financial health of individual districts and works with them to correct any budgetary problems. We also help districts save, and safeguard, their money through the cost-effective delivery of essential administrative and business services.

We serve districts also by educating the county's most vulnerable students, annually providing direct classroom instruction for more than 20,000 young people, including children with severe disabilities, juvenile offenders and others at high risk of dropping out or with unique needs.

As well, LACOE reaches out to students, families and communities with early childhood programs, parenting and literacy classes, as well as job development services. The centerpiece of our school-readiness efforts is the nation's largest Head Start-State Preschool program, serving 24,000 preschool children and their families.

In addition, LACOE plays a key role in turning around low-performing schools and ensuring compliance with federal and state laws, providing districts with technical assistance and intervention/support strategies.

Districts also turn to LACOE for state-of-the-art technology services and specialized training and professional development for teachers and school administrators.

And, with that, let me yield to my many distinguished superintendent colleagues to tell their own stories.

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## ABC Unified School District

16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703  
562/926-5566 www.abcusd.k12.ca.us

### Main Thing—Student Achievement



**Dr. Gary Smuts**  
Superintendent

ABC Unified School District is an award-winning school district composed of 30 schools, serving nearly 21,000 ethnically diverse students from the cities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, and sections of Lakewood, Long Beach, and Norwalk.

A successful school district is made up of three elements: hard working students; supportive parents; and dedicated well-trained educators. The evidence is clear that ABC continues to prosper because of the sustained commitment of this community of support. We recognize parents as our students' first teachers and we have created a living network of parent communication and education.

#### Our Mission

Our District's mission is supported by the ABC Board of Education, a strong partnership with its employee organizations, business partnerships, volunteers, PTA's, booster organizations, and educational foundations.

#### ABC has a vision that is simple and powerful:

- We believe students in ABC should be as well educated as any in the world.
- We believe all students have the capacity to be high achievers.
- We believe people are the cornerstone of our district and students are the reason we are here.

In ABC, we believe that our district should function as an integrated system where all parts work together to support the classroom teacher. This approach provides a focus of energy, talent, and resources aimed at our "Main Thing" which is student achievement.

## Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District

32248 Crown Valley Road, Acton, CA 93510  
661/269-0750 http://aadusd.k12.ca.us

### Looking Forward With Enthusiasm



**Dr. Brent Woodward**  
Superintendent

Welcome to the Acton Agua-Dulce Unified School District! Established in 1881, our district has the distinction of being one of the oldest districts in the state of California. Today, the Acton Agua-Dulce Unified School District has over 1700 students distributed among five campuses. We serve students over a 200 square mile radius.

As district superintendent, it is my privilege to work with outstanding educators and support staff, parents, community members and the Board of Trustees who are totally dedicated to ensuring an excellent educational experience for all students. Our district has made it a priority to create opportunities for our students which will prepare them to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

Our philosophy of shared leadership is resulting in a district in which parent's partner with teaching and support staff in providing a solid educational foundation for our students. Our increasing test scores are evidence of our commitment to student achievement and accountability. We continue to celebrate past successes and look forward with enthusiasm to the future.

#### Our Mission

The Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District is dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing learning environment through which all students are challenged to achieve their individual maximum growth academically, socially, physically and intellectually. The staff, parents, and community members will work together to help students to meet or exceed the California state standards, and will assist students to become productive members of our American democracy.

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## Alhambra Unified School District

1515 West Mission Rd., Alhambra, CA 91803  
626/943-3330 www.alhambra.k12.ca.us

### Outstanding Academic Track Record



**Donna Pérez**  
Superintendent

Alhambra Unified School District is a close-knit community of students, educators, and parents. While we have over 18,000 K-12 students enrolled at 18 campuses, each school maintains highly engaged instruction between teachers and their students.

We continue to achieve success by meeting every child's needs, working to close the achievement gap, integrating technology effectively into the classroom, and fostering a career and college-readiness culture at our schools. Our community is culturally diverse with a rich tradition of celebrating the many traditions that bring our families together. Our teachers embrace collaboration as they meet regularly to discuss curriculum,

analyze data, and address students' strengths and challenge areas to create the most effective lesson plans.

Our students excel outside the classroom as well. We have nationally ranked speech and debate teams, state ranked academic decathlon teams, competitive athletic organizations, and a thriving visual and performing arts program. Just a few years ago, our three high school marching bands teamed together to experience the musical performance of a lifetime as they marched down Colorado Boulevard for the Tournament of Roses New Year's Day Parade.

"Academics are always our top priority, but are not the only area we focus on in our students' education," Superintendent Donna Perez says. "They are the future leaders in business, politics, and science, but they learn how to be innovators now. Our teachers and administrators address all the needs of a child, and they will leave our schools ready to succeed in college and in their careers."

## Arcadia Unified School District

234 Campus Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007  
626/821-8300 x 6728 www.ausd.net

### Engaging the Future



**Dr. Joel Shawn**  
Superintendent

A part of Arcadia's longstanding vision is to engage and support all students in meaningful and active learning that prepares them to be creative thinkers and problem solvers. Our progress in pursuing this goal is illustrated by the following three examples.

- Students at all levels use technology as a tool to increase their understanding, engage their interest, and use knowledge in real world applications.
- All of our schools achieve success in high stakes academic measures and in visual and performing arts, athletics and other special academic programs which allow students to utilize what they've learned and demonstrate readiness for the 21st century.

• We are building the human connections among and between staff and students that can make the difference in all students finding success and becoming contributing members of a diverse society. Robust counseling serves K-12 and seamlessly transitions students from elementary to middle and to high school. A highly articulated K-12 Response to Intervention and Instruction program catches students before they fail and provides targeted interventions so that they can succeed in the core academic program. Additionally, a wide variety of highly engaging offerings such as robotics engineering, video production, bio physics, culinary arts, civil law, and sports medicine, connect students to real world interests.

As our construction and modernization programs reach completion, including state-of-the-art science, lecture, and student services buildings at our high school, along with other significant structures and technological upgrades at all schools, we are providing the environment necessary to continue to improve our programs and assure all of our students a first-rate education in first-rate facilities.

## Antelope Valley Union High School District

44811 Sierra Highway, Lancaster, CA 93534  
661/948-7655 www.avdistrict.org

### Innovative and Creative Spirit



**Dr. David J. Vierra**  
Superintendent

The Antelope Valley, which includes the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster, is the home of some of the most innovative aerospace developments that have occurred in this century. Our District has embraced the creative spirit that prevails in the Antelope Valley.

Antelope Valley Union High School District prides itself in providing a safe and secure environment where a diverse student population can develop the skills necessary to perform effectively in a technological, information-based society. With a focus on school-to-careers, our District strives to determine what skills are necessary for our students to master to be effective as adults.

To this end, the District aggressively pursues continuous improvement in the structure of curriculum to reflect not only high academic standards but also relevancy to real-world application. Our District believes that the best school-to-career preparation a student can receive is a rigorous and relevant academic program. To support our curriculum improvements, an extensive staff-development program has been implemented to provide training for staff members in the use of technology in the classroom as well as innovative classroom teaching strategies.

From special-population students to the most gifted students, our District has a program or academy that meets the personal and educational needs of all our students. Our District staff is proud of the fact that our students are given wonderful opportunities in preparation for their adult roles.

As a parent, I share your concerns for the quality of education being provided, the safety of our students and the future for our children. It is the concern for the education of all students which drives my vision for the future of the Antelope Valley Union High School District.



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## Azusa Unified School District

546 S. Citrus Avenue, Azusa, CA 91702  
626/967-6211 www.azusausd.k12.ca.us

# Academic and Personal Excellence



**Cynthia Cervantes McGuire**  
Superintendent

Azusa Unified strives to provide a rigorous, engaging and well-rounded instructional program. We offer an array of Advanced Placement and Honors classes, and AVID in grades 6 – 12. One of our middle schools continues to be an AVID Demonstration site.

Over the last couple of years we have made significant gains in student achievement across the board on statewide tests. Teachers regularly engage in professional development opportunities and they are committed to making a difference in the lives of the students of Azusa. Newer teachers are supported with additional training and coaching.

We have had five Gates Millennium scholars, received Golden Bell Awards for a partnership with Northrop-Grumman, the Link Crew program and for the Mural Program at our continuation school. Both high schools provide JROTC, tout award-winning Band programs and Academic Decathlon teams. The district also continues to support drama programs and fine arts classes.

The District provides after school programs for all grades including high school. These provide students with tutoring opportunities and enrichment classes. We enjoy partnerships with local colleges and universities, which greatly expand the opportunities we can provide our students. This year, for the first time, we offered a Majors Fair for students at the middle school level. Plans are underway to expand this program to all three middle schools.

Technology skills are incorporated into the District's curriculum and every school has a computer lab and every classroom has access to the Internet.

With every effort we are engaged in, the focus is on building the academic and personal excellence of every student.

## Baldwin Park Unified School District

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

# Embracing the 21st Century



**Mark M. Skvarna**  
Superintendent

In an era where, while planning for the next 25 years the only certainty is change and the traditional idea of a strategic plan is out of date by the time it's printed, the Baldwin Park Unified School District is embracing the shift towards the 21st Century. This shift began with a call for a new vision statement that outlines what we want for our students now and for the next 25 years.

The new vision statement is a result of input from hundreds of stakeholders representing students, staff, parents, community members, university staff and private industry leaders. The development of this vision has motivated us to form a strategic plan that embodies 21st Century thinking. In order to ensure that this shift is successful, technology, teachers' skill set, curriculum, and most importantly, student learning must meet the demands of the 21st Century.

Our district has made tremendous strides towards meeting these demands, especially with our special populations. In A Report Card on Student Achievement published by *The Education-Trust West*, the Baldwin Park Unified School District earned an "A" for narrowing the achievement gap between Latino and White students. In addition, the District received a "B" for improving academic achievement for students of color and low-income students. These results are indicative of the focus the District has for all students.

As the District implements its strategic plan, I have full confidence that our students, parents and staff possess the necessary strengths, abilities and commitment to move us forward into the 21st Century.

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## Bassett Unified School District

904 North Willow Avenue, La Puente, CA 91706  
626/931-3000 www.bassett.k12.ca.us

# Bassett USD is On the move!



**Martin Galindo**  
Superintendent

Through the progressive leadership of the Bassett Board of Education, five goals have been established focusing on student achievement, improved communication and collaboration with all stakeholders, providing safe and secure learning environments, developing qualified staff and improving efficiency in spending. Daily our dedicated teachers, administrators and support staff create the conditions for student success regardless of these tough financial times. It is our responsibility to prepare every student to thrive in our schools, in college and beyond. In addition, we must partner with our parents to actively support them as they work with their children. As a result, our district continues to move forward and get tangible results. Through the University Bound program, 131 seniors have applied to four year universities. Last year 64 seniors were accepted at universities across the country. Through the support of the newly formed Bassett Educational Foundation, \$5000 was provided to students for their college application fees. Torch Middle School has received the prestigious recognition of being named a Schools To Watch-Taking Center Stage School-One of only 32 schools in California. Don Julian Elementary School has been accepted as one of the first "No Excuses Schools" in the San Gabriel Valley. The Response to Intervention program is implemented in every single elementary school. iPads and tablets have been added to the instructional program The afterschool Think Together program continues to provide much needed support to students and parents. The Board of Education approved a partnership with Evergreen Energy School Solutions to bring solar energy and \$5.5 million in energy cost savings to the district over 25 years. Bassett USD is on the move!

## Bellflower Unified School District

16703 South Clark Avenue, Bellflower, CA 90706  
562/866-9011 www.busd.k12.ca.us

# Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less



**Dr. Brian Jacobs**  
Superintendent

Bellflower Unified School District, where “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less” drives the teaching and educational knowledge for our students. The District continues to offer a rigorous and relevant curriculum that allows for each student to master the grade level content standards and find high levels of success with the California Standards Test.

Each elementary school offers Accelerated Learning Pathways to ensure that gifted and talented students are being academically challenged on a day to day basis. In the secondary schools the continuing expansion of Honors and AP course work guarantees a highly thorough pathway for the student.

The mission for BUSD is clear—to develop critical thinkers and socially responsible citizens who actively participate in their individual learning and are fully prepared to embrace the future. We accomplish this by attracting and retaining highly qualified staff, initiating and sustaining important partnerships, and by engaging the entire community in providing a rich and challenging curriculum in a safe and nurturing environment.

As a District, we offer a Pre-school Head Start through twelfth grade education program comprised of ten elementary school sites, two compensatory middle/high schools, and a continuation high school. Students leaving BUSD are fully prepared to pursue a career in the technical work force arena, the armed forces, any Cal State, UC, or private university, along with other civic jobs available for well rounded and educated young adults.

Together with the employees and the entire community, BUSD will be the school district where, “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less” is seen in everything we do each and every day.

## Beverly Hills Unified School District

255 South Lasky Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90212  
310/551-5100 www.beverlyhills.k12.ca.us

# The Cornerstone of the Community



**Dr. Gary Woods**  
Superintendent

The Beverly Hills Unified School District is the cornerstone of the Beverly Hills community. With a 2011 district API of 891, the BHUSD remains committed to effective teaching and learning aimed at the achievement of high standards by all students.

In collaboration with students, parents, and community stakeholders, we pride ourselves on providing students with an exceptional educational experience. Countless individuals have contributed to a long tradition of excellence and have given freely of their resources, time, and expertise to promote a climate of excellence and to further our mission to inspire and empower each student to achieve academic excellence, embrace social and individual responsibility, and lead with integrity. To these ends, the BHUSD provides dynamic and enriching educational opportunities, collaborative community partnerships, and challenging and supportive learning environments. This effort is achieved by building a foundation of trust at every level. By establishing trust, we create positive relationships, establish clarity of purpose, and breed an environment that empowers students and adults to reach their true potential.

Our students must be prepared to meet challenges on a global level. Through disciplined leadership, teamwork, collaboration, focus, and planning, the BHUSD is committed to maintaining and improving a culture that values effective teaching and learning and an instructional program that supports it.

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### Connie Wax, LCSW

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## Bonita Unified School District

115 W. Allen Avenue, San Dimas, CA 91773  
909/971-8200 www.bonita.k12.ca.us

# Student Progress is Our Business



**Dr. Gary Rapkin**  
Superintendent

Bonita Unified School District educates nearly 10,000 children in eight elementary schools, two middle schools and three high-schools. At BUSD, we believe “student progress is our business.” In order to effectively serve the communities in our District, we believe every employee, from teachers and administrators to classified and confidential staff, must work together as a team toward a common vision for student success.

It is the efforts of the entire BUSD community that allow us to continue to strive for excellence, find new ways to work effectively and finally, help each and every student gain access to their dreams.

## Committed to Academic Excellence

The results of such hard work and dedication by our staff are evident in the success of our students, who have been consistently recognized for their achievements in the arts, athletics as well as academics. One example is how our students’ consistent increases in test scores resulted in the District earning an 854 on the California State Academic Performance Index, with three schools over 900.

Here at Bonita Unified School District, we pride ourselves on our commitment to academic excellence and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed. For the students in our care, and in partnership with the community, we strive to create a safe, challenging and comprehensive learning environment that not only shapes our students’ characters, but also encourages them to be the best they can be in school and throughout the rest of their lives.

## Burbank Unified School District

1900 W. Olive Avenue, Burbank, CA 91506  
818/729-4400 www.burbankusd.org

# Uniquely Burbank!



**Stan Carrizosa**  
Superintendent

A dream that began more than 15 years ago became a reality for the Burbank Unified School District this year. On Saturday, February 25, 2012, BUSD and the City of Burbank celebrated the grand reopening of the Memorial Field Stadium on the campus of John Burroughs High School. This was a \$12.2M renovation project jointly funded by the School District, City of Burbank, and \$650K in community donations. While the physical structure itself is a state-of-the-art facility, the best part of the ceremony was when more than a thousand community members came together to commemorate our local veterans and celebrate Burbank’s rich history, traditions, and pride of ownership.

The stadium project is but one example of the commitment to excellence shared by Burbank Schools and the Burbank community. BUSD is home to the top two Show Choirs in the Country from John Burroughs and Burbank High School. A partnership with Vh1 has brought new string instruments to advance our elementary instrumental music program. Our Competition Dance teams continue to be named “Grand Prize” recipients, our Academic Decathletes are competing for a state title, and our Theater/Drama program was recently recognized as a national champion.

We continue to be blessed with talented and caring teachers, administrators, and support staff that serve our schools and support academic achievement. With a District API score of 834 we rank among the top performing districts in the state. Finally, we are extremely proud this year to be home to the California State Teacher of the Year. Not only has Luther Middle School English Teacher Rebecca Mieliwocki been named BUSD and Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year, but she has also been chosen as California’s State Teacher of the Year and will travel with the other three finalists to Washington, DC, in April to compete for the title of National Teacher of the Year!

## Castaic Union School District

28131 Livingston Avenue, Valencia, CA 91355  
661/257-4500 www.castaic.k12.ca.us

# Commitment to Excellence



**James M. Gibson**  
Superintendent

The Castaic Union School District has a very simple vision: “A Commitment to Excellence!” We believe the District should provide children a rigorous education supported by a safe and nurturing environment that maximizes student learning and achievement. To support this vision and mission, the Castaic Union School District has developed specific core values that support teamwork, collaboration, and sharing responsibility and decision-making. The District values setting high academic and achievement standards, and values nurturing and caring for the whole child, respecting individual diversity, striving for personal best, building positive character traits and having the courage to stand by your convictions.

These traits have been evident since the opening of the District as a one-room school of approximately 20 students over 120 years ago in northern Los Angeles County in 1889. Since those humble beginnings the District has grown and developed in concert with the entire Santa Clarita Valley, reaching just under 350 students in the early seventies, 400 students in the early eighties, 1000 students in the nineties and over 2900 students in four schools today. The District (API 844) supports three grades K-5 elementary schools; Castaic Elementary (API 854), Live Oak Elementary (API 827), and Northlake Hills Elementary (API 869) schools, as well as Castaic Middle School (API 838). Three of the four schools are California Distinguished Schools with Castaic Middle School recognized as one of 200 national “Schools to Watch.” Live Oak Elementary School is one of 15 Standard and Poor’s nationally recognized schools for “Closing the Gap.”

## Centinela Valley Union High School District

14901 South Inglewood Avenue, Lawndale, CA 90260  
310/263-3200 www.centinela.k12.ca.us

# Learning Environments for the Future



**Jose Fernandez**  
Superintendent

The Centinela Valley Union High School District is located in Los Angeles County, close to the Los Angeles International Airport. It serves an ethnically diverse population in the cities of Hawthorne, Lawndale, and Lennox.

In 2010, the district expanded the Small Learning Communities in the three comprehensive high schools. They include: Biomedical Careers, School of Criminal Justice, Multimedia Careers, Marine Science Academy, School of Engineering, Environmental Careers, School of Visual & Performing Arts, Academy of Media Arts, and School of International Business.

With the passage of two school bond measures, the District was proud to open the Centinela Valley Center for the Arts. Besides a complete, state-of-the-art performance venue, there are elements of the CVCA that includes a 40 workstation computer lab, fully equipped television production studio, two classrooms, dressing, wardrobe and costume storage areas.

The Leuzinger High School Center for Arts & Sciences, completed in September 2011, includes a 2 story building, made up of 3 separate buildings connected on the second floor by bridges. It has 36 classrooms and 8 state-of-the-art science labs. All classrooms include interactive multimedia technology and are wired for internet connectivity. The open courtyard is the size of 3 football fields, allows Wi-Fi access for an outdoor learning environment, and includes 2 outdoor amphitheatre lecture areas on each end.

CVUHSD is not only proud of the “exterior” but also of what is going on inside the classroom walls. Teachers, students, and staff are working hard to expand learning.

## Charter Oak Unified School District

20240 E. Cienega Avenue, Covina, CA 91724  
626/966-8331 www.cousd.net

# A Commitment to Excellence



**Dr. Mike Hendricks**  
Superintendent

Our mission in the Charter Oak Unified School District is to increase academic achievement while empowering students to be lifelong learners. We believe our purpose is to prepare students for citizenship, cultivate a skilled workforce, teach cultural literacy, prepare students for college, help students become critical thinkers and to compete in a global marketplace.

Charter Oak has demonstrated a commitment to excellence with outstanding programs, services and increased achievement on a number of indicators. Charter Oak High School continues to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma and AVID programs. The District has six California Distinguished Schools and 2 Title I High Achieving Schools.

Charter Oak has also become a destination for co-curricular opportunities for students in award winning sports, music, band, and visual and performing arts programs. It is home of CIF Champions, a BRAVO Award winning dramatic arts teacher and a Golden Bell Award winning English program. Students engage in community service and outreach projects at all levels. They work with Rotary International; the Operation Santa Clothes program; the "Blankets of Love" campaign for the City of Hope and other area hospitals; and the "Remembrance Walk" to raise money for student scholarships while remembering cancer victims.

Charter Oak is home to the unique Oak Knoll Virtual Academy (OKVA) that serves K-12 students with a comprehensive academic program. Students take all their required courses online facilitated by a high quality teaching staff. OKVA enables truly individualized learning and flexibility in pace, schedule, and learning styles. The program is full-time, meaning that it replaces a traditional classroom environment with a home school environment as long as the students reside in Los Angeles, Ventura, Kern, Orange, or San Bernardino Counties.

## Claremont Unified School District

170 W. San Jose Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711  
909/398-0609 www.cusd.claremont.edu

# Synergy Fuels Legacy of Educating



**Dr. Gloria L. Johnston**  
Interim  
Superintendent

Claremont Unified School District, a K-12 district, is widely recognized as a leader in student achievement. With a diverse population of more than 7,000 students, the district offers a challenging and relevant curriculum delivered by a highly-qualified and experienced staff who value innovative educational strategies, research-based curriculum, and global partnerships with both the city and local colleges.

The District consists of seven elementary schools, one orthopedically handicapped school, one intermediate school, two WASC accredited high schools, and a community day school. Ninety percent of the schools have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools; two schools have been awarded National Blue Ribbons; and two of the four Title I schools are Academic Achievement Award recipients.

How we educate our students is perhaps our greatest accomplishment. Our strength lies in the hearts and talents of our employees. The teachers, support staff and administrators have developed a synergy that continues to fuel our legacy of serving and educating the Claremont community. This is evident in our students who continually outperform their counterparts across the nation on standardized tests with many students recognized as National Merit Scholars, Advanced Placement Scholars, and many are the recipients of a wide variety of local and national scholarships. The District also features the International Baccalaureate program where students outperform worldwide averages. Additionally, outstanding athletic teams, as well as a host of state and nationally recognized co-curricular programs and activities provide students with additional opportunities to develop the 21st century skills of collaboration, innovation, communication, and critical thinking.

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## Compton Unified School District

501 S. Santa Fe Avenue, Compton, CA 90221  
310/639-4321 www.compton.k12.ca.us

# Achieving Beyond Expectations



**Karen E. Frison**  
Interim  
Superintendent

For two consecutive years Compton Unified School District (CUSD) has continued to make steady academic gains under the leadership of Interim Superintendent Karen E. Frison. The District's further improvements in teaching practices, educational programs, and increased parent involvement have resulted in greater academic excellence, while also closing the achievement gap.

The 2010-11 school year saw CUSD's district-wide Academic Performance Index (API) score once again increase along with ten schools that met or exceeded their 800 API target score. Among the District's top performers was Laurel Street Elementary, which not only earned an API score of more than 900 points, but also received the Golden Bell Award for its innovative Laurel Street Writing Program

Hundreds of Compton teachers also stepped up to the challenge of becoming National Board Certified instructors by participating in the Program with the goal of acquiring best practices designed to bolster student achievement.

Although the State's fiscal crisis continues to impact school districts, CUSD has remained proactive in implementing cost-savings measures while acquiring and maintaining long-standing sponsorships to help improve the quality of its educational programs for all students.

Interim Superintendent Frison remains confident in Compton's ability to inspire and mold its children into high-achievers who are ready to exceed all expectations by becoming career-ready and college bound.

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Compton Unified School District is to empower leaders to lead, teachers to teach, and students to learn by fostering an environment that encourages leaders and teachers to be visionary, innovative and accountable for the achievement of all students.

## Covina-Valley Unified School District

519 East Badillo Street, Covina, CA 91723  
626/974-7000 www.cvusd.k12.ca.us

# Creating Extraordinary Futures!



**Dr. Catherine Nichols**  
Superintendent

Covina-Valley Unified School District is committed to preparing students to meet the future with confidence. The goal of education is to tap into the talents of each student and create an environment where they flourish, individually and collectively.

Covina-Valley has three priorities: increase student achievement, close the achievement gap, and create a four-year college-going culture. Rigorous learning experiences ensure our students achieve at the highest levels possible. Our graduates attend colleges and universities across the country, including Ivy League schools and the United States Military Academies.

Covina-Valley boasts four academies for high school students. The IT academy for students interested in technology, an Arts and Entertainment academy, and a Business and Entrepreneurship academy. A vocational trade center is currently in development. Students have the best of all worlds; they learn skills that can be applied to a career and at the same time complete the 14 courses needed for acceptance to a four-year college.

Student success, in academics, the arts, music and athletics, is the focus of Covina-Valley Unified. Success builds upon success and the positive results of hard work by teachers, administrators and support staff is apparent throughout our schools. We are proud of our California Distinguished Schools, Title I Achieving School, Model Continuation High School, Golden Bell Awards, National Merit Scholars, and National Hispanic Scholars.

Visit us for a tour!

## Culver City Unified School District

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

# Great Schools and Programs



**Patricia Jaffe**  
Superintendent

Culver City Unified School District believes that every child must have equal access to a good education and must give every child the chance to succeed. It is important to promote our public schools which we can do by disseminating a shared message of values, vision and performance. We believe that our public schools benefit our nation by developing productive citizens who contribute to a strong economy. Culver City schools hold shared values that ensure that clear expectations are set for parents and for responsible student behavior. We believe that for children to become productive members of society that we must teach them the value of hard work and the need for respectful and responsible behavior. Our goal is to give students the skills and knowledge they need for their individual success and well-being to ensure that they are engaged in 21st century teaching and learning to prepare them to compete in a global world.

We have much to celebrate!

- Culver City High School: recognized as a 2011 California Distinguished School.
- Department of Mental Health: grant funded Olweus anti-bullying program
- Culver City Middle School: re-designated as a 2011-2012 Schools to Watch Taking Center Stage
- Farragut and El Marino: designated for California Distinguished School visitation
- Culver City USD: providing professional development focused on ELD students, student engagement, math and common core standards

Our high quality PUBLIC schools give every child from every family the chance to learn the skills they need to be successful in life.

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## Downey Unified School District

11627 Brookshire Avenue, Downey, CA 90241  
562/469-6500 www.dusd.net

# Reputation for High Performance



**Dr. Wendy L. Doty**  
Superintendent

Our district of 22,700 students 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 a superior school system. Downey Unified School District has been recognized again and again with distinguished State honors for its high performance. Please compare our Academic Performance Index (API) scores that are readily available on the Internet at [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov). You are also welcome to schedule a visit to any DUSD school. I know you will be impressed with the safe, learning-centered environment, and top quality instruction you will encounter on all our campuses.

In addition to our strong academic program, we offer the nationally recognized CHARACTER COUNTS! program districtwide. This character education program, which is integrated into academics, discipline, and athletics, is based upon the following six pillars of character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

All of our schools have been renovated in recent years to include state-of-the-art technology as well as first-rate athletic facilities. We provide a full range of programs for students with individual needs including GATE, AVID, and Title I. Our K-8 campuses now offer ASPIRE, a free after-school, academic childcare program that runs until 6:00 p.m. and some sites offer YMCA child care before and after school.

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

## Duarte Unified School District

1620 Huntington Drive, Duarte, CA 91010  
626/599-5000 www.duarte.k12.ca.us

# The People, Purpose and Passion



**Dr. Terry Nichols**  
Superintendent

### What is Our story?

“We must teach them and teach them well, their lives depend on it.” (Chall 2001). This quote reminds us that educating youth is a special calling and there is no better place to educate a child than in DUSD because of the *people, the purpose and the passion*.

### People

The *people* of Duarte provide ongoing support demonstrated by their willingness to support the schools with resources of time, people and monies. With this commitment from the people, DUSD provides an outstanding educational environment creating the type of student who is recruited: a “shoulder tapped graduate.”

### Purpose

The *purpose* of DUSD is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and inspiration necessary for success in career and life built on the 4 Cornerstones of Students Success, 21st Century Facilities, Quality Staff, and Parent/Community Involvement. These cornerstones in conjunction with a strong board of Education provide the support necessary to obtain our 20/20 vision.

### Passion

Duarte is special because the people possess the *passion* for the work and for the students we serve, there is excitement and an energy that provides a light in their eyes you will not experience in any other school district.

Duarte is about people who are connected to a purpose and are willing to follow their passion to do whatever it takes to ensure that all students are successful in career and life.

## East Whittier City School District

14535 E. Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90605  
562/907-5900 www.ewcsd.k12.ca.us

# Motivate, Inspire, Excel



**Dr. Joe Gillentine**  
Superintendent

The East Whittier City School District (EWCS) is a great place for students to learn and for staff to work. We value the involvement of the family in the learning environment and we encourage a family atmosphere in our schools.

It is the aim of the EWCS to provide students with the knowledge of those academic skills and concepts which they must learn and apply to function effectively in our society. The District, in partnership with parents, endeavors to motivate, inspire, and encourage all students to use their unique potentials to reach their highest level of academic achievement and emotional and physical well-being.

### Working Together

The District provides an outstanding educational program for all students. We are fortunate to have teachers and support staff who care deeply about learning and recognize the important role they play in the lives of our students. Our parents and community members believe in our schools and make every effort to be the best partners they can be.

From our Board of Education to our many volunteers, from our teachers to our support staff, we are all committed to the students of this great district. We know the difference we make in each child's future and the difference each of them will make in the future of this community and nation.

We encourage and invite you to become involved in the learning process of our students. We have high expectations for every student and our superior staff provides the learning environment that motivates and inspires our students to excel.

## Eastside Union School District

5006 North 30th Street East, Lancaster, CA 93535  
661/952-1200 www.eastside.k12.ca.us

# High Desert – High Expectations



**Dr. Roberto Villa**  
Superintendent

In the Eastside Union School District, growth continues to manifest itself in many ways. Student enrollment has grown from slightly over 2500 students to current enrollment of almost 3500 in grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade. Our students and teachers are to be commended for their increasing academic achievement. Once again, all students made significant gains in their CST scores of Spring 2011. Academic discussions are occurring at every campus and at every grade level. Continuous improvement is standard operating procedure. There is healthy vertical articulation between Gifford C. Cole Middle School and our feeder, Eastside High School. This helps to ensure the continued success of our students as they move onto high school.

Eastside Union School District parents continue to play an essential part in the educational progress our children are making. Our average daily attendance has improved from an 89% to currently right around 96%. Solar Panel projects are completed and add a valuable resource to our District. Through Hardship Funding, one new school will be completed February 2012 and another elementary will begin construction sometime in the Spring 2012.

Sadly, we are all facing serious fiscal situations. How much more can we cut? How can we pay our employees when the State says, “sorry your September check may not come until December”, otherwise known as a deferral. Cuts to transportation for our most needy students will be devastating. The costs of providing health benefits for district employees are skyrocketing while the state says, cut \$300 dollars more per child. These economic uncertainties are grim. But those who come to work every day in the Eastside School District bring the optimism, hope and encouragement that our students need to continue to be successful here in school and later in life.

## El Monte City School District

3540 N. Lexington Avenue, El Monte, CA 91731  
626/453-3700 www.emcsd.k12.ca.us

### Excellent Efforts and Results



**Jeff Seymour**  
Superintendent

Despite a steady and continuous erosion of State funding for the past four years which has resulted in a loss of nearly 25% of our State funds, students in the El Monte City school District continue to make gains and get recognition for their excellent efforts and results.

Teachers, classified, and management staff continue to push for improved learning outcomes for our students. They have done so despite larger class sizes that are necessary because of budget cuts and declining enrollment.

The efforts of the District, as reflected by the accomplishments of our students, cannot continue indefinitely without the State returning more funds and support.

The accomplishments of staff and students are remarkable and reflected in the following items: Three schools achieved an API of 800 or higher; Five schools achieved a similar schools state ranking of 8 or higher; 100% of teachers highly qualified in compliance with No Child Left Behind regulations; District attendance rate approached 98%; Instrumental music programs in all district schools; Twenty-six students featured in new fitness video produced by Operation Tone Up; Our newly adopted Administrative Regulations for the Standards-Based Report Card were published in A Repair Kit for Grading: 15 Fixes for Broken Grades; More than 280 teachers trained in standards based grading practices; Academically at-risk students received highly effective interventions in reading and/or mathematics; Wellness Policy adopted by Board of Education for students and staff.

The District appreciates the support of the community in our efforts for academic excellence, healthy students, and well-built and maintained schools.

## El Monte Union High School District

3537 Johnson Avenue, El Monte, Ca 91731  
626/444-9005 www.emuhd.k12.ca.us

### Every Student, Every Minute, Every Day



**Nick J. Salerno**  
Superintendent

Despite the negativity surrounding state and federal finances and accompanying budget cuts to schools, students in the El Monte Union High School District continue to demonstrate great progress. Our staff is committed to this improvement and supports “Every Student, Every Minute, Every Day.” Academic Performance Index (API, a state accountability measure) shows gains for the district of 56 points over the past 3 years. Our students’ college eligibility rate (A-G completion) has climbed to over 36% districtwide (from 28% in 2009).

As a commitment to our students and community, the District has partnered with Rio Hondo College, U.C. Irvine, and Cal State L.A. to form the Rio Hondo Partnership for College. Each of these entities has signed the El Monte Union Pledge Compact, which guarantees priority registration and classes for all EMUHSD students who choose to go to Rio Hondo College. Further, there is guaranteed admission to UCI and Cal State L.A. for all EMUHSD students that meet certain college eligibility criteria, as well as for EMUHSD students who go to Rio Hondo and then meet certain transfer requirements to UCI and Cal State L.A.

The District is dedicated to every student’s success. I know we will continue to exhibit that dedication and continue to overcome obstacles and budget cuts to promote achievement for all.

Our schools will continue to not only promote success in the core academic areas, but we will also support arts, music, career/technical education, foreign language and physical education programs. Finally, we continue to encourage and provide for adult learning via our El Monte-Rosemead Adult School, which is now 20,000 students strong.

## El Rancho Unified School District

9333 Loch Lomond Drive, Pico Rivera, CA 90660  
562/942-1500 www.erusd.k12.ca.us

### Strong Commitment to Excellence



**Dr. Myrna Rivera Coté**  
Superintendent

The El Rancho Unified School District educates approximately 10,000 students in eight elementary schools, three middle schools, El Rancho High School, Salazar Continuation School, Adult School, and on our Special Education Campus, APEX. The El Rancho Unified School District is a district with a strong commitment to excellence. It is our belief that all students attending our schools can and will learn, achieve and improve academically. Our motto, “Quality Education for a Better Tomorrow” exemplifies our belief that our students will achieve academic proficiency, acquire interpersonal skills, and develop the expertise to contribute as productive citizens in our society.

El Rancho Unified School District is proud that the primary factor contributing to our success is a shared vision of continuous improvement throughout the organization – from the Boardroom to the classroom and in every department and office. We strive to be a data-driven organization throughout the District – looking at past performance, measuring against internal and external benchmarks and analyzing results. Our policies and practices are aligned to a vision of excellence in all areas.

California’s budget crisis continues to threaten fiscal solvency for many school districts. On behalf of the Board of Education, our parents and students, I extend my sincere and deep appreciation to all of our employees for their sacrifices. In these difficult budget times, we must continue to all work together to provide our students with the educational programs they both need and deserve. The El Rancho Unified School District never loses sight of its primary focus of “kids first” decision making and fiscal responsibility in light of the current difficult economic times.

## El Segundo Unified School District

641 Sheldon Street, El Segundo, CA 90245  
310/615-2650 www.elsegundousd.com

### Rigorous Goals



**Dr. Geoff Yantz**  
Superintendent

As both a former Principal and Assistant Superintendent, I have witnessed first-hand our community’s unfailing commitment to the students and families of El Segundo. We are a small district of five schools and a preschool, but size does not inhibit the unlimited aspirations of those who serve the students in this community. El Segundo schools are modeled on the Professional Learning Community vision that collegiality, collaboration, and individual attention to each student’s needs lays the groundwork necessary to ensure each student lives up to his or her full potential.

The Board of Education has established rigorous goals for superior educational programs that address the needs of all students, as well as created an environment that supports teachers and staff while providing the resources to guarantee the success of all district programs.

The community-at-large is an integral part of the success of our schools, as evidenced by the extensive school modernization program completed after the passage of multi-million dollar bond measures. Although two of our school sites were constructed during the 1920’s and 1930’s, the renovation process labored to preserve the history and architectural splendor of early El Segundo.

Each school site benefits from strong, effective Parent Teacher Associations, as well as the support of the El Segundo Educational Foundation that makes direct annual contributions to all schools in the district. We are especially proud of the district’s close relationship with the City of El Segundo with whom we share a common vision for student success both academically and as productive community members.

## Garvey School District

2730 No. Del Mar Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770  
626/307-3444 www.garvey.k12.ca.us

### Rigorous Goals for Achievement



**Dr. Sandra Johnson**  
Superintendent

Garvey School District covers a four-square mile portion of Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel and an area of Los Angeles County known as South San Gabriel. The District has eight elementary and two intermediate schools serving more than 5300 K-8 students, with pre-school on each elementary school campus.

Student achievement is the top priority in the Garvey School District. These efforts are supported by a Board of Education that has focused the district with specific goals for increased achievement and closing the achievement gap. This year, a priority goal is to ensure high quality instruction aligned to the content and cognitive level of the State Standards. With a District API of 815, eight schools well above the 800 mark, and two others close to the 800 target, this work is showing strong results.

Garvey's students benefit from a dedicated and hard working staff that helps the students score significantly higher on the STAR tests. In addition, many teachers sponsor extracurricular activities and help students achieve in other areas, such as History Day and Science Olympiad. The district also provides after school programs on each campus, full day kindergarten, and class-size reduction in grades K-3. Each intermediate school provides honors classes, AVID, physical education, and band and chorus.

The parents in Garvey participate in active PTA's at each school, many school events, and serve on numerous advisory committees. To provide additional services to families, Garvey works with many agencies in the community.

## Glendale Unified School District

223 North Jackson Street, Glendale, CA 91206  
818/241-3111 www.gusd.net

### Focused on Student Achievement



**Dr. Richard M. Sheehan**  
Superintendent

Glendale Unified School District is a leader in initiating reforms to increase student academic outcomes and remains the ideal choice for parents seeking an exceptional, accomplished school district that is accountable for student progress. Realtors and other major businesses continue to report that the reputation of the Glendale schools is often a motivating factor when moving to Glendale or the adjacent communities of La Crescenta and Montrose, located within the school district's boundaries.

This year our District Academic Performance Index (API) increased another nine points to 851 from last year. With 80% of our 31 schools above 800 API, and eight schools scoring above 900 API, Glendale Unified School District continues to be a

leader in academic instruction and student academic outcomes. The Foreign Language Academy of Glendale (FLAG) program continues to grow in its numbers and success offering programs in Spanish, Korean, Armenian, German, Italian, Japanese and, newly-added, French. The U.S. News and World Report ranks our high schools in the top 3% of US schools, with Crescenta Valley High School and Clark Magnet High School earning Silver Medal recognition.

The district has many noteworthy qualities, among them experienced teachers, safe campuses, involved parents, college/career programs, innovative instructional programs, competitive test scores, and high student outcomes. Glendale public schools are committed to the highest quality instructional and support programs on campuses that are safe and secure. At Glendale, we prepare our students for their future.

## Glendora Unified School District

500 N. Loraine, Glendora, CA 91741  
626/963-1611 www.glendora.k12.ca.us

### A Culture of Universal Success!



**Dr. Robert Voors**  
Superintendent

The Glendora Unified School District believes all students can and will achieve. Long recognized as one of the premier school districts in the state, we are in a select group of districts statewide that have realized an API score of over 800 at all of its comprehensive schools. Our nine schools include six California Distinguished Schools, one Title I High Achieving School, and a Model Continuation High School. The Washington Post, "Challenger Index" reports that, based on Advanced Placement testing, GHS ranks 732nd nationwide, and 114th in California, that measure places the Tartans in the top 3% nationally, and top 10% in the state for challenging college level, AP courses.

Glendora is a District of Distinguished Schools where staff, students, parents, and community work together to provide a caring learning environment for all our students. Additional support is evident through our active PTA, the Foundation for Glendora Unified Schools, various community groups and extensive volunteerism. Students learn in newly modernized schools that continue to infuse the latest technology.

In addition to world class academics, we offer exceptional, well-rounded educational experiences for 7,500 K-12 students that include CIF Championship athletic programs and award-winning band, orchestra, choirs and drama. Of all the quality programs Glendora offers, it is our people that make it one of the most exciting and rewarding school districts in Southern California! The District's success is the result of dedicated and talented teachers, support staff, administrators and school board. The Glendora experience is one of commitment to, enthusiasm for, and pride in excellence!

## Gorman Joint School District

49847 Gorman School Road, P.O. Box 104, Gorman, CA 93243  
661/248-6441 http://gorman.k12.ca.us

### Individualized Nurturing Environment



**Joe Andrews**  
Superintendent

The Gorman Joint School District is located at the southern tip of the beautiful Tehachapi Mountains, 60 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Gorman Joint School District has one K-8 school with 98 students and five teachers. The small size of Gorman Elementary School makes it possible to have an individualized nurturing environment in each classroom where the average class size is 20 students. Gorman Joint School District is a District of Choice where any parent can choose to enroll their children during an enrollment period. As such many families from surrounding districts enroll their children at Gorman to take advantage of the small school environment.

Gorman Elementary School is committed to improved levels of academic performance. Educating every student must be and will be our number one priority. We consistently strive to provide our students with a high quality education that appropriately meets their academic needs, but acknowledge that a quality experience must go beyond just the classroom. Our teachers are building on this success and have set a goal of becoming an 800 API school. Our dedicated teachers are committed to high levels of teaching and learning and are involved in professional development training designed to strengthen their teaching skills.

The Gorman School District is known for having a very supportive Board. The Board recently adopted five district goals that will help to propel the District forward toward our vision of academic success for each student. The mission of our District is to provide a challenging and rigorous educational experience for each of our students.

## Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

15959 E. Gale Avenue., City of Industry, CA 91716  
626/933-1000 www.hplschoos.org

### Partners in Your Child's Future



**Dr. Barbara Nakaoka**  
Superintendent

"Partners in Your Child's Future" is Hacienda La Puente's pledge to the communities we serve. Despite huge cuts in State funding, our District continues to deliver on its commitment. Our District API now exceeds 800. Sixteen of our schools have APIs exceeding 800; another five exceed 900. Six other schools have APIs over 775: well on their way to the State's 800 target.

Our District is a rich mixture of generations of families that have attended and worked in our schools, families new to the area, and families new to our country. As "a community committed to developing lifelong learners," we are continually building our ability to prepare every youngster for success in a four year college, even those who may not choose that step right after leaving high school, and to support adults in meeting personal goals.

Our commitment to partnerships exemplifies our Board's Guiding Principles. Our Board believes students, parents, staff and community have a shared responsibility:

- For the establishment of a professional culture built upon dedication, honesty, integrity, pride, perseverance, collaboration, teamwork, and mutual trust and respect;
- For recognizing the diverse learning styles and individual needs of students and ensuring all students meet high learning standards;
- To create a learning environment reflecting our community's diversity that is safe, clean, supportive, and responsive;
- To protect and preserve the short- and long-term financial well-being of the District.

HLPUSD serves over 20,000 pre-K through Gr. 12 students as well as many thousands of adults through an extensive Adult Education program.

## Hawthorne School District

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

### Creative Solutions in Fiscal Crisis



**Dr. Helen E. Morgan**  
Superintendent

The 2011-2012 school year is proving to be both exciting and challenging in the Hawthorne School District. The fiscal crisis continues to stretch our resources to the limits while encouraging all of us to work together to find creative solutions to meet the needs of all students. This school year began with a large group representing all stakeholders coming together to develop a strategic plan. It was an exceptional process that yielded a remarkable document that will guide our District for the next five years.

Additionally, this year marked the beginning of the Hawthorne School District Middle School Academies. In order to provide our students with skills to take them through high school, college, and beyond we have implemented a unique academy at each of our three middle schools. Students are afforded the opportunity to participate in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Academy where they are involved in robotics, web design, hands-on mathematics and science projects and an array of other activities. At our Fine Arts Academy students, who have never played an instrument, are performing on pianos, strings, winds, and drums. Also offered at this academy are theater arts classes, art, and chorus. Our Business Academy finds students developing whole economies and becoming inventors and entrepreneurs. This school includes a Bilingual Immersion Academy for those students who have matriculated from the elementary immersion program. I credit the success of these academies to the staff at each school.

All of this is happening while our schools continue to make forward academic progress. It takes all of us working together, staff, parents, and the community, to provide our students with these outstanding opportunities. The Hawthorne School District is a special place where students are always the focus of all we do.

## Hermosa Beach City School District

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

### Education—A Community Priority



**Dr. Bruce Newlin**  
Superintendent

Education in Hermosa Beach has always been a community priority. As evidence of this commitment we can point to the highly successful fund raising that parents and the community have been involved in over the past several years. Without that support the schools of Hermosa Beach would not have been able to offer many of the programs that we currently make available to our students. The result has been API scores over 900 and students who have been exposed to the arts and make use of technology on a daily basis.

But schools are now being asked to accept a different sort of challenge, the challenge of teaching 21st Century Skills (Creativity, Problems Solving and Collaboration) as well as the basics and doing all of this with diminishing resources.

Public schools in California are highly dependent on the state for the funding necessary to operate education programs that all of us feel are very important. When you are dependent on someone else to provide you with the necessary fiscal resources then when they have fiscal issues we have fiscal issues.

Because schools are people organizations, 85% of our budgets are people expenses. Classroom teachers, school administrators, instructional aides, secretaries and clerks are all part of this so when we talk about cutting back what is really happening is that we are reducing the number of people who work in schools.

In Hermosa Beach we are faced with the cost cutting problems that all school districts in the state are faced with and like those other district we are having to reduce the kinds of services we provide and to cut back on the people who provide those services. The net result is that our educational programs will be dramatically impacted and our focus on quality will take a back seat to survival.



## Hermosa Beach Chevron Surf Camp

\*For kids ages 7-17. Join over 8000 successful students. Our 21st year!  
\*You will learn about ocean safety, paddling, standing and tricks like the switchfoot.

\*Classes have a 1:6 teacher-to-student ratio for safety and a lot of one-on-one attention.  
\*Location: South of the Hermosa Pier at the 10th street L.A. County Lifeguard Tower.

❖ 1 1/2 hour class (5 days, M-F) Fee: \$134./\$124. resident discount. Two different times: 9:00-10:30am or 10:45-12:15pm

❖ 3 hour class (5 days, M-F) Fee: \$209./\$199. resident discount One time: 9:00-12:15pm.

Ex Junior Lifeguards needed for paid instructors, call Vince!

\*To register: HB Community Resources Department 310-318-0280 or www.hermosabch.org

\*More Information: Vince Ray 310-370-1918, surferjay@losangeles.usa.com or

[www.hermosasurefcamp.com](http://www.hermosasurefcamp.com)

## FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE SURF CAMP

Surf camp for children and adults with special needs (ages 7+). Surf classes have a 2:1 teacher-to student ratio for safety. Surfboard provided.

Please call the Friendship Circle before registering: 310-429-1536 or 310-214-4999 or [www.gotfriends.com](http://www.gotfriends.com) Class is 5 days- 1 1/2 hours each day.

Volunteers with surfing experience needed. Vince 310-370-1918

## Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District

16633 Elizabeth Lakes Road., Lake Hughes, CA 93532  
661/724-1231 www.heluesd.org

### Public School With A Private Feel



**Diane Parkins**  
Superintendent

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary School District is a rural K-8 one school district, nestled in the hills of the Angeles National Forest. Sitting in the northern most portion of Los Angeles County, with an enrollment of 360, the school serves students from the mountain communities of Lake Hughes, Elizabeth Lakes, Green Valley and Pine Canyon. The District is one of the oldest in all of the Antelope Valley

The school's setting is picturesque with a view that stretches from Sawmill Mountain in the west to Mount Baldy in the San Gabriel Mountains far to the East. The school prides itself on meeting the needs of each student because of small class sizes and continuity of teacher staff and students enrolled in the school. All students are served in the general education classroom. This is the model that earned Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary District the title of California Distinguished School.

HELUS is a District of Choice where any parent can chose to enroll their children during an open enrollment period. The school offers a solid core, standards-based instructional day supported by academic intervention. Teachers engage in professional collaboration and analysis of their instructional practice to ensure all students are successful learners. Parents and community members are an important part of the school community. The environment is positive and friendly and visitors comment on the positive outlook everyone has on our campus. HELUS is a wonderful place to work, volunteer and attend school!

## Inglewood Unified School District

410 South Inglewood Avenue., Inglewood, CA 90301  
310/419-2700 http://iusd.net

### Students Defy the Statistics



**Gary McHenry**  
Superintendent

Located in Los Angeles County, California, the Inglewood Unified School District serves approximately 12,000 students from the cities of Inglewood and Ladera Heights. In total, there are thirteen elementary schools and six secondary schools. In addition, there is one preschool center and a community adult school. Inglewood's elementary schools are often considered to have defied the statistics. Despite the low average socio economic level of students district-wide, IUSD elementary schools have earned national and international recognition for their out-standing academic performance. Bennett-Kew, Centinela, Kelso, Hudnall and Beulah Payne elementary schools have all earned the title of "California Distinguished School." Highland Elementary has earned the recognition of "Blue Ribbon School" and is also a "California Distinguished School".

The Inglewood Unified School Districts strengths are demonstrated in its support from various partners, including local businesses, organizations, and institutions of higher learning. The district works with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and has both College Summit, and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) programs in place assisting the school district at the middle and high school levels in preparing students to enter and succeed at colleges and universities.

In 1998, the school district embarked upon an extensive program to improve school facilities with the passage of the Measure K bond by Inglewood and Ladera Heights voters. Through the Measure K bond the district has recently completed new construction on La Tijera K-8 School, which opened to students on January 4, 2012.

## Keppel Union School District

34004 128th Street East, P. O. Box 186, Pearblossom, CA 93553  
661/944-2155 www.keppel.k12.ca.us

### Preparing 21st Century Learners



**Steve Doyle**  
Superintendent

The Keppel Union School District is a K-8 District of 3000 students, located in the southeastern portion of the Antelope Valley, which is approximately 60 miles northeast of Los Angeles. Keppel serves the communities of Littlerock, Pearblossom, Lake Los Angeles, Llano and surrounding areas. Keppel is proud to offer six small schools of less than 650 students each. Class size reduction is in place in grades K-3, and all kindergarteners benefit from full-day instruction. Keppel staff is committed to the goal of achieving academic excellence through providing all students with the skills to succeed in the 21st century.

Keppel Union School District once again increased our District API for the fourth year in a row. This can be directly attributed to our focus on Professional Learning Communities, Effective First Instruction and our Response to Intervention and Instruction model. We have embedded technology in instruction to captivate our digital native students and our commitment to providing direct instructional support through a high quality coaching model focusing on EL strategies, researched based effective instructional techniques and content support are paying off.

We continue to be very proud of the hard work that our dedicated staff provides every day in each of our classrooms. It is truly a joint effort between certificated, classified, management and our parent partners in education.

## La Canada Unified School District

4490 Cornishon Avenue, La Canada, CA 91011  
818/952-8300 www.lcusd.k12.ca.us

### Every Student Succeeds



**Wendy Sinnette**  
Superintendent

La Cañada Unified School District is a learning community committed to personal growth and academic excellence. Current student enrollment is approximately 4000 and students in all grades consistently score among the top 10% on California Standards Tests.

The district operates three elementary schools and a combined 7-12 school. Each school in the district has scored over 900 on the Academic Performance Index (API) and has developed an "Every Student Succeeds" plan to ensure that all students received appropriate support in mastering academic standards.

La Cañada Unified School District encompasses the residential community of La Cañada Flintridge, situated in the foothills about thirteen miles north of downtown Los Angeles. 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 educational foundation which contributes over a million dollars annually to the district and the active volunteerism and program support by the PTA at each school site.

Approximately 98% of graduating seniors enroll in post-secondary schools, with many students attending some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the nation.

The high school has twice been named a National Blue Ribbon school and all four schools have been designated as California Distinguished Schools and as Gold Medal winners by California Business for Education Excellence.



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@SchoolNewsRC

## Las Virgenes Unified School District

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

### Focus On the Future



**Dr. Donald M. Zimring**  
Superintendent

Las Virgenes schools are dedicated to maintaining a vision towards 21st century learning. We can do no less. Every day, over eleven thousand 21st century learners come through our doors. Our parents expect it, our students deserve it, and our professional staff delivers it day in and day out.

Twenty-first century learning embraces the core concepts of Global Awareness and Environmental Stewardship; Civic Literacy; Financial, Economic, and Entrepreneurial Literacy; Health Literacy; and most importantly, Innovation. One of our primary responsibilities must be to enable our students to succeed in the world that they will inherit. To this end, our District has continued to move forward despite the political and financial obstacles that have become a daily reality in California.

Innovation is mirrored in programs such as elementary foreign language, International Baccalaureate, an L-STEM academy and a high school media academy, drawing students from throughout our region. Mariposa School, which emphasizes global understanding and a Waldorf approach to instructional strategies, continues to grow expanding to a K-8 model by the year 2014.

Civic Literacy is a core value within the District as demonstrated by our Board including community service as a requirement for a Las Virgenes diploma. Our schools work cooperatively with each of our four cities and even our local water district to enhance environmental awareness in education.

And finally, the District's commitment to music and arts has literally been "set in concrete" with the construction of professional grade performing arts education centers at both of our comprehensive high schools. Is it any wonder that, in our mission to deliver a 21st century education to our students, each of our 1,100 professional staff members can say with pride, "We do great things for kids!"?

## Lawndale Elementary School District

4161 W. 147th Street, Lawndale, CA 90260.  
310/973-1300 www.Lawndale.k12.ca.us

### On Our "A" Game Every Day



**Dr. Ellen Dougherty**  
Superintendent

As the Superintendent in the Lawndale Elementary School District, I have the good fortune to visit all of our schools on a regular basis. While at the schools, it is easy to see evidence that our teachers and support staff are focusing their daily work and resources on our four District Goals.

Our first 2011-12 District Goal states, "LESD staff will collaborate to ensure that every student achieves academic success." Evidence of the diligent work being done to achieve this goal is seen in the classrooms, as teachers are delivering research based and data inspired instruction for all students in order for them to be the best that they can be. We also see

it in the changes made to our school nutrition program to ensure we provide healthful meals for our students, and in the clean and inviting school campuses. We have a hard-working and dedicated staff that understands that every moment in a student's day is critical to their learning, and we know that each of us has to be on our "A" game every day, no excuses.

Our students deserve a rich and rigorous curriculum and an environment that is safe and desirable for learning. As educators, we want our students to know that a four year university is not beyond their reach. I am excited to see the school year unfold and watch our team work together diligently to send our students soaring to new heights!



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@SchoolNewsRC

## Lancaster School District

44711 N. Cedar Avenue, Lancaster, CA 93534  
661/948-4661 www.lancaster.k12.ca.us

### Academic & Personal Excellence



**Dr. Howard Sundberg**  
Superintendent

Lancaster School District is located in the high desert about 60 miles northeast of Los Angeles and serves students in preschool through eighth grade. Most of the District's 82.5 square miles lies within the City of Lancaster with a small portion in the unincorporated boundaries of Los Angeles County.

Educating Antelope Valley youth since 1885, we believe the District provides excellent educational opportunities for the more than 15,000 students who attend our schools. We have one alternative education, five middle, and thirteen elementary schools. In addition, we serve over 700 students in our preschool program.

The District is an active participant with the seven other Antelope Valley elementary districts and the high school district to provide quality programs. Teams of teachers and administrators from these districts meet monthly to articulate the K-12 programs.

The mission of the Lancaster School District, a group of dedicated and caring professionals, is, with the support of the community, to develop academic and personal excellence in all students through a rigorous curriculum infused with high expectations within a safe and secure environment fostering socially responsible citizens who enrich our diverse community.

Our district has implemented a Five Year Strategic Plan designed to "chart our course" through the year 2012. Developed within mutually agreed upon parameters and based on shared beliefs, four key objectives will be our focus: Academic rigor, Safety for all, Positive community relations and Personal excellence and social responsibility.

## Lennox School District

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

### Vision: From Cradle to College



**Dr. Fred Navarro**  
Superintendent

We continue to witness the ongoing evolution of teaching and learning in the Lennox School District that is making a tremendous difference in what students know and are able to do. Our dedicated staff of teachers and administrators has developed a laser-like focus on instruction and, because of this, our students are coming close to reducing the achievement gap on a variety of measures.

This year over half of our campuses are above the 800 API mark—something which would never have been thought possible just a few years back. Next year, another elementary school is on schedule to move out of Program Improvement as well as on track to surpass the 800 API mark. The work our sites have dedicated themselves to is quickly making our Board of Trustee's Vision, "From Cradle to College," a reality for our students in the very near future.

Our district is committed to this vision by addressing the needs of the whole child and by making sure we do not narrow our curriculum. Instead we offer the following programs to our students and families: School Readiness and Preschool at every elementary campus; Lennox Enrichment After School Program (LEAP), an award winning after school program; A partnership with UICLA's Anderson School of Management's Health Care Institute for the prevention of obesity and diabetes; Educational program partnerships with Loyola Marymount University to better serve students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs; T.H.E. Clinic partnership to provide a full integration of school and community health services of Lennox and to serve as a demonstration site for Los Angeles County Health Services.

Lennox is a proud community where students achieve because we have a dedicated staff and involved parents who, despite these trying financial times, inspire us to continue to press forward.

## Little Lake City School District

10515 S. Pioneer Blvd., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
562/868-8241 www.littlelake.k12.ca.us

### Students First!



**Dr. Phillip Perez**  
Superintendent

The Little Lake City School District continues its strong and illustrious history of educational excellence. Serving the communities of Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk, and a segment of Downey, the district educates 4,750 students in grades K-8 at seven elementary schools and two middle schools. Generations of families have attended Little Lake schools, including those of many of our faculty, staff, and administrators.

Little Lake is proud of our academic accomplishments. Our students demonstrate consistent growth in grade level proficiency on the California Standards Tests and at a rate that significantly exceeds the state. Little Lake schools have earned state and

national recognition, including: Title I Achieving Schools; California Distinguished Schools; California Business for Educational Excellence Honor Roll recognition; and both nominations and achievement as National Blue Ribbon Award Schools. As of spring 2011, eight of our nine schools have earned APIs well above the 800 mark and the ninth school is within reach of this goal. Complementing a strong core academic program are innovative and renowned offerings in the visual and performing arts at all district schools. In spring 2011, 97% of district parents surveyed expressed their satisfaction with the schools their children attend.

Driving the district's success are a cohesive and focused governance team, highly qualified teachers and administrators, and a dedicated classified support staff. Our efforts as a Professional Learning Community are aimed at providing a quality education that ensures success for every student. Our newly adopted belief statements – Students First! Results Matter! Whatever It Takes! – reflect our values and bind us in our commitment.

## Los Angeles Unified School District

333 South Beaudry Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90017  
213/241-1000 www.lausd.net

### On the Road to Reform



**Dr. John Deasy**  
Superintendent

Here at the Los Angeles Unified School District, our students continue to thrive despite many challenges, not the least of them the on-going lack of adequate funding from the state, and year after year of multi-million dollar budget cuts.

There is good news to report. LAUSD jumped 19 points on the state Academic Performance Index in 2011. The first time pass rate on the California High School Exit Exam has risen to 75 percent. More students are graduating, and fewer are dropping out.

Add to these successes, the meals served to our students are so much healthier. There are more fresh vegetables and fruits, leaner meats and more whole grains on the menu.

At this District, we continue to seek better ways to educate and support our students. LAUSD's four key strategies to help ensure students graduate college-prepared and career-ready are: Data-Based Instruction, Supporting All Employees, Budgeting for Student Achievement and Creating and Supporting Quality Schools. You can learn more about the District's strategic roadmap, which includes LAUSD's objectives over the next three years, by going to the Superintendent's Page on our website, www.lausd.net.

Change isn't always easily, especially in such a large school District. With more than 664,000 students enrolled in kindergarten through the 12th grade, LAUSD serves a 710-square-mile area that includes the cities of Los Angeles, Cudahy, Gardena, Huntington Park, Lomita, Maywood, San Fernando, Vernon and West Hollywood as well as a portion of nearly two dozen additional cities and several unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

Because of our huge enrollment, less than a decade ago, more than half of our schools operated on a multi-track, year-round schedule; next year only two schools will remain on year-round calendars. That's progress, and there is more to come from LAUSD.

## Long Beach Unified School District

1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, CA 90810  
562/997-8000 www.lbschools.net

### Public Schools Worth Saving



**Christopher J. Steinhauser**  
Superintendent

Students and schools throughout our district continue to make significant gains in achievement. The state's ongoing budget crisis, however, threatens to halt our progress. This crisis will take a tremendous toll on public education statewide unless we find a way to provide our schools a stable, reliable source of funding.

Already we have lost more than \$300 million and 1,000 employees over the past three years due to unprecedented cuts in state funding. Once again this year, we face layoffs of hundreds of employees and the prospect of losing entire programs such as our Head Start and Child Development Center pre-kindergarten services that give working parents and their children a chance at a better life.

Even as we repeat the mantra "enough is enough" regarding cuts, there is no letup in site. Based on current estimates, our school district will face a \$100 million deficit by 2014. If a tax initiative proposed by Gov. Jerry Brown doesn't pass in November, then we project an even greater \$189 million deficit by 2014. Those numbers assume that we don't cut costs further. To avoid those scenarios, we continue to cut.

Gone are the days when we could trim a little here and there without the public noticing. The easier cuts were made a long time ago. The magnitude of the state's underfunding of schools has now led to discussions in Sacramento about shortening the school year by three to four weeks, among other drastic reductions.

For a state of vast wealth that remains an economic powerhouse, taking care of our schoolchildren should be second nature. California is at a crossroads. I urge everyone who cares about this great state to stay informed about the budget crisis, get involved, and demand decisions from Sacramento that protect our schools and our children.

## HARBOR AREA FARMERS MARKETS

**Mondays**  
South Gate

**Wednesdays**  
Huntington Park

**Thursdays**  
Bixby Knolls

**Fridays**  
Downtown Long Beach

**Saturdays**  
Cerritos Towne Center

**Sundays**  
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## Los Nietos School District

8324 South Westman Avenue, Whittier, CA 90606  
562/692-0271 www.losnietos.k12.ca.us

### Collaborating for Student Results



**Jonathan Vasquez**  
Superintendent

Established in 1861, the Los Nietos School District was proud to have State Superintendent Tom Torlakson, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, and LA County Supervisor Don Knabe be featured speakers at our district's sesquicentennial event last year. Our four school district is comprised of three K-6 elementary schools and one 7-8 middle school. Nestled in an unincorporated part of Whittier, the Los Nietos School District is 3.6 miles in length and serves a student population that is slightly less than 2000 ADA, 95% Hispanic, 43% English Language Learners, and 100% free/reduced lunch. Although we celebrated our 150th anniversary last year, we also celebrated our continued academic performance

in our district and at our schools. For the fourth consecutive year, LNSD had double-digit API growth and had a 2011 District API of 780. In 2011 two of our schools received Similar School Ranks of "10" (Aeolian Elementary and Los Nietos Middle School), and for the first time Rancho Santa Gertrudes Elementary achieved an API Rank of 800 while also meeting all of the school's AYP targets.

Of continued pride in our district is the achievement of our middle school that grew 36 API points, and remained one of the only middle schools in the Whittier area to not be identified as a Program Improvement School. By working collaboratively with staff, parents, and forming community partnerships, the Los Nietos School District has continued to increase student achievement while weathering devastating State budgetary cuts. The Los Nietos School District is a district that values student achievement and community, and I'm proud to have the opportunity to lead the district's dedicated staff for my third consecutive year.

## Lynwood Unified School District

11321 Bullis Road, Lynwood, CA 90262  
310/886-1600 www.lynwood.k12.ca.us

### Achieving Greatness



**Edward Velasquez**  
Superintendent

The mission of the Lynwood Unified School District is clear: Prepare every student for success in college and career as a responsible citizen in a global society by guaranteeing equity and access to meaningful learning activities relevant to the 21st Century. Under our Achieving Greatness Initiative, we are executing this mission daily at each of our 12 elementary schools, three middle schools and three high schools.

Every member of the Lynwood Unified community is a vital partner –students, parents and all district employees from teachers to administrators to classified staff. Teamwork is the foundation of all we do to ensure our students have the tools they need to succeed in school and life.

We take pride in our rigorous curriculum and a high-quality learning environment. We set the bar high for students and staff alike, and every day we see the benefits of this strategy.

We also view information as an essential ingredient to our students' success. This includes providing cutting-edge professional development for our staff, expanding educational offerings in all core subjects, helping our students gain access to enrichment programs, and reaching out to families to help them ready their students for higher education and career. This also means using the best and most reliable data on which to base decisions for meeting the educational needs of each and every student.

Lynwood Unified's commitment to academic achievement and personal excellence is the guiding principle behind all that we do. We believe our students deserve unlimited opportunity to make their dreams come true.

## Lowell Joint School District

11019 Valley Home Ave., Whittier, CA 90603  
562/943-0211 www.ljbsd.org

### A Strong Academic Program



**Dr. Patricia A. Howell**  
Superintendent

The Lowell Joint School District strives to be among the leading schools throughout the state of California. Our students receive a quality education from outstanding teachers whose top priority is the success of their students. All five of the elementary schools received the 2010 California Distinguished School Award and Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate School has one of the highest Academic Performance Index (API) scores as compared to junior high schools in the area.

The District is located in the southeastern portion of Los Angeles County and the northwestern portion of Orange County. It serves families from the communities of La Habra, La Habra Heights, and Whittier.

The District serves the educational needs of approximately 3,100 students in Kindergarten through eighth grade at five K-6 elementary schools and one junior high school. An independent study program is provided for families wishing to home school their children. The District is committed to providing a strong academic program of basic skills having achieved API scores in the 800's. All six schools acknowledge the importance of education, the family, and traditional American values. There is an emphasis on higher education, personal integrity, social responsibility, Character Education, and an appreciation of our national heritage.

Special programs provided at the schools include art and vocal music (K-8), instrumental music (6-8), drama (7-8), and physical education (K-8). Libraries and computer labs are available at all of the schools, and before- and after-school day care is available at three of the elementary schools. Honors classes and after-school sports are offered at the junior high school.

Parents will see that Lowell Joint schools offer the best educational opportunities.

## Manhattan Beach Unified School District

325 S. Peck Ave., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
310/318-9545 www.manhattan.k12.ca.us

### 21st Century Scholars



**Dr. Michael D. Matthews**  
Superintendent

The Manhattan Beach Unified School District is proud of our students' achievements in academics, the arts and athletics. *Forbes* magazine recently named Manhattan Beach #6 in the nation in terms of "Education For Your Real Estate Buck." The Board of Trustees is proud of that distinction, and has set goals for the district that will prepare our students to graduate as 21st Century scholars.

Our students must be excellent communicators. We believe that mastery of writing and literacy is essential to that effort. Our award winning Model United Nations program is the epitome of high quality communication.

We nurture creativity and innovation in all students. Through our iPad Pilot, our teachers have inspired students to connect beyond the four walls of the classroom. Pilot teachers collaborate regularly in person and online. If the program is successful, we will expand it in 2012-2013.

We strive to develop strong critical thinking skills in all learners. Our K-12 science program reflects the deep-rooted engineering/aerospace legacy of our community. Students learn to investigate in our science laboratories, analyze in our STEM classes, and collaborate with local professionals to gain an understanding of the problem at hand and formulate solutions.

Clearly, Manhattan Beach is committed to finding avenues for students to achieve more, not just on standardized tests, but in areas that will help them succeed in the 21st Century.

## Monrovia Unified School District

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

### World-Class Schools & Students



**Dr. Linda Wagner**  
Superintendent

Monrovia Unified School District's vision is clear and measurable: Distinguished Schools – Achieving Students – Graduates Prepared for Life.

Academic progress has been dramatic. Six schools have achieved status as California Distinguished Schools; four schools have been designated Achieving Schools by the U.S. Department of Education for the extraordinary academic performance of their students; and our Preschool was named a California State model. Monroe Elementary School has a dual immersion Spanish program, now in its second year, in which children learn in two languages and become both bilingual and biliterate. Our Continuation

High School, our K-12 alternative school, and our Adult Education program have each received a 6-year clear accreditation. Six schools exceed the State goal of 800 on the Academic Performance Index, all other schools exceed 700, and the overall District score exceeds 800. The Board has now set an API goal of 900 for our schools.

Monrovia has won fourteen Golden Bell Excellence in Education awards from the California School Boards Association. Ninety-six percent of Monrovia High School's Class of 2011 went on to higher education. We salute our nearly 6,000 students and the progress and pride they continue to bring to the Monrovia community.

Our District's success is built on partnerships with parents, the City, the Chamber of Commerce, businesses, local colleges, and the greater community. Our many joint projects and programs range from award-winning tutoring (PAT), to student career education (Monrovia Works), to a nutrition program that has gained state-wide recognition as the #1 Nutrition Program in the State, and after-school elementary music programs that are growing by leaps and bounds.

## Mountain View School District

3320 Gilman Road, El Monte, CA 91723  
626/652-4000 www.mtviewschools.com

### Today's Students—Tomorrow's Leaders



**Lillian Maldonado French**  
Superintendent

Inspiring each student to succeed every day and ensuring that each student attains or exceeds academic proficiency is the mission of the Mountain View School District.

MVSD prepares today's students and tomorrow's leaders for success by providing core academics with 21st century skills. Through innovative support systems, students are encouraged to become critical thinkers, problem solvers, good communicators and collaborators, technology literate, innovative, creative, and globally competent.

Located in El Monte in the San Gabriel Valley, MVSD is a K-8 district with an enrollment of 7,700 students. The District also serves the educational needs of approximately 700 preschool students and families through the Head Start State Preschool, Children's Center, and L.A. UP programs.

MVSD is comprised of an excellent team of educators and support staff who believe in each student's ability to achieve. Our team is dedicated to providing a quality education for each student through a spirit of high expectations, teamwork, commitment, respect and care. In supportive learning environments, MVSD students engage in rigorous academic programs and extracurricular enrichment as they are encouraged to reach their full potential.

Working in collaboration, our employees, parents and community members actively participate in the educational development of our students, providing them with a solid foundation of skills they may take forward into our ever changing world.

## Montebello Unified School District

123 S. Montebello Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640  
562/806-7900 www.montebello.k12.ca.us

### Raising the Level of Student Performance



**Cleve Pell**



**Robert Henke**

*Superintendents*

A top learning institution, Montebello Unified School District is committed to preparing 32,000 students from eight different communities to compete in the 21st Century. We are proud of our newest high school, the Applied Technology Center, which opened in the fall and is serving 307 freshmen. The ATC offers students a personal and intimate hands-on learning environment that responds to the needs and interests of learners on a one-on-one and group basis. It is home to four career pathways including, Architecture, Engineering and Construction Management, Public Services, Health Services and Hospitality. The rigorous curriculum and technical courses are preparing students for the 21st Century.

We've initiated new vision and mission statements that have helped create a stronger universal foundation. As a District, Montebello Unified has continued to increase its California State Academic Performance Index rating every year since 2003, the first year districts in California were provided with a growth API score. We have risen to an API score of 719 for 2011. In fact, we've experienced an increase of 150 since 2003. And, not only did our API continue to rise, our attendance rate for the 2010-2011 school year was over 95 percent, the highest ever for Montebello Unified. That's clearly an indication that our students are in school and engaged!

Together, we work to promote a high-quality learning environment that is standards-driven and rigorous for every stakeholder in the MUSD family – our community, our parents, our students, our teachers and our staff.

## Newhall School District

25375 Orchard Village Road, Valencia, CA 91355  
661/291-4000 www.newhallschooldistrict.net

### Focused on Student Learning



**Dr. Marc Winger**  
Superintendent

Comprised of ten elementary schools and almost 7,000 students, the Newhall School District serves preschool and kindergarten through sixth grade children who reside in Newhall, Valencia, Stevenson Ranch, and Westridge. Due to the state budget crisis, we have lost almost 20% of our income on a per-pupil basis in the last four years and we have been forced to cut over well over \$6 million in expenditures. Like most school districts we have seen class sizes grow, less school days, employee furloughs, layoffs, less purchasing, and reductions in service in every area. Yet the employees of the district maintain their focus on student learning and, in spite of the restrictions that have been placed on us, our schools continue to excel.

We maintain the highest expectations for students and staff and we are proud of the fact that Newhall's ten elementary schools have consistently received high rankings for achievement. Five have been recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools, including Dr. J. Michael McGrath Elementary, one of California's twenty-one 2011 Blue Ribbons. Nine schools have received State Distinguished School status (most have received this honor multiple times), four have received Title I Academic Achievement Award recognition under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and six schools have been named to the California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) Foundation's "Honor Roll" of top achieving schools.

The District also takes great pride in its 30+ year-old music program. Students of all grades are taught vocal music, learn to play the recorder in third grade, and have the opportunity to move on to a robust and vibrant instrumental music program in grades 4-6. Currently about 600 students receive small group lessons on a variety of string, wind, brass and percussion instruments and another 600 participate in a chorus program.

## Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District

12820 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650  
562/868-0431 www.nlmusd.k12.ca.us

### All Roads Lead to Student Achievement



**Dr. Ruth Pérez**  
Superintendent

The Norwalk - La Mirada USD proudly serves approximately 21,000 students of our local communities with broad opportunities for high academic achievement. The district has a long history of offering not only a comprehensive K-12 program, but also of strengthening the communities as a whole through Adult Education, ROP, Career Tech (through a partnership with Cerritos College), Head Start/State Pre-school Program, online learning, tutoring and college prep. We support this range of opportunity with a strong leadership drive to ensure all students have high academic achievement.

The reality is we are in an age of economic uncertainty where severe cutbacks are impacting every district and unfortunately, every classroom. We believe that challenges such as these are not reasons to surrender; they are opportunities to demonstrate excellence. This starts with accountability and thorough research-based methods; we hold each other and each student accountable for progress.

Our district schools and programs have and continue to receive the following honors: California School Board Association Golden Bell, Title 1 High Achieving School, California Business for Education Excellence, California Distinguished School and National Blue Ribbon School Awards. All of our middle schools offer magnet programs in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), Visual and Performing Arts, and more.

Additionally, the district provides a strong focus on core academic skills with special attention to literacy as a top priority. Our students are deserving of high academic achievement and tough economic times may challenge our delivery, but we see it as a moral imperative to ensure our students a high quality educational experience that prepares them for their future. That future will affect their children, their communities and our country.

## Palmdale School District

39139-49 10th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550  
661/947-7191 www.palmdalesd.org

### Rigorous Academic Education



**Roger D. Gallizzi**  
Superintendent

The mission of the Palmdale School District is to provide each of our children with a rigorous academic education, a safe learning environment, and the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for success in the 21st Century.

Palmdale School District serves the urban and suburban communities of East Palmdale in the Antelope Valley, Los Angeles County's northern most region. With 24 elementary and intermediate schools, 20,000 children receive a quality education focused on student learning. Additionally, the district operates one of the largest preschool programs, servicing over 1,800 pre-schoolers in Head Start, Early Head Start, LA Up, and state preschool.

The district offers a variety of educational programs providing opportunities for innovation and choice for parents and families. In addition to our comprehensive K-6 settings, the district also offers "schools of choice," including an International Baccalaureate school, two dual immersion schools (English and Spanish 50/50) and an intermediate AVID academy. AVID is also offered district wide, grades 4 through 8. Several intermediate schools are WASC accredited with the remainder on the way. Many of our schools have API scores over 800.

Unique to our elementary district is the SAGE Planetarium, a fully staffed planetarium with the latest state of the art equipment offering programs in English and Spanish for standards based science instruction as well as programs open to the community. Our newest endeavor is The Palmdale Aerospace Academy, an Independent Charter school, grades 7 through 12. The school is a joint effort between the City of Palmdale, NASA's Aero Institute and the District.

It is my pleasure to serve as Superintendent of Schools in what is now my seventh year.

## Paramount Unified School District

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

### Learning & Success for Each Student



**Dr. David J. Verdugo**  
Superintendent

Paramount Unified School District is a Kindergarten through 12th grade School District serving the communities of Paramount, Bellflower, Lakewood, Long Beach, and South Gate. We serve 16,000 students.

Our dedicated team of students, parents, teachers, classified employees, administrators and Board members have truly embraced our motto, "Great Things are Happening in Paramount Schools." Paramount has accomplished a great deal to be proud of. For example, among the 47 Unified School Districts in the Los Angeles County, Paramount has ranked in the top three Districts in terms of API point gains and continues to advance.

The Board of Education has had a clear vision of what Paramount schools are implementing and achieving. That "District Vision" has been achieved through High Quality Instruction, Standards-Aligned Content, Consistency and Coherence in Instructional Practices, High Levels of Achievement for All Students, and Highly Effective Teachers and Learning Leaders. Our mission is to ensure learning and success for each student by providing a quality education.

Paramount USD enjoys much community support, our voters passed a \$100 million facilities bond allowing for a new stadium, library and science building to be built at Paramount High School. In addition, a model "Arts For All" program, Career Technical Education Pathways and a new Autism Center.

Our instructional focus includes PLC Collaboration, Response to Intervention, Safe and Civil Schools, Learning Walks, Academic Core Coaches at all schools as well as K-12 Counselors.

It is my distinct pleasure to serve as Superintendent of the Paramount Unified School District.

## Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91109  
626/795-6981 www.pusd.us

### Focused Approach to Learning



**Jon R. Gundry**  
Superintendent

The Pasadena Unified School District serves approximately 18,500 pre-K to 12th grade students in a 76-square mile area that includes the communities of Altadena, Pasadena, Sierra Madre, and unincorporated parts of Los Angeles County, California. The Pasadena area is home to renowned arts, culture, and scientific resources. Its culturally, economically, and socially diverse residents contribute to a vibrant community.

Robust arts, music, science, and athletics programs enhance core academics at all levels. Dual language immersion programs in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese offered starting in Kindergarten prepare students to excel in a global economy.

PUSD's College & Career Pathways prepare students for both college and careers by connecting academics with real-world experience. Themed pathways, or academies, centered on Engineering & Environmental Science, for example, connect students with local scientific institutions to engage students.

Thanks to a focused approach to improving what and how children learn, PUSD schools have moved higher on the state's Academic Performance Index. A rising number of PUSD schools score above 800 on the state's Academic Performance Index (API), and Sierra Madre School became the first in the district to score above 900.

Annual music and art showcases inspire students to be creative and disciplined learners.

With exceptional teachers, rigorous academics, and a broad range of cultural and recreational activities PUSD schools welcome parents and community partners. We invite you to discover PUSD.

## Pomona Unified School District

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

# Excellence—Every Student, Every Day



**Richard L. Martinez**  
Superintendent

The Pomona Unified School District is committed to providing Excellence – for every student, in every classroom, every day. Our 42 schools are staffed with highly qualified teachers who successfully serve over 28,000 students in Pomona and Diamond Bar. Our schools have been listed among the “Top 500 U.S. High Schools,” by U.S. News and World Report, and are honored as National Blue Ribbon Schools, California Distinguished Schools, Title I Achieving Schools, and AVID Demonstration Schools.

PUSD offers a broad spectrum of schools, academies, pathways, and charters allowing students to focus on individual interests.

Cortez Mathematics and Science Magnet School partners with CSU/Cal-Poly on a math and science focus for students in grades preK-8, while the Health Career Ladder program, in partnership with Western University, introduces them to careers in medicine and health science, and links them with mentors through high school and college.

Our elementary and middle schools offer foundational programs in Computer Science. Our academies have Health Sciences, Engineering & Design. Our high schools feature pathway programs in the Environmental Sciences, Medical/Health, Law & Government, the Visual & Performing Arts, and the Silver Baccalaureate program.

Through creative partnerships with surrounding universities, PUSD provides its students enriched programs such as the University of La Verne’s Business Summer Camp, CSU Cal-Poly Pomona’s classes in robotics, Harvey Mudd College’s Summer Program, and Claremont Graduate University’s Making Algebra Accessible to All program.

The Pomona Unified School District is committed to creating excellence at every level so that our graduates will continue to be admitted to USC, Berkeley, Stanford, Princeton and Harvard.

## Rosemead School District

3907 Rosemead Blvd., Rosemead, CA 91770  
310/312-2900 www.rosemead.k12.ca.us

# Preparing Future Global Leaders



**Dr. Amy Enomoto-Perez**  
Superintendent

The Rosemead School District has adopted the 7 Habits Leader in Me program at each of its schools. This process helps develop the essential life skills and characteristics students will need in order to thrive in the 21st century workforce.

Dr. Steven R. Covey’s principle-based leadership skills are well known by adults and the business community. During the past 4 years, our Leader in Me program has been developed and integrated into our school’s core curriculum.

The program creates a common language within our community of learners (students, educators and parents alike). Built on proven principle-based leadership skills found in the book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, our students are learning:

- Habit 1: Be Proactive® • You’re in Charge
- Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind® • Have a Plan
- Habit 3: Put First Things First® • Work First, Then Play
- Habit 4: Think Win-Win® • Everyone Can Win
- Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood® • Listen Before You Talk
- Habit 6: Synergize® • Together Is Better
- Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw® • Balance Feels Best

The Janson Lighthouse Leadership team invites you to come and see how the 7 Habits and 21st century skills are being integrated and implemented in our elementary classrooms.

SAVE THE DATE! Come and see what we are doing to educate our children for the 21st century workplace on April 17, 2012.

For more information, please visit our Leader in Me registration site at [www.rosemead.k12.ca.us](http://www.rosemead.k12.ca.us) A minimal registration fee covers the cost of materials, refreshments and lunch. I hope to see you there.

## Redondo Beach Unified School District

1401 Inglewood Avenue, Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
310/379-5449 www.rbusd.org

# The Mark of Distinction



**Dr. Steven E. Keller**  
Superintendent

Redondo Beach Unified School District consists of eight elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, one continuation school, one community day school, one adult school, and a district-wide child development center. The district serves more than 8,400 K-12 students and despite declining enrollment trends, the district is growing. We attribute the growth in our schools to the learning that occurs in the classroom and the comprehensive modernization utilizing the \$145 million advancement bond passed by our citizens. RBUSD models excellence by working hard to be the mark of distinction for public education in the beach cities.

Continued forward progress has been the focal point for the Board of Education, the administration, and the staff. Establishing data-driven educational programs, careful utilization of resources, and enhanced community and city relationships have secured a stronger commitment to better serving students. Our schools’ reputation and statewide data and rankings have continued to climb. RBUSD has also created community-focused programs and movements, such as our College-Going Culture, Safe School Ambassador, and Vitality Cities. Too, our new and greatly modernized facilities are likely to continue this partnership into our city and wider community. The whole child’s needs—socially, academically, emotionally, and physically—are the centerpiece for success at RBSUD.

Redondo Beach Unified is just that, unified. Students, parents, and staff model schooling and learning that is collaborative, rigorous, and transformational. We are proud of our excellent Parent Teacher Association and the resurgence of our Education Foundation; these groups assist the district with providing a sound educational and enrichment programs. The culture of our district does not embrace the status quo, but rather reaches for what tomorrow’s learning may bring to us all. Redondo is indeed GREAT.



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## Rowland Unified School District

1830 Nogales Street, Rowland Heights, CA 91748  
626/965-2541 www.rowlandschools.org

### Raves About Rowland



**Dr. Maria G. Ott**  
Superintendent

Rowland Unified School District (RUSD) is proud to be one of the premiere districts of the San Gabriel Valley. Rowland Heights was named in 2011 as “The Best, Affordable Place to Raise Kids in California” by *Bloomberg Businessweek*. We offer families quality schools, teachers, programs and a caring culture that enables students to become global thinkers and leaders.

We are proud of our four National Blue Ribbon Schools and 17 California Distinguished Schools.

We provide innovative programs and support for each student’s personal and academic success:

- One of the Top High Schools in the Nation: Rowland High School named by *U.S. News & World Report* 2011 & 2010.
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Schools: Both Nogales and Rowland High Schools offer the prestigious IB and dynamic Career Certification programs.
- IB Primary Years Programme Schools (PYP): Both Oswalt & Ybarra K-8 Academies are official IB PYP Schools.
- Apple 1 to 1 Laptop Learning Program: Oswalt Academy was named for the third year in a row as a 2012 “Apple Distinguished School.” All students and teachers in 5th-8th grades use an Apple MacBook laptop computer for 24/7 access. Students in grades K-4 use iPod Touches. Teachers and students are constantly connected and enormous student academic growth has taken place. The Apple Laptop Learning Program has also expanded to Giano Intermediate and Nogales High School.
- Committed to the Arts K - 12: RUSD is the only District in the SGV area to provide elementary strings, jazz and marching band.

## San Marino Unified School District

1665 West Drive, San Marino, CA 91108  
626/299-7000 www.san-marino.k12.ca.us

### Academics, Arts & Athletics



**Loren Kleinrock**  
Superintendent

With a 2011 district API of 955, for the ninth year in a row, the SMUSD ranks as the highest scoring unified school district in California. A commitment to Academics, Arts, and Athletics has led to this partial list of school awards:

San Marino High School: 1992, 2005, 2006 California Distinguished School Award; 2006 NCLB National Blue Ribbon Schools Award; 2005-10 California Business for Educational Excellence Award; 2007 LA Music Center BRAVO Award - High School Visual and Performing Arts Program; 2007 *U.S. News and World Report* Gold Medal School High School (#82 in nation); *US News and World Report* Top Math and Science

High Schools in the Nation (#30); 2007-11 Top API “non-magnet” High School in Southern California; 2008-09 California State Speech and Debate Team Champions; Athletics – 67 CIF Championships

Huntington Middle School: 2005, 2009 California Distinguished School Award; 2006 LA Music Center Bravo Award Runner Up; 2007-10 California Business for Educational Excellence Award; 1999-2010 Top API Middle School in LA County, top API score in Southern California

Carver Elementary School: 2004 California Distinguished Schools Award; 2005 NCLB Blue Ribbon Schools Award; 2005-9 California Business for Educational Excellence Award; Top 60 Schools in LA County – *LA Magazine*

Valentine Elementary School: 2004 California Distinguished Schools Award; 2005-10 California Business for Educational Excellence Award; 2006 CDE Competitive Grant for School Gardening Project; 2008 LA Music Center BRAVO Award for VAPA; Top 60 Schools in LA County – *LA Magazine*

## San Gabriel Unified School District

408 Juipero Serra Dr., San Gabriel, CA 91776  
626/451-5400 www.sgusd.k12.ca.us

### District is Responsible & Responsive



**Dr. Susan C. Parks**  
Superintendent

San Gabriel USD is one reason that the City of San Gabriel is a great place to live, work and attend school. Please meet our eight fine schools:

**Gabrielino High School** is the crown jewel of the district. A California Distinguished High School, GHS for the third straight year, was named in the *U.S. News and World Report* as a Silver Medal School placing it among the top 6% of high schools in the nation. GHS soaring Eagles serve the community with thousands of volunteer hours.

**Del Mar**, our Continuation High School, serves students who thrive in alternative settings. Del Mar is a small, accredited high school with a personal touch “Where Second Chances Happen,” with volunteers who provide service throughout the community.

**Jefferson Middle School** is a vibrant middle school campus and community. As our only middle school, JMS is the center of activity where students start to envision college and life plans. Jefferson provides the foundation for excellence of Gabrielino High School.

**Five Great Elementary Schools round out our District:** Wilson, Washington, Roosevelt, McKinley and Coolidge. Each serves as a traditional neighborhood school that reflects and celebrates the rich diversity of our city.

This is an excellent school district with employees who care deeply about all students. Although we currently face extraordinary financial challenges, I will state emphatically that San Gabriel USD has been and will continue to be a well-managed district with a very responsible and responsive Governing Board. We are doing our part to keep San Gabriel a great place to live, work and attend school.

## Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

1651 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404  
310/450-8338 www.smmusd.org

### Rigorous Academic Expectations



**Sandra Lyon**  
Superintendent

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is comprised of 11 elementary schools, three middle schools, two high schools, a continuation high school, child development services and adult education programs and currently serves 11,344 students. Our district wide API has increased every year for the past five years, our CAHSEE passing rate continues to be high, and seniors matriculate to colleges and universities across the country. In addition to the rigorous academic expectations, the SMMUSD community strongly values the arts and over 50 percent of all SMMUSD students participate in a music program. All of this is made possible due to the dedicated professionals we have at

every level as well as an extremely involved and supportive parent and local community.

**Mission:** Extraordinary achievement for all students while simultaneously closing the achievement gap.

**Vision:** As a community of learners, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District works together in a nurturing environment to help students be visionary, versatile thinkers; resourceful, life-long learners; effective, multilingual communicators and global citizens. We are a rich, culturally diverse community that values the contributions of all its members and strives to promote social justice. We exist to assist all students in their pursuit of academic achievement, strength of character, and personal growth, and to support them in their exploration of the intellectual, artistic, technological, physical and social expression.

## Saugus Union School District

24930 Avenue Stanford, Santa Clarita, CA 91355  
661/294-5300 www.saugus.k12.ca.us

### Extraordinary Excellence Everyday



**Dr. Joan Lucid**  
Superintendent

Saugus Union School District boasts a 100 year old tradition of academic and personal success for every student. Our teachers are highly qualified and pride themselves in participating in life-long learning opportunities. All schools achieved over 800 on the state API with five achieving over 900. Fourteen of fifteen schools are designated California Distinguished Schools and five are National Blue Ribbon Schools.

With an increasing English Language Learner population (over 34 languages) as well as increasing diverse ethnic and racial subgroups, district initiatives are focused on three areas:

- Brain-based Direct Instruction – administrators and teachers are honing skills to provide a ‘clean first teach’ model that actively engages children and ensures learning at the most opportune times during the lesson with greater teacher modeling and gradual release strategies.
- Systematic ELD – all teachers and administrators are trained in this model to fully provide English Language Development opportunities to English Language Learners. Sites fully commit 30 minutes daily to ELD instruction.
- Response to Intervention – teachers are collaborating and working together to do whatever it takes to ensure that every child achieves personal and academic success. It may be schoolwide, grade level or even classroom-based but is always focused on students.

As Los Angeles County’s lowest funded school district, we are challenged to do more with less and we do. Our parent community is supportive through volunteering and raising thousands of dollars to support school activities. Our board encourages our efforts and takes pride in the accomplishments of our Saugus School family.

## South Pasadena Unified School District

1020 El Centro Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030  
626/441-5800 www.spusd.net

### High Expectations—Academic Success



**Joel Shapiro**  
Superintendent

In South Pasadena, we are committed to the belief that all students can succeed and reach their potential despite reduced state funding. Our citizens passed a parcel tax that has allowed us to keep key programs in place. South Pasadena Educational Foundation raises funds and provides support for many programs, and the foundation operates a summer school program with a variety of opportunities for enrichment and acceleration. Community support can also be seen in the thousands of volunteer hours that are contributed each year.

With this type of support, with our outstanding professional staff, and with our high expectations, academic success continues to rise. Our District API of 912 is 12th highest in California. In the last three years, 80% of our schools have qualified as California Distinguished Schools. With high overall student achievement, we are addressing the achievement gap, with the goal of increasing achievement for Latino students and Students with Disabilities. We are making excellent progress, and we’re especially proud of the extraordinary gains by special education students. Equity is one of our strongest values.

We’re committed to a well-rounded education. Almost half of the students at South Pasadena High are involved in interscholastic athletics. We emphasize career technical education, and several of our ROP classes have won state and national awards. Enrollment in our outstanding arts programs has steadily increased. We also focus on service to school and community, with many students completing hundreds of hours of community service. Character education and social responsibility are high priorities in our schools.

## South Whittier School District

10120 South Painter, Whittier, CA 90605  
562/944-6231 www.swhittier.k12.ca.us

### Success for Every Student



**Dr. Erich Kwek**  
Superintendent

The South Whittier School District has been in existence for almost 100 years and has developed a reputation for excellence. We work very hard to live up to this reputation and our efforts receive strong support from parents and the community. This is demonstrated by the many generations of families that have gone through our schools and their strong commitment and support for maintaining our tradition of excellence.

South Whittier School District is committed to a standards based curriculum while also educating the whole child. All schools have made excellent progress in meeting academic standards set by the state, and they also provide an opportunity for students to develop individual skills and talents.

The mission of South Whittier School District is to prepare every student for success in high school and beyond by focusing on the core academic subjects in an effective and integrated curriculum. We believe:

- students learn best when they are engaged in challenging and appropriate learning focused on the core academic subjects of language arts, mathematics, science and social studies integrated with physical education and the fine arts.
- quality teachers are the single greatest predictor of student success. in respecting the diversity and uniqueness of each student.
- students learn best when families value education, and teach their children to accept increasing responsibility for their own learning.
- quality education improves the quality of life for students, their families, and the community now and in the future.

In the South Whittier School District we are achieving our mission, upholding our beliefs and living up to our motto of success for every student.

## Sulphur Springs School District

27000 Weyerhaeuser Way., Canyon Country, CA 91351  
661/252-5131 www.sssd.k12.ca.us

### District Vision Statement



**Dr. Robert Nolet**  
Superintendent

Sulphur Springs school District is a district where all children have equal opportunity to achieve their full potential through a quality, balanced curriculum. We are committed to providing for our students measurable academic achievement and a nurturing, secure climate that prepares them to work and function in the world of tomorrow. We believe in the appropriate allocation and monitoring of fiscal resources. All personnel work cohesively toward these goals through positive interaction and communication with students, parents, community members and fellow staff, thereby maintaining what has become a positive and unique “family feeling” within the district.

Creating and maintaining facilities that are both safe and healthy environments throughout the district requires the combined efforts of the District’s instructional staff, support staff, administration and the community-at-large. We view housing our students in the healthiest and safest environments as a top priority and expect to accomplish this goal by providing a physical environment that is clean, comfortable, well lit and suitable for the specific purposes required to meet the diverse needs of our students and employees.

The District is committed to maintaining and enhancing positive community relations. Our goal is to be viewed by the community as an organization committed to:

- Safe schools with and disciplined learning environment
- Academic achievement in basic subjects for all students using the best curriculum and teaching practices
- Social skills, basic values and character education
- Efficiency and cost effectiveness

## Temple City Unified School District

9700 Las Tunas Drive, Temple City, CA 91780  
626/548-5000 www.tusd.net

### Maximizing Student Achievement



**Dr. Chelsea Kang-Smith**  
Superintendent

TCUSD provides a rigorous, comprehensive education in a safe learning environment. Our commitment is to serve our community by modeling honesty and integrity. Our passion is grounded in the knowledge that all students can succeed and be self-reliant, lifelong learners. We promote cultural and individual awareness and respect diversity in everyone.

Bloomberg reported Temple City as the runner up for the best city to raise children in California. In 2011, the Center for American Progress reported that TCUSD is 1 of only 17 districts in California to fall into the highest productivity category in measuring the District's academic achievement relative to its spending. With school budgets continually shrinking, TCUSD is maximizing student achievement. Due to our excellent schools, Temple City's property values are in the top three in Los Angeles County.

In 2011, Cloverly Elementary, Emperor Elementary, La Rosa Elementary, Longden Elementary, and Oak Avenue Intermediate Schools' Academic Performance Index scores were all above 900 and La Rosa received a California Title I Academic Achievement Award. In 2010, Emperor and La Rosa Elementary Schools were named California Distinguished Schools.

We have high expectations for students in academics and extra-curricular activities. Temple City High School received a 2011 Silver Award from the U.S. News and World Report as one of America's best high schools. Students excel in sports and visual and performing arts programs.

Our family environment is promoted at all schools in building a strong character program. We are diligent in our quest to build a culture of Professional Learning Communities so our students will benefit in becoming contributors and leaders in our society.

## Torrance Unified School District

2335 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance, CA 90501  
310/972-6500 www.tusd.org

### Excelling in Tough Times



**Dr. George Mannon**  
Superintendent

The Torrance Unified School District is nestled in the heart of the South Bay, minutes from the expansive Pacific Ocean coastline. Our mission is to maximize individual potential in students in order to develop lifelong learners who will become contributing members in a global society. The District's 32 schools educate over 24,000 students who speak 83 different languages.

TUSD is fortunate to have a group of dedicated, passionate, and innovative teachers. Even during difficult budgetary years they continue to provide our students with creative and valuable educational experiences. The District's Academic Performance Index (API) increased this year to 857. TUSD students have

continued to demonstrate growth in English and Math proficiencies, ACT and SAT scores, and STAR test results. Additionally, TUSD students consistently achieve results significantly higher than state averages. I am proud of the exceptional job our teachers, classified employees, and administrators do for our students.

TUSD students are equally exceptional in their academic, athletic, and extracurricular achievements. Once again, our high schools' Academic Decathlon teams took top honors in the L.A. County Decathlon competitions, with all four high schools in the top five. TUSD students go on to attend universities like USC, the UC's, and many are accepted to the Ivy League schools.

Educating children is a collaboration that is greatly benefited by parental and community involvement. Thank you to the teachers, staff, parents, and community leaders that contribute to making TUSD an award-winning District!

## School News



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## Valle Lindo School District

1431 N. Central Avenue, South El Monte, CA 91733  
626/580-0610 www.vallelindo.k12.ca.us

### A Place of Award-Winning Schools



**Dr. Mary Louise Labrucherie**  
Superintendent

Valle Lindo School District has been hailed as the "best kept secret in the state" and "a peach of a district" by program quality reviewers and auditors. We invite you to visit our schools and tour our historical school house, botanical gardens, and engaging classrooms. Established in 1863, this District of two schools is the third oldest district in the state, rich in history and accomplishments. Both Dean L. Shively Middle School and New Temple Elementary School have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools, and both schools have earned Title I Academic Achievement Awards.

The District's focus on using technology to advance effective and efficient instruction extends to our state-of-the-art technology/media centers. All teachers use the latest technology in their classrooms.

Advanced technology allows teachers the ability to fully implement textbooks and instructional materials that incorporate technology, as well as electronic media.

The District was honored by the California School Boards Association with three Golden Bell Awards. The first Golden Bell was received for an eight-step instructional process, whereby teachers use multiple assessment data to construct a 36-week instructional calendar. Teachers meet weekly by grade level throughout the year to plan and assess student mastery of the content standards. The second Golden Bell was received for the District's Eight-Step Character Education Program, developed by the guiding principals of the Search Institute's 40 developmental assets model. The third Golden Bell award was received for the District's 4-8th grade Zingy Science Program that dramatically improved the District's science program.

With our incorporation of technology and award-winning programs, the Valle Lindo School District is actively engaged in preparing students for a successful life in the 21st Century.

## Walnut Valley Unified School District

880 South Lemon Avenue, Walnut, CA 91789  
909/595-1261 www.wvusd.k12.ca.us

### Kids First...Every Student, Every Day



**Dr. Dean Conklin**  
Superintendent

The Walnut Valley Unified School District is an extraordinary place known for academic achievement, innovation, and leadership. Our outstanding teachers and staff are genuinely committed to the success of the whole child, putting “Kids First...Every Student, Every Day.”

We appreciate the support from our Walnut Valley community. Each year, parents and community members volunteer countless hours and donate a variety of resources to enrich the educational experience of our students.

Construction projects are now underway in our schools, including the \$10.7 million Diamond Bar High Aquatic Center, made possible by voter approval of Bond Measures S and Y.

Walnut Valley Unified topped the 900 mark-scoring 903 on the 2011 California API. We are proud to be one of only 17 unified school districts in the state, and one of only seven in L.A. County to achieve this distinction.

Our students consistently receive high scores on standardized testing. Every school exceeds the state’s target of 800 on the Academic Performance Index, with 9 schools scoring over 900!

Walnut Valley schools have been recognized with top state and national awards as California Distinguished and U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools. Walnut Valley schools have also been awarded prestigious Golden Bell Awards for innovative classroom programs by the California School Boards Association. Both Walnut and Diamond Bar High Schools have been honored as two of the best International Baccalaureate Schools in America by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Walnut Valley’s Blueprint for Excellence is the foundation that guides our every action. The heart of the Blueprint is “Kids First...Every Student, Every Day” and our students’ successes are the result.

## West Covina Unified School District

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

### World-Class Education



**Debra Kaplan**  
Superintendent

The West Covina Unified School District is distinguished by its 14 award-winning schools that provide a world-class education to approximately 10,000 students. Five schools are recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools, ten are designated as California Distinguished Schools. Multiple schools have received the Title I Academic Achievement Award and several have been recognized on the California Business for Educational Excellence Honor Roll. We have a Model Continuation High School Program, West Covina High School has been recognized by Newsweek magazine for its extensive Advanced Placement program and Edgewood High School has just received certification as a prestigious

International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program. This level of success is the result of a district that is committed to ensuring a rigorous and meaningful educational experience for every student.

Continued success depends on constant effort to improve the educational program with the ultimate goal of providing our students with the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful 21st Century global citizens. Our community, parents, and district staff celebrate students learning the skills that will serve them a lifetime. We are dedicated to ongoing professional development in an effort of constant improvement of instructional program and practice. To achieve this 21st Century goal, and as we implement the California Common Core State Standards, we are embarking on a strategic planning process to develop a guiding document reflective of the community’s educational values and expectations. With high district expectations we are confident that our students will continue to be distinguished and successful.

## Westside Union School District

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

### Pointing the Way, Providing the Path



**Regina L. Rossall**  
Superintendent

Three of our schools have been named California Distinguished Schools, Anaverde Hills, Rancho Vista, and Valley View. Our academic program continues to be rigorous resulting in API scores over 800 districtwide and at all schools. Currently two schools are under construction, and on completion will offer our students outstanding access to technology. There are 7 schools serving K-6th grade, 2 K-8 schools, and 2 7-8 schools. In addition, parents seeking a home school setting are served through our K-8 Mountain School Program.

Our strong academic programs in middle school are supported by a wide range of electives including woodshop, home arts, art, instrumental music, computers, broadcast journalism, to name a

few. There are opportunities to participate in the Civil Air Patrol program, and other leadership training programs. We have two STEM schools of choice, one K-6 and the other 7-8, which will be operational in the coming school year.

Again this year, the District led a community wide effort to end bullying. We partnered with the City of Lancaster for an entire week community wide dedicated to stopping bullying in our town. The work of the District was captured on a PBS Broadcast Program in February.

The District continues to receive community support for extracurricular and academic programs from community partners such as the WAVE, SAVE, Rotary and Kiwanis. Through the generosity of these partners, our middle school sports program, AVID, ballroom dance, children’s musical theater, career orientated field trips, and many others have been available to our students.

Our District motto is “Pointing the Way, Providing the Path,” and everyday our staff endeavors to create the environment that sets our students on the path for success. We are proud to serve the western Antelope Valley.

## Whittier City School District

7211 S. Whittier Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602  
562/789-3075 www.whittiercity.k12.ca.us

### Students First, Every Decision, Every Day



**Dr. Ron Carruth**  
Superintendent

Whittier City School District’s motto, “Students First, Every Decision, Every Day” signifies our commitment to providing our students with great opportunities for their success. Our Curriculum Improvement Teams, made up of teachers and administrators from throughout the district, work together to examine and improve upon our current practices in Mathematics, Writing, Assessment and Collaboration, Response to Intervention, and English Language Development.

First and foremost is our dedication to offering the highest quality classroom instruction. The foundation for this work is our commitment to Professional Learning Communities and the Data Team process at all of our school sites. Teams of teachers come together to examine data and plan instruction to meet the needs of our diverse learners. Instructional Specialists work with all schools to design instructional units and interventions for struggling students. In addition, professional development and coaching for “good first teaching” is provided through our “Equal M” Math Grant, a collaborative effort with California State University, Dominguez Hills, and the District “SEARCH Science” Program, for which we were awarded the Golden Bell Award.

We believe that in order to ensure student success, we need to pay attention to their emotional and physical health. Last year WCSD was one of 16 districts nationwide to be awarded a Mental Health Grant, which allows us to partner with community agencies to support our students and their families. Furthermore, the Carol B. White PEP Grant provides opportunities to offer excellent physical education programs for our students. Finally, our district-wide “Reach for the Stars” After School program includes enrichment opportunities such as art, music, and drama. Whittier City School District is proud of our programs and our outstanding teachers and staff.

## Whittier Union High School District

9401 S. Painter Avenue, Whittier, CA 90605  
562/698-8121 www.wuhsd.k12.ca.us

### Whatever It Takes



**Sandra Thorstenson**  
Superintendent

Recognized by education leaders as a model of excellent secondary instruction, the Whittier Union High School District continues to focus on its mission to achieve and maintain excellence in providing a quality, comprehensive education for all students.

The District serves approximately 13,400 students at five comprehensive high schools, a continuation school, an independent study program and an adult school with more than 10,000 students.

Whittier Union is one of few school districts in California to have attained and sustained substantial growth in student achievement at every school, over several years, and across multiple measures. Our students' progress is directly related to the efforts of our exemplary Board of Trustees, teachers and staff who do "Whatever It Takes" to improve every facet of our students' education.

Through our "Whatever It Takes" initiative, teachers collaborate in high-functioning Professional Learning Communities, creating and implementing common assessments for the purpose of improving instructional practices. Our Pyramid of Interventions provides systematic and targeted student support.

Today, seniors have a CAHSEE pass rate of 99.8% in ELA and 100% in Math and more than 92% are graduating. Also, 48% of seniors are completing all courses required for entrance into four-year universities and 95% of seniors enroll in post-secondary education.

Our overall California API continues to climb, with a gain of 187 points in the last seven years. In addition, all our comprehensive high schools are in the 91st to 98th percentiles for API growth in the state.

## Wilsona School District

18050 E. Avenue O, Palmdale, CA 93591  
661/264-1111 www.wilsonasd.net

### Student Success Our Goal



**Teresa A. Grey**  
Superintendent

The Wilsona School District serves the rural, high desert community of Lake Los Angeles. The Wilsona School District is an organization which views itself as a family. Tucked in the northeast corner of the unincorporated Los Angeles County, Wilsona provides welcoming campuses and devoted staff to its 1420 plus students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The District covers approximately 100 square miles. 90% of the area's population is located within 20 square miles. Wilsona has the highest poverty rate in LA County.

Student achievement and high standards are the focus of our schools. Working collaboratively with student success as a goal, the staff has developed strong bonds focused on teaching and learning. They are constant professionals who actively participate in professional development, engage in self reflection and collaboration. Despite the challenges our students face and the distance staff drives to work in Wilsona, there is a great sense of unity and support for our efforts to educate students. We welcome parents to work with us to educate their children. We love our students and want to provide the best educational opportunities for them. Wilsona may be small but we are mighty in our efforts to educate our students.

I am proud to be the Superintendent of this wonderful District. I feel privileged to work with outstanding teachers, support staff, families, and the Board of Trustees. Each person brings special qualities to the District that supports students in becoming lifelong learners. Our school community wants all children to excel and fulfill their dreams.

## William S. Hart Union High School District

21515 Centre Pointe Parkway, Santa Clarita, CA 91350  
661/259-0033 www.hartdistrict.org

### Historic Solar Project



**Robert Challinor**  
Superintendent

The Wm. S. Hart Union High School District is completing construction on a 7.3 Megawatt solar project that is estimated to save the District \$18 - \$20 million over the 20-year contract. Nine Hart District campuses are undergoing installation of solar arrays that will provide 75 - 85% of the District's historical energy consumption. Southern California Edison, our current supplier, will provide the additional electricity required. The project started in the fall of 2011 and will be complete in May 2012.

Thanks to our partnership with PsomasFMG LLC, the district entered into a Power Purchase Agreement that will provide installation, operations, monitoring and maintenance of the solar arrays at no cost to the District. The District has no upfront costs or capital investment for the solar system or maintenance. Third party ownership of the system, by outside investors, allows the District to realize immediate savings and budget more effectively because of the predictability of future energy costs.

The community will benefit from a reduction of more than 130,000 tons of carbon emissions over 20 years, which is equivalent to a reduction in automobile driving of over 300 million miles.

The aesthetically-designed solar structures installed in parking lots will achieve the minimum visual impact while absorbing optimal amounts of sunlight and will offer a secondary benefit of shaded parking to faculty, students and visitors. Schools were selected based on their ability to absorb direct sunlight without trees or other obstructions shading the structures. Cost-effective, state-of-the-art lighting will be mounted beneath the canopies for enhanced personal safety.

The long-term savings in energy costs will be redirected to fund essential education programs and services that positively impact our quality academic and extracurricular programs.

## Wiseburn School District

13530 Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250  
310/643-3025 www.wiseburn.k12.ca.us

### 116 Years of Excellence in Education



**Dr. Tom Johnstone**  
Superintendent

Excellence in education has been our motto and our way of life since 1896! With approximately 2,550 students and four schools, the Wiseburn School District is one of the few remaining small school districts in Los Angeles County. Diversity, with balance, is one of Wiseburn's greatest strengths in preparing graduates for life in Southern California's future. Being both small and suburban, Wiseburn offers a unique combination of a "family atmosphere" in an opportunity-rich setting.

There is a well-deserved reputation for educational excellence in Wiseburn. The District offers a personalized learning process focused on mastery of the basic skills in a positive, safe, and orderly learning environment. Staff members are highly committed and students achieve. All schools exceed the 850 API threshold.

To complement the strong academic tradition, Wiseburn is an Arts for All District! Since 2006, this Los Angeles County-wide initiative has been dedicated to providing high quality arts education for every public school student. We believe that the arts are a vital and indispensable part of the comprehensive education of every student.

In August 2009, Wiseburn opened two K-12 Charter Schools, Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design, to offer Wiseburn families a high school option for the first time in our 115-year history. The Da Vinci Schools excel academically using project-based learning and strong support from the local aerospace corporations. In August 2011, the Da Vinci Schools launched the Innovation Academy, which provides a two-day per week program that targets the Home School population.

Capitalizing on the community's approval of an \$87 million bond in November 2010, the District is in the Draft Environmental Impact Report Phase of building a Wiseburn High School.

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