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80 School Districts Serving LA County



Dr. Arturo Delgado
Superintendent

I am pleased to welcome you to *School News Roll Call's* Los Angeles County Superintendents Issue for 2016-17.

In this special annual edition, you will find valuable information about your own community school districts, as well as their achievements and efforts to provide the best education for our students. In addition, as you browse these pages, you will also learn about your many neighboring districts and sample some of the rich diversity that is Los Angeles County public education.

There are 80 K-12 school districts spread across 4,000 square miles of our county. The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) serves all those districts and their 1.6 million 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.

LACOE also plays a key role in the rollout and implementation of Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) programs, assisting districts as they develop and manage budgets in accordance with the state guidelines on funding.

We also educate the county's most vulnerable students, including children with severe disabilities, juvenile offenders and others at high risk of dropping out or with unique needs.

In addition, 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 state's largest Head Start-State Preschool program, serving more than 13,000 preschool children and their families.

LACOE plays an important 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 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 our distinguished district superintendents to tell their own stories.



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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



Netragrednik



This is our 9th Edition highlighting each of the district superintendents in the Los Angeles County K-12 public schools. Our mission is to introduce each superintendent with their brief message to encourage you to visit their individual web sites for indepth information.

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

To enjoy our publications covering individual districts, please visit our web site www.schoolnewsrollcall.com.

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

9th Annual Edition

Covering the
**Los Angeles County
Public Schools K-12
Superintendents**

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ABC Unified School District

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Schools for 21st Century Learners



Dr. Mary Sieu
Superintendent

ABC Unified School District is comprised of ten preschools, 30 schools and serves over 21,000 (K-12) ethnically diverse students in the cities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, and portions of Lakewood, Long Beach and Norwalk. Our Adult School serves an additional 14,000 adult learners in the region. As Superintendent of this award winning District, I am honored to be a part of its rich history of academic achievement and innovative partnerships. The District continues its commitment to raise student achievement with a dedicated staff, engaged parents and hard working students. Our strong collaborative partnerships with our employee organizations, local businesses, PTAs, colleges, and civic groups help to advance our mission.

The mission of ABC Unified School District is to develop a community of life long learners, creative thinkers, and responsible individuals by providing innovative and high quality educational programs in a safe and supportive environment.

The District offers an array of educational options for students and families to participate in. This includes sixteen thematic magnet schools, a dual language immersion program, the STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) Program, an IB World School, bi-literacy programs, international exchange programs with Pacific Rim countries and visual and performing arts classes at every level. Technology is transforming our classrooms where 1:1 mobile devices are being implemented in several of the schools.

We are proud of our numerous National Blue Ribbon School Awards, California Distinguished Schools, fifteen Golden Bell Awards from CSBA, Seal of Excellence Award from CAFE, and California Business for Educational Excellence Honor Roll.

The District maintains a sharp focus on teaching and learning to ensure that “every student, in every classroom, every day” is provided a world class education.

Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District

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

Partners in Learning



Dr. Brent Woodard
Superintendent

Acton Agua Dulce Unified School District is one of the first school districts in California, established in 1881. We currently serve 1100 students across three campuses over a 200 mile radius and an additional 5000 students through our extensive charter school partnerships.

Our 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 work together to help students meet and exceed Common Core standards, and assist students to become healthy, productive members of our American democracy.

Our district schools are recipients of many state accolades, including Meadowlark Elementary School's recognition as a California Distinguished School, High Desert Middle School's repeated designation as a School to Watch, and Vasquez High School's six year WASC accreditation as well as the College Board's awarding of AP Honor Roll.

The recent completion of a new high school campus with cutting edge technology has elevated our students' capacity to engage curriculum and master 21st century skills. Thriving and blossoming career technical education programs provide an additional network of enrichment for all students. Professional relationships with local colleges and business partners from an array of opportunities for our students of all grade levels.

As district superintendent, it is my privilege to work with a dedicated team of outstanding educators and staff, parents, community members, and the Board of Trustees that is committed to ensuring educational excellence for all students in AADUSD.



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LACOE Teachers of the Year

Since 2005, CCU has donated more than \$340,000 in corporate support for this program that recognizes outstanding public school teachers, boosts morale and encourages young students to pursue careers in education.

CCU Teacher Grant Program

The CCU Teacher Grant program is designed to assist educators in funding innovative learning opportunities for their students and has awarded over \$50,000 since 2012.

CCU Scholarship Program

Scholarships are awarded to those students who are active citizens, who give back to their community and their school. California Credit Union has donated more than \$265,000 in scholarships since 2005.

School Rewards Visa Credit Card

CCU offers school-related organizations and our general membership access to the School Rewards Visa Credit Card, which rebates 1% of purchases back to a designated school or related organization. Since 2005, we have given back over \$260,000 to chosen schools and organizations.

CCU Sponsorships and Advertising

CCU commits more than 90% of its sponsorship and advertising dollars to supporting educator associations, events, galas, union and association publications, and vehicle advertising. In the last three years, CCU has contributed over \$650,000 to offset expenses and assist in fundraising.

For more information or to partner with CCU contact:
Richard Tresler, VP, Business Development at
(818) 291-5519 or RichardT@CaliforniaCU.org

CaliforniaCU.org

Commitment to Excellence



Dr. Laura Tellez-Gagliano
Superintendent

Through the collaborative efforts of supportive School Board members; experienced and dedicated administration, faculty, and staff; and concerned and involved parents the Alhambra Unified School District is committed to preparing students to meet the demands of a changing world and of challenging them to attain their full potential. Through improvement of student performance, mastery of identified competencies, and by ensuring that a safe environment for both students and staff exists, the district reflects this commitment to excellence.

We achieve success by meeting every student’s needs and encompass components that strengthen our programs.

Technology plays a vital role in realizing this mission. In Alhambra, technology is incorporated throughout the curriculum. We are supported by district advocates and community members.

By strategically focusing on the individual’s challenge areas that need to be enhanced, our teachers work cohesively to build strong curriculums and lesson plans to support our students. We embrace all of our students’ needs and aspirations. Along with a strong academic emphasis, Alhambra provides several extracurricular opportunities that help shape and enlighten our students.

One of our strengths is that our community is culturally diverse. This opportunity affords our students real life experiences that help prepare them to be successful in a global society. Our students leave our schools ready to succeed in college and in their careers. Alhambra Unified School District sets the foundation for all of our students to attain their full potential and to lead successful, happy lives!

Asking the Right Questions



David Vannasdal
Superintendent

The reality that adults and educators no longer hold all the knowledge that our students need can be frightening. Most students hold in their pocket a powerful connection to the world and immediate access to more knowledge than I was exposed to in my entire academic career. In fact, even a tradition of excellence won’t attract students to a particular school or classroom when a master teacher is offering a free online course. In Arcadia, we are focused on asking the questions that will transform school from a brick-and-mortar institution of having the right answers, to an environment that asks the right questions.

We strive to be a destination school district where students can discover and pursue their personal talents and interests in the visual and performing arts, athletics, and leadership while immersed in a rigorous academic environment. Our \$218 million facilities bond project has renovated every classroom in the district and built state-of-the-art learning spaces to match its award-winning programs. We are pleased to be entering our third year of a 1:1 device program, with every middle and high school student utilizing a Chromebook at school and at home. Next year will also be the start of our full-day transitional kindergarten and kindergarten.

Our world-class staff continues to model collaboration and innovation through their vertical teacher teams, providing Arcadia students a well-articulated curriculum and extracurricular programs. We celebrate our tradition of excellence while educating for the future, and while realizing the power is in the questions - not the answers.

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.

Success and Excellence



Dr. Linda Kaminski
Superintendent

Azusa Unified School District immerses our students in rigorous college and career preparatory programs and an engaging curriculum so they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Our secondary schools feature intensive medical and engineering pathways in addition to hands-on electives that begin in elementary school. Azusa Unified provides early experience and education in science, technology, mathematics and engineering fields to adequately prepare for careers in these competitive fields.

Along with a 21st century education, we are continuously enhancing our curriculum to prepare our students for a globalized society. Our Dual Immersion Program focuses on bilingualism and biliteracy in Spanish and English, while fostering an appreciation and understanding of other cultures. Starting in the fall semester of the 2016-17 school year, students can enroll in the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at Azusa High School, where they can gain college and university credits and become more competitive on university applications worldwide.

We are grateful to our strong and growing partnerships with community businesses and colleges, which provide key support for STEM electives, including robotics, space and flight and computer programming. The Early College Program at Gladstone High School provides students the opportunity to complete a year of college coursework with Citrus College. With the support of our community, we are able to further enhance the learning environments of our students with the voter-approved \$92 million Measure K bond, ensuring a nurturing and safe environment indispensable to academic success.

Azusa Unified places the highest priority on providing meritorious leadership at all 19 of our District campuses, hiring the finest teachers and support staff to instruct over 9,000 K-12 students at safe, clean and modernized schools.

Excellence in Educational Leadership

Azusa Pacific University's Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership brings together a network of practitioner-scholars to prepare school administrators for enhanced leadership roles.



David Vannasdall, Ed.D. '16

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Collaborative Efforts Equal Results



Froilan N. Mendoza
Interim Superintendent

BPUSD believes in a quality and comprehensive education for all students. The District is known not only for excellent preschool through adult education programs, but also for fostering positive and healthy relationships among staff, students, parents, and our community. The strength in our relationships and collaborative efforts has earned such accolades as multiple Golden Bell Awards and six Gold Ribbon Schools. Our Early Childhood Education and Adult Education Programs are also a source of pride for our community and continue to receive praise.

The District continues to capitalize on its strengths through Professional Learning Communities. With this process, we have initiated meaningful dialogue with our stakeholders regarding the reasons for our efforts, quantitative and qualitative data, and research-based solutions.

Our intent is to ensure cyclical, ongoing and incremental improvement toward our goals. Thus far, the process has proven itself in the development of both core and intervention programs, including new science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) curriculum, career and technical education pathways, and independent learning programs.

We are now analyzing baseline student data from the Smarter Balanced Assessments in English language arts and mathematics, and determining the most effective strategies to ensure every student has the knowledge, skills, and personal and social characteristics to pursue educational goals and career aspirations. Facilitating the development of these fundamental skills is at the core of our vision.

As we continue to provide services to the community, it is important to note that the District values the strength of our partnerships with all stakeholders. We will continue to work together, as a community of learners, to do what is best for our students.

A Year of Change and Challenge



Dr. Brian Jacobs
Superintendent

As Superintendent for the Bellflower Unified School District, I am blessed to be part of a dedicated team of people from across our district that models the “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less.” With the leadership of our Board of Education and support from our community, we have achieved many of our goals: 24-1 class sizes, technology integrated into all levels of instruction, award-winning civics and health-career programs, a major expansion into STEM subjects, dual-immersion Spanish instruction, Mandarin course options, a new career technical education initiative and an innovative home-study program. Our deep commitment to strengthening instruction is already paying dividends – as demonstrated by our strong scores on the new statewide tests.

But part of the commitment of Bellflower Unified is that we continue to raise our aim at even higher levels of accomplishment. To that end, BUSD remains focused on three key strategic actions:

Strategy I: Provide a high-quality, well-rounded educational experience to all students that is rigorous, culturally relevant, healthful and engaging.

Strategy II: Build strong relationships with students, families and the community to increase trust and shared responsibility. Ensure that every classroom has a high-quality, effective educator, supported by high quality effective administrators and support staff.

Strategy III: Align resources to accomplish priorities within a balanced budget.

One thing is clear for Bellflower Unified: The level of expectation for student and teacher performance across the district is rising sharply. Assisting in meeting that expectation, district leaders, teachers and support staff have moved quickly to infuse improved teaching strategies, materials, and technology into all of our schools. Our students and their families deserve nothing but “The Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less.”

On the Move!



Dr. Alex Rojas
Superintendent

Bassett Unified School District is committed to providing rigorous, 21st Century instruction by equipping our students with the necessary education and skills that will prepare them for the demands of higher education and competitive careers.

We value our partnerships with all of our stakeholders. The success of our students is attributed to the collaboration and support of our administrators, teachers, counselors, staff and parents. Bassett Unified is proud to offer the resources and opportunities that strengthen community involvement.

We’ve recently opened our Bassett Innovation Center, featuring ongoing workshops and training for educators, staff and parents. Led by Teacher Specialists who provide one-on-one support, they focus on four key professional development fields: content area in common core math and language arts, early literacy, 21st century innovation and technology integration in the classroom. Every day, our educators are seeking ways to inspire our students and enhance their learning environment to sustain high levels of student achievement.

As we continuously develop our curriculum for our students to excel, we are maximizing Measure V bond funding to modernize and upgrade our facilities to provide students with a high-quality and state-of-the-art learning environment.

Bassett Unified is On the Move!

Mission to Inspire and Empower



Steve Kessler
Superintendent

The Beverly Hills Unified School District has a storied commitment to providing dynamic and enriching educational opportunities, collaborative community partnerships, along with challenging and supportive learning environments for our students. Our core mission is to inspire and empower each student to achieve academic excellence, embrace social and individual responsibility, and lead with integrity.

The Beverly Hills Unified School District consists of four K-8 elementary schools and one 9-12 high school. The K-12 enrollment is approximately 4100. The district for decades has been recognized both nationally and state wide as a leader in education. Students have consistently scored far above national and state averages on standardized achievement tests.

Each elementary school consists of a primary school (K-3), an intermediate school (4-5), and a middle school (6-8). Beverly Hills High School is organized around three houses, each one headed by an assistant principal who is assisted by two counselors and overseen by the Principal. While academic rigor is stressed along with college and career readiness, a broad and comprehensive educational program is offered to serve the needs of all our students. A signature of our district is the small average class size that ensures an exceptional educational experience for all our students

Many residents historically have been attracted to Beverly Hills because of their high regard for the school district’s educational program. Due to the strong cultural, artistic and educational backgrounds our parents and community expect an outstanding instructional program and are committed to excellence in education. We embrace this high expectation and work collaboratively with our community to ensure our student’s success in school and in life.



Excellence in All Endeavors!



Kurt Madden
Superintendent

The Bonita Unified School District has a tradition of excellence and continues to serve just over 10,000 students in eight elementary schools, two middle schools and three high schools. Excellence and remarkable results are taking place via our strong focus on Academics, Arts, Athletics, and Activities. At BUSD, we champion the mantra of “Putting Students First” and appreciate the tremendous teamwork demonstrated by all employees working toward a common vision for student success. With a committed Board of Education, Bonita has the leadership and vision that keeps people focused on the future success of our students.

Academic excellence has been accomplished throughout our district. Currently, nine out of 13 schools have been named California Distinguished Schools. Both comprehensive high schools have been Nationally Recognized by *US News*. One elementary school has received a National Blue Ribbon, while two other elementary schools have earned Golden Ribbon awards. Furthermore, we have received six Golden Bell awards and will continue to pursue other academic recognition. Excellence in the arts is evident through our high level of student participation and community support in district, community, regional, and national competitions. We offer 22 different interscholastic sports and our interscholastic athletic program produces excellence in both league and post-season competition. Moreover, we strive for distinction in activities through a plethora of clubs and programs. As we move forward, internal and external stakeholders continue to focus on relationships, collaboration, and teamwork to support all students in their academic and personal growth.

Commitment to Excellence



Steve Doyle
Superintendent

Castaic Union School District maintains its vision for all students in our “Commitment to Excellence.” We have embodied the direction of empowering the learners of today for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow. We believe that Castaic Union School District, in partnership with the community, provides children with a creative and collaborative learning environment supported by a safe and nurturing atmosphere that creates life-long learners and empowers them to be critical thinkers in a global community. Our core values promote:

- Respect for individuality, diversity, and shared decision-making.
- Global citizenship, community involvement, strong families, and social responsibility.
- Individuals who have the character and confidence to stand by their convictions.
- Setting high academic and achievement expectations by promoting relevant and rigorous curriculum using real world applications.
- Individual success by being proactive and innovative through creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration.

We are confident in the vision that has been established by our Board of Trustees to ensure that every child is successful by providing the highest quality instruction every day for every child. Our priorities in our Local Control Accountability Plan were established through our stakeholder conversations and establish the road map moving forward. There are bright skies on the horizon!

From Cradle to Career



Matt Hill
Superintendent

At the Burbank Unified School District (BUSD) we focus on providing a quality education to our students via our infant program all the way through our Adult School. For many families, Horace Mann Child Development Center provides their first experience with BUSD. Children enrolled in the preschool program benefit from an educational experience provided by high-quality certificated teachers and classroom aides who are kind and caring. The preschool curriculum is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach, which focuses on exploration and discovery via the students’ expressed interests. Currently, 95% of BUSD students are graduating within four years. However, the community and employees of Burbank will not be satisfied until we ensure 100% of our students graduate. A high school diploma is just the beginning for our students. That is why BUSD is working strategically with local, regional, and national communities to enhance, expand, and support educational programs that prepare students for a global, technical, creative, and innovative economy. Students and adults have an opportunity to continue developing their skills at the Burbank Adult School (BAS). The BAS is currently expanding career pathways in the fields of health science and medical technology, including the possibility of offering a Licensed Vocational Nurse program. Another area being explored is entrepreneurship and self-employment. This may include an emphasis on marketing and social media. As you can see, Burbank Unified School District is a great place for students to realize their highest potential!

Ready for College, Career & Life



Dr. Gregory O'Brien
Superintendent

As a new member of Centinela Valley Union High School District, I am excited to be a part of its newest chapter. This new chapter is focused on ensuring all students have the opportunity to not only graduate, but to receive a world-class education that effectively prepares them for college, career and life. It is a chapter that includes the efforts and energies of all our stakeholders. As a high school district, our basic mission is clear: 100% of our students must graduate. However, the true measure of our success will take place after the diploma has been earned, and our students navigate the challenges and opportunities of the real world as adults. To ensure their success, we must first provide them with as many options for furthering their education after high school as possible. Additionally, we must prepare our students for careers. They must have the knowledge and skills necessary to earn a living and succeed in the workplace. As a Linked Learning district, we are committed to connecting the learning that takes place in the classroom with the needs of business and industry in our global economy. Our schools offer opportunities for work-based learning through numerous academies, field trips, guest speakers, and internships. Finally, our students must be prepared for life. We want them to be good people who care about others and are able to make sound decisions. We want them to value diversity, respect the views of others, and work collaboratively with individuals from multiple cultural backgrounds. We want them to be informed citizens as well as wise leaders. Centinela Valley has many lofty aspirations, and we are committed to ensuring all of our students are ready for college, career and life.

Charter Oak Unified School District

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

A Strong Foundation



Dr. Mike Hendricks
Superintendent

Charter Oak USD's outstanding employees continue to attract students and their families with its strong foundation of teaching and learning by expanding programs and services that prepare students for college and careers. They include:

Project Lead the Way (PLTW). PLTW offers pre-engineering and science curriculum for all grade spans. It is a hands-on, real-world approach to learning. ROMS offers Automation and Robotics, and Design and Modeling courses. COHS offers Biomedical Engineering, and Engineering Design and Development courses. PLTW's launch program is being implemented in K-6.

Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID)

provides strategies to prepare students for success in high school, college, and career, especially students traditionally underrepresented in higher education. All schools in the District will be AVID schools by next year.

International Baccalaureate Program (IB) is a high standards, international program that develops intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills needed to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world. COHS was the first IB high school in Los Angeles County.

Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success. All schools in the District are using PBIS and experiencing success.

COUSD continues to provide award winning visual and performing arts, outstanding athletic programs, clubs, and competitions for a variety of academic subjects.

Our schools were recently recognized as Gold Ribbon Schools, a Model Continuation School and with Golden Bell Awards. The COHS Mobile Apps and Gaming courses are the first of its kind in Los Angeles County.

Compton Unified School District

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

Creating Compton's Next Leaders



Darin Brawley
Superintendent

Compton Unified School District's (CUSD) ongoing turnaround is not slowing down as Superintendent Darin Brawley, the School Board, and educators remain committed to ensuring all students are prepared for college and 21st century careers.

Last year Dominguez High School produced two Gates Millennium Scholarship recipients, and won the state and national MESA engineering competitions.

Willowbrook Middle School social studies and ELA instructor Regis Inge won the CA League of Middle Schools' Educator of the Year Award.

And, this year Compton Unified was placed on the College Board's AP Honor Roll list for expanding access and increasing enrollment for Advanced Placement courses.

STEM, arts education, college prep and career tech programs continue to be the main drivers of academic achievement for all Compton students.

Our newly opened Compton Early College High School empowers students to earn college credits and an AA degree before they graduate through rigorous college-level courses. The path towards college and careers is also being paved at our elementary and middle schools.

Through the support of Apple ConnectED grants, students and teachers at five schools are now equipped with iPads to support tech-based, project-driven learning.

Our middle schools have opened students' minds through Vex robotics programs and a partnership with the Jefferson Awards Foundation to encourage them to become active community leaders.

In collaboration with Counseling4Kids, Compton Unified is expanding counseling services to further support our students.

By staying focused on creating engaging learning opportunities in a safe, clean environment, Compton schools will continue making great strides to close the achievement gap and open new doors for students.

Claremont Unified School District

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

Partnering for Success



Dr. James Elsasser
Superintendent

Claremont Unified School District (CUSD) is located at the easternmost edge of Los Angeles County, approximately 30 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. Nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, the City of Claremont is home to the Claremont Colleges. CUSD, which serves nearly 7,000 students in grades K – 12, is proud of the strong partnership it has with the colleges and the community.

An example of this partnership is the Claremont Robotics Competition. Now entering its ninth year, this competition is a joint effort between CUSD, Harvey Mudd College (HMC), and Claremont Graduate University (CGU).

The competition requires the application of STEM and challenges teams of students to design, build, and program a fully autonomous robot to compete in the categories of Design and Construction, Interview and Display, and Match Competition. In order to introduce students to robotics design and construction at an early age, and to provide older students with opportunities to develop leadership and mentoring skills, the teams are set up to be both multi-age as well as multi-grade level. Students in fifth through twelfth grades work with their teammates under the direction of knowledgeable adult mentors to learn technical problem-solving skills.

The Claremont Robotics Competition is truly a team effort. The competition takes place on the campus of CGU, and HMC students serve as judges. Certificates of Participation for all students, along with awards for winning teams, are presented by the President and Deans of CGU and CUSD administration. This partnership is just one example of how our students are engaging in creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration, all of which prepare them for college and career readiness.

Covina-Valley Unified School District

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

Preparing Kids for Their Future!



Dr. Richard M. Sheehan
Superintendent

Covina-Valley Unified School District is committed to providing students the very best education possible for their future success. Student achievement remains the focus of Covina-Valley, while continuously expanding our course offerings and additional career pathways. The district is expanding our partnerships with local businesses to continue providing our students with real world applications while in high school. We are driving down our career pathways into the middle and elementary schools.

Covina-Valley will be offering new dual immersion programs starting next year and into the near future, expanding on our students' abilities to be globally competitive. Additionally, the district is expanding its emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics or STEM K-12. The district will continue to emerge as one of the leading districts in providing our students with the 21st Century skills they will need to be pioneers into the next decades to come.

I am not only the proud Superintendent of Schools for the Covina-Valley Unified School District, but also a graduate of the district and father of a current C-VUSD student. Covina-Valley Unified School District provides our students the necessary skills to prepare students for their future!

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Culver City Unified School District

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

The CC Compact



Dave LaRose
Superintendent

The Culver City Compact is further proof that Success for All Takes Us All is more than a clever district slogan – it is our call to action. CCUSD, City Officials, Business Leaders, West LA College, Loyola Marymount University, District Union and PTA Leaders and other key community stakeholders partnered to create this compelling document. The Compact represents our shared vision for a highly collaborative, responsive and innovative educational system that ensures every child succeeds before, during and after high school.

The Culver City Compact seeks to deepen our strong school-community relationships, bring greater clarity to our strengths and needs, and inspire innovative approaches in pursuit of three common goals: ALL students graduate high school; ALL students graduate high school with the skills, passion, and sense of purpose to succeed in higher learning; and ALL students have access to and experience in pathways to relevant, sustainable jobs and careers. From new or redesigned partnerships to updating or creating policy, the Culver City Compact provides direction while harnessing our interdependence to benefit all children – from cradle to career.

The Culver City Compact is a product, vision and a commitment that best reflects why the students of CCUSD thrive in school, in our community and as they pursue life and learning upon graduation. The term “compact” alone affirms that student learning in Culver City is more than a want, a wish or a goal. It is a promise. It is our public declaration that we believe student success for every child is not only possible, it is our shared responsibility.

Downey Unified School District

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

Our Students Deserve the Best



Dr. John A. Garcia, Jr.
Superintendent

Our district is located approximately 12 miles south of Los Angeles within driving distance of scenic mountains and beaches.

For decades, our schools have enjoyed the reputation of an outstanding school system. Downey Unified School District has been recognized with distinguished State honors for its high performance. Our Academic Performance (API) scores are readily available on the internet a www.cde.ca.gov. You are also welcome to schedule a visit to any DUSD school. We 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 childcare 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.duarteusd.org

A First Class Education



Dr. Allan Mucirino
Superintendent

Duarte Unified delivers a first class education that is engaging and adapted to the passions of our students. This rich educational experience sets our students on the road to success for career and life. Our talented staff, caring families, and supportive community work collaboratively to ensure our students achieve in the 21st Century. Success is measured by our graduates' proven ability to work, lead and make positive contributions to our global community. Our students are actively recruited by institutions of higher learning and organizations offering immediate career opportunities.

Our high achieving schools earn state and national honors for the exceptional programs we offer starting with Pre-School and continuing on to our Early College collaborative with Citrus College and City of Hope National Medical Center. Duarte Unified offers dynamic educational opportunities, brand new state-of-the-art facilities, high-tech classrooms and quality instruction that includes: Early College Dual Enrollment, A laptop for every student, California distinguished Schools, Free Child Care for all K-8th Grade Students, Visual & Performing Arts District-Wide, International Baccalaureate Program, City of Hope STEM Partnership, Custom College & Career Pathways, Pre-School and Full-Day TK & KG, Championship Athletics

Our Vision: The Duarte Unified School District is committed to providing a quality education exemplified by high performing schools that equip our students with 21st Century skills for an ever-changing global economy.

Our Mission: The mission of the Duarte Unified School District is to provide the knowledge, skills and inspiration for each student to be successful in career and life.

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East Whittier City School District

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

A Well-Rounded Program



Mary Branca
Superintendent

The East Whittier City School District serves about 9,000 students in grades K-8. We believe that having a caring, competent teacher in every classroom is the key to success for our students; and that a great education begins with great first teaching and early intervention.

Through our LCAP, we have added intervention specialists at each of our elementary schools to help ensure that each child reads early and successfully. We are dedicated to providing a well-rounded program for our students, including a focus on visual and performing arts and STEM. Our visual and performing arts team, comprised of art, dance, music, and PE teachers, provides our elementary students with a regularly scheduled enrichment time, giving them instruction in the arts from specialists, while also providing classroom teachers time to collaborate to plan instruction.

Each of our middle schools has a robust instrumental music program, giving students the opportunity to perform and to be prepared for high school musical performances. Our middle schools offer a variety of STEM classes, including microbiology, robotics, coding, and video production. Our East Whittier Middle School ELL Technology program was the recipient of CSBA's Golden Bell award this year.

We believe that it takes all of us working together to provide the best for each child and to ensure that each child has the foundation they need to open the door for success.

Eastside Union School District

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

Making the Difference



Dr. Mark Marshall
Superintendent

An analysis of 2014-2015 data compared to 2013-2014 illustrates a significant decrease in both suspensions and expulsions for the Eastside Union School District (EUSD). The Superintendent's Research Based Intervention Committee (RBIC), comprised of teachers, support staff and administrators, was formed to address academic deficiencies and curb the rates of students being suspended and/or referred for Special Education. Two years ago, the team successfully: identified Research Based Reading and Math Intervention Programs for the district; established Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) programs at all of our school sites; and secured a \$134,000 grant to purchase the Read 180 Program as part of the California Department of Education's competitive Project READ Initiative. Last year, in addition to identifying intervention programs for the elementary grade levels, the RBIC worked to increase the curricular offerings for our advanced students. The group continues to make progress. To meet the needs of our elementary students, Imagine Learning is implemented in grades K-6 across the district while Project Lead The Way, a leading science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) program, is being offered at our middle school and will expand to the elementary schools in subsequent years.

In summary, the task of improving student achievement continues to be at the forefront of our work in EUSD and I remain confident that EUSD is poised to become a leader in the realm of public education.

El Monte City School District

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

Building a Seamless Pathway to College



Dr. Maribel Garcia
Superintendent

This is a very exciting time in the El Monte City School District! Implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), LCFF, and LCAP serve as a well-timed vehicle for us to continue facilitating and engaging in meaningful dialogues and plans about students' learning environment, enhancing learning opportunities aligned with college and career readiness, and incorporating technology in inventive and creative ways — all essential for 21st Century learning. By working closely with our parents, community partners, neighboring districts, and our local colleges, we are building a navigable and seamless pathway to college for our students!

This year we continue with professional development that focuses on the CCSS and preparing for the English Language Arts adoption. The CCSS require students to engage what they learn and how they learn in ways that mimic "real-world" interactions with an eye toward an increasingly global economy and ever-changing technology. This past year we invested in a \$2,000,000 infrastructure upgrade, providing higher speed connectivity to the internet for all devices – with the ability to support over 5,000 wireless devices on each campus. With additional computer labs, portable devices, and wireless access points at every school, students of all levels are accessing and using technology for different purposes and as a vehicle to encourage reflection, inquiry, and collaboration with their peers, teachers, and the day to day curriculum.

I am grateful for the commitment of our students, parents, staff, community partners and board members! Together we will continue to plan and provide for a quality education in the 21st Century for our students.

El Monte Union High School District

3537 Johnson Avenue, El Monte, CA 91731 • 626/444-9005 • emuhsd.org

Believe in the Power of Education!



Dr. Irella S. Perez
Superintendent

EMUHSD Superintendent, Dr. Irella S. Perez, leads proudly and honorably! "Our greatest asset in our school district is the heart found in each of our scholars, community members and employees."

Located in the heart of the San Gabriel Valley, EMUHSD serves over 20,000 scholars; 9,000 of them 9th through 12th graders and 12,000 adult school students. We believe every student can succeed and that every adult in our community is a partner in preparing our students to be successful. EMUHSD understands that local control, collaboration, communication, and healthy trusting relationships are essential to improving our teaching and learning. The development of our youth is our number one priority. As 21st century educators, we have invested in developing academically, socially and emotionally prepared scholars. Our goal is to prepare every scholar for a college and career path, providing a solid foundation and necessary access to fulfill personal and community betterment dreams.

Each of our employees is equally essential and important and we value all our community partners and citizens from each of the seven cities that we proudly serve: El Monte, South El Monte, Rosemead, Temple City, Arcadia, San Gabriel and Monrovia. EMUHSD is composed of five comprehensive High Schools, El Monte HS, South El Monte HS, Mountain View HS, Rosemead HS, and Arroyo HS, and one alternative/continuation high school, Fernando R. Ledesma HS. The District's El Monte- Rosemead Adult School, Community Day School, Adult Transition Center and our LAUP preschool program serve the San Gabriel Valley.

El Rancho Unified School District

9333 Loch Lomond Drive, Pico Rivera, CA 90660 • 562/942-1500 • www.erusd.org

Amazing! It is About Time!



Martin Galindo
Superintendent

These are the sentiments expressed by parents, teachers, administrators, support staff and school community regarding the transformation occurring in our district.

Congratulations to EL Rancho High School earning 2015 Gold Ribbon recognition and to Rivera ES earning 2016 Gold Ribbon recognition that compliments the Rio Vista ES National Blue Ribbon School honors. El Rancho High School is thriving and developed awesome pathways — Engineering, Bio-Medical, and Law, just to name a few as they prepare students for college. In addition, ERHS will be offering new Career and Technical Education classes leading to careers in Automotive Technology and the Building Trades in the Fall of 2016.

The STEAM Academy@Burke magnet school is flourishing. North Park Academy of the Arts offers a comprehensive academic and arts program. The South Ranchito Dual Language Academy will add first grade to the TK and K program already being offered. The Birney Tech Academy, Magee Academy of Arts and Sciences and Valencia Academy of the Arts are offering amazing choices for our students and parents. District-wide Project Based Learning is being implemented.

We are constructing innovation and science labs in each of our schools. Salary raises have been given and are still a priority. Our district received e-rate funding to upgrade our network infrastructure to ten gigabytes. Generation First Degree continues to support our college bound students through college counseling, mentorships, and scholarships. Take advantage of what El Rancho USD can offer your child!

Garvey School District

2730 N. Del Mar Avenue, Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3444 • www.garvey.k12.ca.us

Growing 21st Century Leaders



Anita Chu
Superintendent

Garvey School District serves a richly diverse community covering portions of Monterey Park, Rosemead, and San Gabriel. The District has eight elementary and two intermediate schools serving approximately 5,000 K-8 students, with pre-school on each elementary school campus.

Leadership development is the heart of the District's vision. The staff is committed to nurturing and growing leaders who are academically competent and morally driven to advance the global society in the 21st century.

To realize this vision for all the students, each so uniquely gifted, the District devotes to building critical academic, social-emotional, and technological pathways. The development of Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity (4C's) through the Common Core State Standards and holistic education invigorates student learning in all disciplines. Cultivating the "Leader in Me" (7 Habits of Highly Effective People) provides an asset-rich environment for leaders-in-training. The ever-expanding technology integration is transforming the schools into 21st century learning centers. Together, these pathways take our student leaders to reaching their educational, career, and life goals.

The task is too important and too challenging to be taken alone. The District is committed to creating impactful synergy by reaching out and strengthening partnerships with parents and the community. A variety of advisory committees, focus groups, and parent institutes are provided to foster home-school communication and parent empowerment. Partnerships with business partners and community agencies bring in additional fiscal and personnel resources and connect classroom learning with real world application.

With compelling shared vision, whole-child programs, and extensive partnerships, Garvey continues to thrive as a 21st century learning academy, growing leaders well-equipped to meet the 21st century challenges.

El Segundo Unified School District

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

A Legacy of Excellence & Community Pride



Dr. Melissa Moore
Superintendent

The El Segundo Unified School District (ESUSD) is comprised of award-winning educators dedicated to the mission of providing students and the community with an optimal learning environment that prepares educated, productive, compassionate citizens to meet the challenges of a global society in the 21st Century. ESUSD currently has an enrollment of 3,400 students at six schools.

ESUSD has enjoyed recent achievements in recognition of innovative programs and best practices in education. El Segundo Middle School's International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program was honored as a Gold Ribbon School by the California Department of Education and received a Golden Bell Award by the California School Board Association. El Segundo High School is now recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for its one-to-one Individualized Technology Initiative. As a testament to our quality educators, high school mathematics instructor Kathy Clemmer was nominated for the 2015 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

In support of student learning outcomes, ESUSD is dedicated to an ongoing cycle of improvement. Recent enhancements at the district include the implementation of Project Lead the Way pathway for kindergarten through twelfth grade, Cognitive Guided Instruction in mathematics at the elementary level, and opening a new College and Career Center at the high school. Both El Segundo Middle and High Schools established a one-to-one iPad initiative for sixth through twelfth grade.

Our Board of Education continues to implement academic program refinements. These include inclusive Special Education services; increasing iPad initiative instructional support; refinement of mathematics programs; and expanding educational opportunities for ESUSD students in the areas of creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication.

Glendale Unified School District

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

Focused On Student Achievement

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 Foothill communities of La Crescenta and Montrose, located within the school district's boundaries.

Nine district schools have earned the U.S. Office of Education's highest designation for a public school, the National Blue Ribbon. In 2015, all secondary schools (4 middle and 4 high schools) received the California Department of Education's highest designation, the Gold Ribbon School Award. Additionally 25 schools were recognized as California Distinguished Schools and 17 of the district's 18 Title I schools have been named a Title I Achieving School. The Foreign Language Academy of Glendale (FLAG) offers programs, beginning in kindergarten, in Spanish, Korean, Armenian, German, Italian, Japanese and French. Californians Together awarded the Glendale Unified School District as one of two districts with the Multiple Pathways to Biliteracy District Recognition Award. Extensive career and technical education (CTE) programs are offered at all of our high schools, including automotive, building construction, cosmetology, culinary arts, cinematography, public safety, robotics engineering, and biotechnology.

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.

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Glendora Unified School District

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

A Culture of Collective Success!



Dr. Robert Voors
Superintendent

Long recognized as one of the premier school districts in the state of California, the Glendora Unified School District resolutely nurtures a culture of success in all areas of schools life. Our schools have fully transitioned to California Standards and students routinely engage in project-based learning and solve real world problems. Each year, the Washington Post, U.S. News & World Report and Newsweek each rank Glendora High School as one of the best high schools in the United States. Expectations are high – we believe all students can and will achieve.

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 vibrant PTA, the Glendora Education Foundation, various community service groups and extensive volunteerism.

In addition to world class academics, we offer exceptional, well-rounded educational experiences for nearly 7,800 K-12 students that include CIF Championship athletic programs and award-winning band, orchestra and choirs. 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 our 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 Rd., P.O. Box 104, Gorman, CA 93243 • 661/248-6441 • <http://gorman.k12.ca.us>

Challenging and Rigorous Education



Johannis 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 108 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 24 students. Gorman Joint School District is a District of Choice where any parent can chose to enroll their children during an enrollment period. Gorman remains committed to effective teaching and learning while providing children with a rigorous education supported by a safe and nurturing environment remains the forefront of our work for 2016.

One of our greatest resources is a staff that has dedicated themselves to helping students achieve great success at school and home. 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. With the goal of preparing students to succeed in the 21st century, Gorman provides educational lessons that are engaging, collaborating, creative, and standards-based in all academics areas while providing enrichments and interventions support throughout the day

The Gorman School District is known for having a very supportive Board. The Board has adopted four guiding principles 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.hlpuschools.org

Partners in Your Child's Future



Cynthia Parulan-Colfer
Superintendent

Hacienda La Puente is proud to be a leader in public education as “Partners in Your Child’s Future.” The Board of Education believes students, parents, staff and community have a shared responsibility for student success and partnerships exemplify the Board’s Guiding Principles. These principles include: a professional culture built upon dedication, honesty, integrity, pride, perseverance, collaboration, teamwork, and mutual trust and respect; recognition of diverse learning styles and individual needs of students and ensuring all students meet high learning standards; creating a learning environment reflecting our community’s diversity that is safe, clean, supportive, and responsive; and fiscally sound practices.

West Ed highlighted HLPUSD for the LCAP and professional development for STEM teachers. The District is committed to the successful implementation of the California Common Core Standards. HLPUSD serves over 19,000 Pre-K through Grade 12 students, and over 17,000 adults through the Adult Education program. HLPUSD offers full-time Transitional Kindergarten.

Schools have been acknowledged with a National Blue Ribbon School, four Gold Ribbon Schools, several California Distinguished Schools, and garnered state and national accolades for engineering and health career pathways. High School students may now earn college credits and an AA Degree in Vocational Nursing through Adult Education. Schools provide various programs in order to prepare every student for college and career, and have after-school programs available at 22 school sites free of charge. All 32 schools received additional funds for the Visual and Performing Arts. The multicultural diversity of our community is reflected in programs and activities such as STEM, the arts, sports, environmental science and dual language immersion programs in Spanish and Mandarin. HLPUSD is committed to providing educational programs that build a community of lifelong learners.

Hawthorne School District

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

Continuing the Mission



Dr. Helen E. Morgan
Superintendent

The Hawthorne School District is nestled in the heart of the South Bay. We proudly serve the families of over 9,000 students through our three preschool programs, seven elementary schools, three middle schools and one high school. We ensure that our students remain the focus of all we do.

Common Core Standards, Smarter Balanced Assessment, an improving budget, expanding technology, and much, much more present us with new opportunities every day. These are all the components that lead us to providing our students with an engaging and challenging educational experience that prepares them for college, career, and becoming successful members of a global society.

Through a collaborative relationship with families, staff, and the community the Hawthorne School District continues to evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of our students. We strive to solicit and implement family, staff, and community input regarding the needs of our students and how to best prepare them to be an integral member of our community. This collaboration has led to many enhancements to our educational programs such as: increased technology at all sites; extended day opportunities in the arts, sports, academics, and community involvement; additional academic supports for struggling students; initiatives to address behavior and attendance issues; new partnerships with community entities; professional development for all staff; increased security measures at all sites; the recent implementation of uniforms at all eleven schools; and many, many more.

Our Local Control and Accountability Plan has allowed us to create a document that complements our strategic plan to successfully fulfill our mission, “*To maximize each student’s potential to achieve educational excellence.*” These are not just words to the Hawthorne School District family, it is what we strive to do each and every day!

Vision of Excellence for All Students



Patricia Escalante
Superintendent

The Hermosa Beach City School District is a K-8 system that is bursting at the seams with learners. In the 1950's there were the same number of students in six schools as there are today in two schools. The high level of excellence in learning that the Hermosa Beach City School District offers is a reflection of the collective leadership to focus on continuing to build strong educational partnerships with the city, businesses, charitable and service organizations. The “one voice, one focus” commitment of our community to the academic success of all students is stronger than ever and families are moving to Hermosa Beach to be a part of a very special educational experience.

The outstanding work of our students, teachers, parents, and administrators is evidenced by the 2014 state recognition of both View and Valley schools as California Distinguished Schools. The selection of our signature practices in Writer’s Workshop, Career and Ed Tech, Mindup, and Parent Involvement are a reflection of the belief that the best education is one that focuses on the development of the whole child. The middle school Career and Ed Tech program also received both state and national recognition in 2014 as an exemplary model of the application of Common Core and 21st Century learning principles.

During these rapidly changing instructional times, the site principals have created a Speaker’s Series for parents and members of the community to learn about curriculum and the programs that their children are participating in. Regardless of the topic, Cognitive Guided Instruction Math, Cyberbullying, MindUp, or Writer’s Workshop, each presentation is packed with adults that want to be connected to what their children are learning.

In the heart of Hermosa Beach we are reminded that “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Excellent schools are a reflection of an excellent community. Join us in the support of our vision of excellence for all students.

Inspiring and Preparing for Success



Dr. Vincent Matthews
State Administrator

The mission of the Inglewood Unified School District (IUSD) is to ensure that all of our students are taught rigorous standards-based curriculum, supported by highly qualified staff in an exemplary educational system characterized by high student achievement, social development, safe schools and effective partnerships with all segments of the community.

How close is the district to realizing this mission? As the state administrator, I must address this question and many others to ensure that IUSD continues to provide all students with the opportunity to excel. I am honored to address why our challenge is critical, and our plans for achieving our mission of ensuring that our students are 21st Century college and career ready.

Inglewood Unified is home to 12 elementary and six secondary schools. Six of our primary schools have been designated as California Distinguished Schools and one has earned the national Blue Ribbon School distinction. Our focus on instructional excellence continues in our secondary sites as students continuously lead the way in statewide MESA competitions and are strong in STEM performance. Our high schools consistently deliver high achieving graduates attending colleges such as UCLA, UC Berkeley and USC.

Our full recovery plan has identified key observations and opportunities including a series of recommendations to reform and make steady progress for capacity building throughout the district. We look forward to building upon the current and historical success of our schools.

A Country School by the Lakes



Steven Martinez
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 in Northern Los Angeles County. We serve 234 students from the mountain communities of Lake Hughes, Elizabeth Lake, Green Valley, and Pine Canyon. The Elizabeth Lake School District was formed in 1874, the Lake Hughes School District was formed in 1899. The two districts formed a union in 1950.

We believe in educating the whole child, focused on academic skills and social-emotional development with each of our students. We offer small class sizes with a dedicated group of teachers and staff.

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes also serve students from neighboring communities in the Antelope Valley. We are a District of Choice where any parent in Los Angles and Kern Counties can chose to enroll their children during open enrollment. We offer in-school intervention to support our core instructional program. Teachers and staff collaborate to improve their practice so that we may continue to improve to serve our students.

Parents and community members are an important part of our school culture and community. We have an active P.T.A. and dedicated volunteers who support our students and school. Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes is a wonderful school to learn, work, and grow. County Living, 21st Century Education.

Strong Collaborative Partnership



Dr. Vishna A. Herrity
Interim Superintendent

The Keppel Union School District is proud of our collaborative partnership with our Keppel Union Teacher’s Association. Together we have are in year four of our five year plan to implement the Common Core Standards. Through our District School Leadership Team, we have created a streamlined process for input, lesson plan development and Professional Learning Communities to strategize on how best to approach the standards. We are proud of our teachers that have created their own curriculum to meet their students need in implementing the Common Core Standards. We are confident in the vision that has been established by or Board of Trustees to ensure that every student is successful by providing the highest quality instruction every day for every child. Our research

based strategies that are being implemented by our amazing teaching staff reinforces our belief that every child can and will be successful academically.

Additionally, we are in year three of our district wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports philosophy. We have systematically worked to change the belief system in our schools from one that focuses on punishments to one that identifies triggers for behavior issues and is proactively establishing rewards and intrinsic motivation. Schools that establish systems with the capacity to implement PBIS with integrity and durability have teaching and learning environments that are:

- •Less reactive, aversive, dangerous, and exclusionary, and
- •More engaging, responsive, preventive, and productive
- •Address classroom management and disciplinary issues (e.g., attendance, tardies, antisocial behavior),
- •Improve supports for students whose behaviors require more specialized assistance (e.g., emotional and behavioral disorders, mental health), and
- •Most importantly, maximize academic engagement and achievement for all students

Our Success is Intentional



Wendy Sinnette
Superintendent

La Cañada Unified School District is a learning community committed to personal growth and academic excellence. Part of the fabric of the community, La Cañada schools inspire a national standard for high academic achievement, citizenship, and student well-being. LCUSD empowers children, educators, families and communities. Our success is intentional.

The district operates three elementary schools and a combined 7-12 school. Current student enrollment is approximately 4100. Each school in the district has developed an “Every Student Succeeds” plan to ensure that all students receive appropriate support in mastering academic standards and in building their full capacities; socially, emotionally, physically and cognitively.

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 La Cañada Educational Foundation which contributes over 2 million dollars annually to the district and the active volunteerism and program support by the PTA at each school site and the Spartan Boosters at LCHS 7-12.

Approximately 99% of graduating seniors enroll in post-secondary schools, with many students attending some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the nation.

The high school (2015) and one elementary school (2013) have been named National Blue Ribbon schools. La Cañada High School 7/8 was named a National Forum “School to Watch” school in 2014, and all four schools have been designated as California Distinguished Schools and as Gold Medal winners by California Business for Education Excellence.

Top 2% in the State



Dr. Daniel D. Stepenosky
Superintendent

Las Virgenes Unified School District consists of eight elementary schools, one K-8 school, three middle schools, two high schools, one continuation high school, one blended learning academy and a district wide preschool program. The District serves more than 11,300 students in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village.

Las Virgenes receives tremendous support from the community as evidenced by the recent renewal of the District’s parcel tax, which passed with 78.8% of the vote. The District is in the process of completing a comprehensive modernization plan utilizing a \$128 million bond passed by our citizens. The cornerstone of the bond activity has been the creation of two cutting edge performing arts education centers that not only support our world-class theater, drama, dance and music programs, but are tremendous instructional platforms as well. They also serve as learning centers for our school community and cultural touchstones for the entire area.

Our API scores rank Las Virgenes in the top two percent in the state. District high schools have received silver medals by *U.S. News and World Report* for “Best High Schools”, and we have been named to the National College Board 5th Annual AP District Honor Roll by expanding our student participation, especially among our subpopulations, in the AP program. Las Virgenes has a wide variety of options for our students that include Dual Immersion, L-STEM, High School International Baccalaureate Program, Arts and Media Academy, a Waldorf-inspired school, blended learning academy, and arts embedded elementary programs.

In Las Virgenes, we strongly value the social and emotional well being of our students and have invested heavily in our counseling staff. We have the lowest student-to-counselor ratio in the region. Please go to our website at www.lvusd.org to learn more about our district.

Uncompromising Commitment



Dr. Michele Bowers
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. Educating Antelope Valley youth since 1881, we continually strive to ensure options and excellence in educational opportunities for the more than 15,000 students that we serve each and every day.

With our new STEAM middle school scheduled to open in Fall 2016, the District will have five middle, thirteen elementary schools and alternative programs that provide home school, a blended virtual academy, and alternative education. In addition, we serve over 700 students in our preschool program. Focused on 21st century skills, college and career readiness, and acquisition of core knowledge, Lancaster School District is a district that is making GREAT things happen for every child – every day!

Educational programs emphasize foundational skills through engaging, standards-based lessons in core content areas. In addition to our core classes, students participate in: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), Music, Foreign Language, Visual and Performing Arts, Sports and other exciting elective programs.

Lancaster School District maintains an uncompromising commitment to provide all students the knowledge and skills that they need to explore a multitude of options for college and career success in the 21st Century. Our district’s Strategic Plan is designed to “chart our course” as we continue to enhance our practices and programs to promote continuous improvement and ensure equity and positive learning experiences for all students.

Raising the Bar for All Students



Dr. Ellen Dougherty
Superintendent

The Lawndale Elementary School District’s first and most important focus is our students; we are deeply committed to raising the bar and closing the learning gaps for all students – that is our moral imperative.

While visiting our schools, it is easy to see evidence that our teachers and support staff focus their daily work and resources on our five District Goals. All staff have a clear and coherent focus on creating a learning environment in which all of our students will be college and career ready in the 21st Century.

Parent engagement is of utmost importance to us. In addition to encouraging students’ learning at home and school, parents are invited to volunteer in classrooms and throughout the schools. Family nights and parent education events are presented at school sites to strengthen our home-to-school relationships.

The Local Control Funding Formula and the Local Control Accountability Plan have given us funds to provide new and/or improved services based on students’ needs. We offer all-day kindergarten and a teacher/student ratio of 24 to 1 in grades TK-3. We have added Social Workers, Community Liaisons, English Learner Specialists, Math Coaches, 5th grade PE Teachers and many other services to support our students and families.

As we move forward with passion and purpose, we are grateful for the help and support provided by numerous community partners. We are fortunate to have created incredible partnerships to benefit the social, emotional, and physical wellness of our students. These partners play an important role as we pool our resources to ensure the success of students. As Helen Keller said, “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”

On the Flight Path to Success



Kent Taylor
Superintendent

The Lennox School District consists of five elementary schools and one middle school. Our staff is hardworking, dedicated and passionate with a vested interest in providing the best education possible to our students. Lennox School District has a history of amazing programs academically as well as in the arts. Our district is located in a 1.3 square mile unincorporated area of Lennox, which is directly east of the Los Angeles International Airport. It serves approximately 5,000 students. Each elementary school offers a school readiness and preschool program. Lennox Enrichment After-School Program (LEAP) is also offered at all of our school sites.

It is an exciting time in Lennox School District as we continue to provide our students with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) experiences in the classroom. Students also learn in 21st century classrooms that are equipped with learning tools such as i-pads and computers that support academic growth. We look forward to opening a School of Engineering in the fall of 2016 at Buford Elementary, Felton Elementary and Lennox Middle School.

Parent involvement is evident in all of our schools. In addition to supporting learning at home, parents volunteer hundreds of hours at our schools. Lennox School District encourages parental involvement at all levels and on each school campus. Each school has a parent center that can assist parents in finding ways to become more involved in their child’s education.

Lennox is a proud District and community with students on the flight path to success.

‘The Long Beach Miracle’



Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent

Our school district was honored to be part of a recent article titled “The Long Beach Miracle,” in which a national magazine described “how the working-class California city saved its schools.”

The article in *The Atlantic*, which was just named America’s best magazine, featured several students who are benefitting from The Long Beach College Promise and other partnerships among the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach.

As I explained in the article, the “miracle” didn’t happen by chance, and it certainly didn’t happen overnight. It is the result of 24 years of collaboration with higher education and other community partners.

“The results have been so stunning that the city was cited by state lawmakers as a model last week when they unveiled a legislative package called the California College Promise,” wrote Lillian Mongeau of the independent, nonprofit Hechinger Report. Hechinger produces in-depth education journalism and distributes it to national media such as *The Atlantic*. “Were they to pass, the collection of bills would make several of Long Beach’s practices into state policy with the aim of sending more California children to and through college,” Mongeau wrote.

The article in the Washington, D.C.-based publication notes Long Beach’s rising test scores and increasing Advanced Placement enrollment, high school graduation rates and college attendance rates “even as the city’s challenging demographics remained almost unaltered.”

If you haven’t seen the full article yet, I encourage you to read it at theatlantic.com. Search for “Long Beach Miracle.”

Thank you to everyone whose hard work continues to make Long Beach so proud of its public schools.

Students First!



Dr. Phillip Perez
Superintendent

The Little Lake City School District continues an illustrious history of educational excellence. Serving the communities of Santa Fe Springs, northern Norwalk and a segment of Downey, the district educates approximately 4,500 students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade at seven elementary schools and two middle schools.

Little Lake is proud of our achievements. Our schools have earned state and national recognition, including: Title I Academic Achievement Awards; California Distinguished Schools; Campaign for Business and Education Excellence Honor Roll; and nominations and achievement as National Blue Ribbon

Award Schools. Most recently, Lakeside Middle School was recognized as a National “School to Watch”; Lake Center will receive the same honor in 2016. Both middle schools were named California Gold Ribbon recipients in 2015. Our focus on learning, collaboration, and results drives our daily work as a Professional Learning Community.

Enhancing a strong core academic program are innovative offerings in the arts, integration of STEM instruction, and an articulated PE program. The personal, emotional and social development of our students is supported through counseling services at all sites, implementation of a districtwide program to address bullying and Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS).


In 2012, our community overwhelmingly passed both a general obligation bond and a parcel tax ensuring students’ continued success by providing new instructional technology for student and faculty use, and modernization of our facilities.

Driving the district’s success are a cohesive and focused governance team, highly qualified teachers and administrators, and a dedicated classified support staff. Parents actively engage with us as partners in educating their children and their support of our schools is reflected in a 97% parent satisfaction rate.

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Collaborating for All Students



Michelle King
Superintendent

Making sure that every student graduates is an overarching priority at L.A. Unified, and it guides our decision-making as we manage one of the nation’s largest and most diverse school districts. By requiring all students to pass the rigorous A-G curriculum and providing them with access to the latest technology, L.A. Unified provides graduates with the skills to be competitive, whether they choose to go straight into the workforce or on to higher education.

This year, we have intensified our efforts to keep our graduation rate on an upward trajectory by investing in creative supports and offering personalized learning opportunities for students. Schools are empowered to create programs that meet the specific needs of their community. We are also creating a unified engagement plan that will make parents, employees and community groups true partners in the education process.

It is essential that we set our students on a track to graduation from the time they enter school. Our network of high-quality options – neighborhood schools, dual-language and career pathways, pilots, magnets and charters – gives families a real choice. We have integrated the arts into the curriculum and are analyzing our approach to supporting middle school students. In addition, our extensive social-emotional learning programs support students on an upward path toward good behavior and citizenship.

There is a renewed sense of energy in L.A. Unified, as we create new strategies to engage the community, balance the budget and get all students to graduation. When we work together to find common ground, we can make things happen that we couldn’t do on our own.

Building the Community through Education



Jonathan Vasquez
Superintendent

The Los Nietos School District is comprised of three K-6 elementary schools and one 7-8 middle school nestled in unincorporated Whittier. It proudly serves a student population that is 95% Hispanic, 40% English Learners, 100% free/reduced lunch, with an ADA under 2,000 students. Through professional development, teacher collaboration, and a tiered level support system, we are helping our diverse student population meet the demands of the 21st Century.

The Los Nietos School District prides itself on its close relationship with the community and is thankful for the support it has shown towards the District. The General Obligation Bonds that were passed with 76% approval rate in 2014 allowed the District to upgrade computer labs, improve wireless technology, create a STEAM Academy at the Los Nietos Middle School, and provide mobile iPad and laptops carts. These technologies are being used at all four schools to augment instruction in the classrooms. The planning phases for classroom modernization projects are almost completed, and renovations will begin early next school year.

The District’s “Healthy Los Nietos” program continues to be a conduit to provide much needed resources to the students and parents in the District through the development of community partnerships. As part of our community outreach, the District has entered into a Joint Use Agreement with the County of Los Angeles to build a County Library on the campus of the middle school, the first such library on a school campus in the L.A. County. The library will serve the students and the community as we work deliberately, collaboratively, and passionately to continue, “Building the Community through Education.”

District of Destination



Dr. Bonnie Bell
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.

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 students in Transitional Kindergarten through eighth grade at five K-6 elementary schools and one intermediate school. All six schools have received the California Distinguished School Award and 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 (TK-6) and instrumental music (6). At the junior high school, a full array of visual and performing arts classes is offered including beginning and advanced band, percussion, drumline, vocal music and drama. Classes are offered in drawing, painting, 3-D design and advanced art. An extensive STEM program is also offered with classes in Design and Modeling, Robotics, Audio Engineering, Green Architecture and Energy and the Environment. Three seasons of after-school sports and after-school enrichment opportunities, such as Science Olympiad, are offered at the junior high school.

There is an emphasis on 21st century learning skills and a vast array of technology is infused at all of the schools to ensure our students have the foundation to be globally competitive. Parents understand that Lowell Joint schools offer the best educational opportunities and as such, we serve as a district of destination for the community.

Students At the Forefront



Paul Gothold
Superintendent

Our focus at Lynwood Unified is our students. We remain committed to a collaborative and comprehensive approach that enhances education, optimizes resources and increases access to support – with students at the heart of everything we do.

As a result, we are seeing extraordinary gains in student achievement. Last year, we ranked second in California in graduating more students of color who have satisfied A-G requirements. More of our graduates are attending institutions of higher education than ever before. Graduation rates at both comprehensive high schools continue to soar.

We are deeply committed to creating lifelong learners who are equipped for success beyond our schools. By aligning our strategic plan with the roll-out of our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), we have been able to transition into statewide educational shifts effectively – while lifting student performance at all levels.

We continue to invest in modernizing and strengthening our technology infrastructure. From increased internet connectivity, widespread access to digital devices, tools and curriculum and facility upgrades, Lynwood Unified provides students with high-quality learning environments that support them as they strive to reach their potential.

Student enrichment opportunities – such as STEM programs, career technical pathways and enhanced art courses – are also expanding to reach more Lynwood students. High school students are able to enroll in engineering and biomedical classes at Lynwood High that afford them college credit. From as early as seventh grade, students have access to PSAT and SAT prep, in their own classrooms. Students can also take film-making classes in fifth grade or join International Baccalaureate (IB) courses at Firebaugh High.

With our students at the forefront, driving every decision made by our Board of Education, administrators, teachers and staff, Lynwood Unified students continue to thrive.

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

325 Peck Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 • 310/3189545 • www.mbusd.org

Coaching Towards Excellence



Dr. Michael D. Matthews
Superintendent

The Manhattan Beach Unified School District recognizes that the most important element in each child’s education is a high quality teacher in every classroom. We therefore celebrate the outstanding teaching already occurring in our district, and we are committed to continual improvement of teaching in every classroom. In the last five years, we are proud of five California Distinguished Schools, six California Gold Ribbon schools, two National Blue Ribbon Schools, two California Teachers of the Year, and a California Principal of the Year. We are proud of all of our amazing teachers and employees, and yet we are devoted to the development of a district culture that believes wholeheartedly in the relentless pursuit of excellence in the classroom.

We are moving toward a coaching model of teaching. When our teachers use Writing Workshop, Reading Workshop, and coaching based math methods, we are reaching each student at their level and coaching them to be their very best. Our student voices have become a more central part of the classroom in all of our classes, as we seek to have them advocate for their own learning. Students have more creative outlets with our MakerSpace activities and new STEM electives.

Our award-winning technology program, our Grammy-Recognized visual and performing arts programs, and our K-12 STEM program that reflects the deep-rooted aerospace legacy of our community are among the many programs that demonstrate MBUSD’s commitment to finding avenues for all students to achieve not just on standardized tests, but to facilitate their success as global citizens in the 21st Century.

Montebello Unified School District

123 S. Montebello Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640 • 323/887-7900 • www.montebello.k12.ca.us

College and Career Prepared



Susanna Contreras Smith
Superintendent

At Montebello Unified School District, we are committed to preparing all students for college and career. As the third largest district in LA County, we serve nearly 30,000 TK-12 and 25,000 adult education students who have access to exceptional programs and services.

We continue to offer engaging and rigorous instruction – aimed at providing students with skills and confidence to continue to move toward educational and professional goals.

Through collaborative partnerships with colleges, universities and industry leaders, MUSD forges ahead with its goal to enroll 50 percent of its students in its 11 career pathways. By integrating college-going course requirements with practical, hands-on learning

experiences, our pathway students can satisfy early college credits, earn industry certifications, and build internship and employment skills before high school graduation.

In 2015, the District’s innovative, student-driven pathways high school, the Applied Technology Center, celebrated its first-ever graduating class. Districtwide, more than 2,100 seniors graduated last year; our 87% grad rate topping county and state averages.

We also expanded College Bound Today, our unique award-winning college preparedness program that focuses on ensuring MUSD students and their parents have the information, resources and support required to effectively plan for higher education. The program has seen nearly 100 percent of participants enroll in college.

MUSD also extended full-day transitional kindergarten and full-day kindergarten programs to all 17 of our elementary schools as part of our ongoing commitment to enhance educational gains for all students.

We look forward to seeing our students continue to excel as they reach their academic, professional and personal potential.

Monrovia Unified School District

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

Innovative Thinking/Steadfast Inquiry



Dr. Katherine Thorossian
Superintendent

The Monrovia Unified School District is the gem set in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Tucked within the neighborhoods of this charming city, each Monrovia public school shines with innovative programs cultivated by expert educators to encourage the increasingly impressive performance of students. The murals painted by students on the walls of our elementary schools reflect the integration of both visual and performing arts in their curriculum. The Spanish and Mandarin dual immersion language programs offering students an opportunity to become bilingual and biliterate by middle school are indicative of the district’s commitment to providing a world-class education: an education with a strong academic foundation through which to navigate beyond known borders with unquenchable curiosity and generosity of spirit.

Monrovia’s students compete at the highest levels in academics and athletics. Whether participating in Academic Decathlons or CIF Championships, our students conduct themselves with the “gracious professionalism” promoted in the *FIRST* Robotics’ competitions hosted at Monrovia High School.

Scholarship requires innovative thinking and steadfast inquiry. These are the skills with which Monrovia’s scholars will be equipped as they forge their path into history. Some may follow the footsteps of Class of 1961 graduate, Thomas Sargent, and earn a Nobel Prize. Others may follow their Grammy winning orchestra teacher, Mr. Tony Ellis. Still others will distinguish themselves in industries we have yet to imagine. Whatever the path they travel, they will have the skill and the will to make a difference.



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A College-Bound Culture



Lillian Maldonado French
Superintendent

The Mountain View School District is a K-8 district located in the heart of the San Gabriel Valley in El Monte. Following our mission of inspiring each student to succeed every day, our 12 schools, alternative education center and Children’s Center/Head Start program are strongly committed to student achievement and character development at all grade levels. A college-bound culture is promoted district-wide among all students and with our parents, through a variety of programs including GEAR Up, the Partnership Scholars Program, Parent Institute for Quality Education, Scholars Savings Program and No Excuses University, all focused on inspiring future collegiate scholars.

In MVSD we are committed to making a positive difference in the life of each student we serve and are dedicated to preparing today’s students and tomorrow’s leaders for success by providing core academics with 21st century skills. From preschool to eighth grade, the number one goal continues to be for all students to achieve their highest potential through effective instructional practices that support improved academic achievement.

MVSD is dedicated to providing a well-balanced quality education to all students through effective instructional leadership, rigorous academic programs and extracurricular enrichment providing challenging and fun ways to extend learning beyond the classroom. Students are consistently challenged by the highest of expectations in supportive learning environments that encourage creative and critical thinking, foster values and respond to the individual needs of each student.

Through teamwork and positive partnerships our employees, parents, families, business and community members actively participate in the educational development of our students, providing them with a solid foundation of skills they make take forward into our every changing world.

College & Career Ready



Dr. Hasmik Danielian
Superintendent

I am fortunate to work with the dedicated staff and deeply engaged parents, students and community allies that comprise Norwalk-La Mirada USD. Our Board’s strong leadership and vision support our Key Focus Areas:

- High-Quality Teaching and Learning Everyday Inside and Outside Classrooms
- Research-Based Practices for Academic and Social Success of All Students
- College and Career Readiness – Pre-K to Adults

It’s an exciting time for NLMUSD students as we expand our music program to ensure all students have access to the arts, deepen our Linked Learning approach through Project Lead the Way programs and dedicated career pathways embracing multiple industry sectors, grow the number of students challenging themselves with AP courses and PSATs, and further integrate AVID curriculum -- this year piloting the program in several elementary schools.

We are on track to realize our 2020 Learning Initiative, equipping all classrooms with 21st century technology integrating a rich blended-learning curriculum. And we look forward to the facility improvements made possible by Measure G -- our local school bond approved in 2014.

We celebrate our students who honor us with state and national recognition, including All-State Honor musical ensemble members, national Project Lead the Way gold medalists and La Mirada Matadores’ first CIF State Division III-AA Football Championship.

At NLMUSD, we are committed to ensuring every student excels academically and grows intellectually and emotionally, leaving NLMUSD prepared for college and career.

Writing is the Ticket



Paul Cordeiro
Superintendent

The Newhall School District continues to concentrate all of its efforts around transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). Those efforts paid off in CAASPP’s inaugural administration with Newhall posting the best results—by every grade and by each subject—in the Santa Clarita Valley. With its last reported API at 905, Newhall has taken its culture of excellence developed in the STAR era and morphed it into the CCSS/CAASPP era.

What this means fundamentally is that Newhall obsesses on what matters most for students. . .research-based pedagogy, ongoing professional development, broad “ownership” of the data, and robust intervention systems that provide extended opportunities for students to attain mastery.

But the true cornerstone of Newhall’s ongoing success is its emphasis on writing, the ultimate higher level thinking skill. Commenced in 2004, the award-winning Coherent Writing Program features a finely articulated K-6 curriculum that teaches students the “architecture” of each type of writing (not just a general application of some version of the writing process), mandates formative assessment at critical intervals, applies common scoring criteria, creates and disseminates annotated anchor papers, and fosters teacher collaboration around improving performance. Year after year, the District’s Writing Committee meets to review and revise the program always working to improve results. As CASSPP requires short answer and brief write responses, a big push this year has been in those two areas, and we are confident of improved performance in 2016. More important, to the extent the CCSS have infused writing in all subject areas (and no less with the Next Generation Science Standards), writing as the driver for student success becomes even more critical.

If there is one key element Districts need to consider in increasing student mastery, it should be writing. Absent that, results are bound to be inconsistent if not flat year to year.

The Palmdale Promise



Raul Maldonado
Superintendent

Our district is leading the way with our new multi-year strategic plan called the Palmdale Promise, which is placing student achievement front and center. This plan will provide a road map for our district to continue providing a 21st century education. The 2015/2016 school year marked the beginning of our commitment to decrease the achievement gap and create stronger opportunities for our students. We are excited to incorporate an innovated approach to education by building on students’ strengths, cultures and languages.

Our overall vision is “Every Student Leaves Ready For Success In High School and beyond: College, Career, the Global World.”

What does it mean to be ready? It means that not only will Palmdale students enter high school prepared to follow a path to eligibility for college; they will have self-confidence and initiative. Students will demonstrate the skills, dispositions, and capacities that are required for success in today’s global economy and environment.

The Promise does not stop there, throughout the couple of months our board and staff will focus on modernizing all of our 20 plus campuses to be more technologically advanced. Each campus will be equipped with interactive white boards, Chrome books, iPads, updated computer labs, and audio systems just to name a few. Our facilities will be focused on achieving academic initiatives, while supporting our Palmdale Promise.

We are excited to take on this new chapter in Palmdale and watch our students soar! If you are around our area, I invite you to stop by and view for yourself the wonderful things that are taking place in our district.

Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District

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

Raising the Bar



Dr. Donald Austin
Superintendent

The ninetieth year of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District is off to a great start! This includes recognition as a District of Distinction, CSBA Golden Bell recipient, National Blue Ribbon winner, Golden Ribbon acknowledgement, and top national rankings. We have worked diligently to provide a more consistent academic program across the Palos Verdes Peninsula, most notably demonstrated by our K-8 mathematics adoption. The benefits of implementing a rigorous mathematics curriculum are already showing positive results and serve as another example of how we can improve powerful teaching and learning when we all work together. Further, it is a testimony to the dedicated and outstanding teaching staff of the PVPUSD.

Online Courses: We believe that a World Class school district should expose our students to a variety of instructional delivery models. Heading into 2016, we believe it is our responsibility to control the quality of online courses for our students. Our teachers have worked tirelessly to prepare an online program appropriate for our students with rigor and the ability to ensure the content and quality our families would expect from us. More information can be found at pvpusd.net/online

Resource and Energy Responsibility: The Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District is sensitive about California's drought and has taken steps to dramatically reduce water usage. We are also aware that many districts have shifted electrical demands to solar power. Our recent Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) will create over \$6 million in savings, provide shade structures on campuses, and will produce roughly 70% of the power needed to operate our schools with no capital outlay. More information can be found at pvpusd.net/solar

Military Partners: We are pleased that Assemblyman Hadley authored AB306, removing restrictions for active military families to pursue school district transfers. More information can be found at pvpusd.net/ab306

Pasadena Unified School District

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

Planning for the Future



Dr. Brian McDonald
Superintendent

The Board of Education and district leadership are committed to providing students with a world class education, as reflected in the many contributions of our prominent graduates. To that end, we have developed a five year strategic plan to provide a road map for our future. One of our top priorities is integrating our strategic directives, our theory of action, our graduate profile, and key initiatives. PUSD is making investments in our staff and redirecting resources to the classroom in order to make the changes necessary for students to remain competitive globally. Embedded in this new framework is a Tiered Model for School Support that enhances academic programs and services. Our focus for the 2016-17 academic year will be on six schools specified in the grouped tiers.

In order to change and grow, it is essential to cultivate collaborative partnerships driven by a shared commitment to student achievement. Strong teacher-student relationships and district-family relationships are vital. PUSD seeks to actively listen and learn by surveying our parents and communities so that as the district evolves, our programs reflect the interests of the families served, are student focused, and create the type of outcomes needed to achieve our graduate profile. The survey results will come to the Board in early summer 2016 for discussion and consideration.

From General George Patton to Jackie Robinson, Pasadena graduates have been and will continue to be change agents in the communities that we serve and the world in which we live.

Paramount Unified School District

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

Ensuring Learning & Success for Students



Dr. Ruth Pérez
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 – We Inspire Great Learning through Great Teaching." 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 2 Districts in terms of API point gains for 2013 and continues to advance. Across the state, Paramount ranked in the top 4 out of 161 districts with enrollment of 10,000 or more. Additionally, we have garnered affirmation of our quality programs with the Schools to Watch program recognition for Zamboni, Alondra and Leona Jackson Middle Schools, and a CDE recognition for Buena Vista High School as a Model Continuation High School.

The "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.

Our instructional focus includes Common Core State Standards, PLC Collaboration, Response to Intervention, Safe and Civil Schools, Learning Walks, Academic Core Coaches at all schools as well as K-12 Counselors, all of which is coordinated in support of preparing our students for College and Career Readiness.

Pomona Unified School District

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

Award-Winning Schools & District



Richard L. Martinez
Superintendent

The Pomona Unified School District (PUSD) has been honored with seven *Gold Ribbon Awards* by the California Department of Education, and has been named a *District of Distinction* by the publication, *District Administration*.

PUSD is a 21st century *Future-Ready* school district with cutting-edge technology and innovative programs. Fully-equipped computer labs serve students from preK-high school. Our *Tots, Teachers, and Technology* program for 3-4 year olds has been honored nationally for introducing computers in a child's early learning years.

Dual Language Immersion Programs are offered in English/Spanish and English/Mandarin for Kindergarten-2nd grade. Our elementary schools promote a culture of college-readiness and social-emotional support. Partnerships with Pomona College, Cal Poly Pomona, the University of La Verne, and Western University, expose students in grades K-6 to science, robotics, computer coding, health and nutrition, athletics, and theater arts.

Pomona's secondary schools have been recognized with *Gold Ribbon* awards for programs ranging from robotics (Emerson), to Special Education (Ganesha High), family engagement (Garey High), AVID (Pomona High), the arts (Lorbeer), studies in the Health Sciences (Palomares Academy), and student support (Simons).

PUSD students have the option of National Academy Foundation career academies, from the Palomares Academy of Health Sciences, the Fremont Academy of Engineering and Design, or Village Academy's Information Technology providing career pathways in film and computer science.

As a *District of Distinction*, PUSD's award-winning schools are providing its students and community with the academic options and innovative support to prepare students for success in the 21st Century.

The State-of-the-Art



Dr. Steven E. Keller
Superintendent

The state-of-the-art RBUSD 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 truly transformative district serves more than 9,200 K-12 students and despite declining enrollment trends throughout California, RBUSD continues to grow as a result of the synergy created between community and schools. We attribute the enrollment increase to: 1) great teaching and student engagement; and 2) the passages of a \$145 million construction bond in 2008 and a solar and technology bond in 2012 aimed at providing modern instructional tools for each RBUSD student and staff member, while concurrently relieving the district’s general fund. The support of the Redondo Beach community have made RBUSD the finest school district in the South Bay!

Continued forward progress has been the ongoing focal point for the Board of Education, the administration, and the staff. Establishing data-driven educational programs, examining utilization of resources, and enhancing community and city relationships have secured a stronger commitment to better serve the total needs of all our students in our fine schools. RBUSD has also created community-focused health programs and movements. 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 RBSUD.

Redondo Beach USD is just that, unified. Students, parents, and staff model schooling and learning that is collaborative, rigorous, and transformational—this is what makes RBUSD great! We are proud of our excellent Parent Teacher Association and 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 Reaching for Greatness.

Rowland Unified School District

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

Preparing Students for the Future



Dr. Julie Mitchell
Superintendent

It is an exciting time for both students and educators in the Rowland Unified School District as an investment has been made in new technology and innovative instruction to better prepare our students for college and career readiness. As Superintendent, I am proud of the groundwork that has been made in establishing instructional support teams to guide enaging, rigorous and relevant instruction in our classrooms, and a massive investment in technology resources to further develop 21st century skills in our students.

The District is well known for its commitment to excellence. This commitment is not only to students, but also to teachers, support staff, administrators and the community at large. We are proud of our award-winning schools and signature programs that include:

- International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools
- Spanish Dual Immersion Programs starting in Kindergarten
- National No Excuses University College Culture and AVID Schools
- Transitional Kindergarten across the District
- Advanced Placement and Honors classes, athletics, music, enrichment opportunities and support services for students to succeed.
- Our graduates attend the nation’s leading universities and last year earned more than \$3 million in scholarships and grants.

RUSD is proud that our community supports education with the passing of the Measure R 2012 Bond to support our Facilities Master Plan through renovating, modernizing, and building new buildings at schools across the District. Our educational facilities include state-of-the-art science labs, and the technology infrastructure needed for our students to perform at the highest levels.

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

Our Lighthouse Leadership teams invite 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 in April, 2016.

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

San Gabriel Unified School District

408 Junipero Serra Drive, San Gabriel, CA 91776 • 626/451-5400 • www.sgusd.k12.ca.us

Our Children’s Future is Our Mission



Dr. John Pappalardo
Superintendent

San Gabriel Unified School District has an honored history of serving San Gabriel and the greater area. The District has its roots back nearly 150 year to 1868 when it was founded. Today, SGUSD is proud of their students and staff and their many accomplishments. Each of our schools are award winning and offer many opportunities for all students:

Gabrielino High: Nationally ranked top 10 Speech and Debate team; AP Program: courses offered in all STEM areas, English, and Social Science/History; Champion Athletics-Girls’ Volleyball, Girls’ Soccer, Boys’ Basketball, Swimming; VAPA Program-Art classes, band, orchestra, choir and drama

Del Mar High: Model Continuation High School; Peer Helping and Youth Outreach program; California History Day Team

Jefferson Middle: Award winning Mock Trial Program; Speech and Debate; Robust Music programs; Band, Orchestra, Choir; Excellent Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program

Coolidge Elementary: 4th & 5th Grade Media Club; Meet the Masters Art Program; California Distinguished School (2012-2017)

McKinley Elementary: Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program; Technology Based Math Intervention Program; English Language Arts-Response to Intervention Program

Roosevelt Elementary: Music Immersion Experience Program (TK – 3rd grade); Speech and Debate Team (Champions! 3rd – 5th grade); Roosevelt Readers Program (1st – 3rd grade with San Gabriel Rotary); Big Brothers/Big Sister program (3rd – 5th grade)

Washington Elementary: ARTFest; VEX Robotics; Coding Enrichment Club
Wilson Elementary: Schoolwide implementation of Conscious Discipline; Variety and Instrumental Performances; Reading Buddies

SGUSD has a robust Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), where over \$5 million is invested in additional programs so that all children will succeed.

San Marino Unified School District

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

Leading With Experience



Dr. Alex Cherniss
Superintendent

Dr. Cherniss joined the San Marino Unified School District in July 2014 following his position as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). Dr. Cherniss also serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California, where he earned his Ed.D. in 2008. In his prior role, as CFO at LACOE, Dr. Cherniss certified the budgets of all 80 school districts in Los Angeles County, which included over \$13 billion in fiscal oversight. He routinely instructed superintendents and school business officials throughout the county on the new state funding and accountability laws and procedures, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

Dr. Cherniss has held leadership positions for more than ten years, beginning in the Beverly Hills Unified School District, where as principal of Hawthorne School (K-8), he led the school to the highest API score in the district and achieved a California Distinguished School honor. As Director of Human Resources and Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Dr. Cherniss successfully served in a variety of leadership roles including the mentoring of site administrators, the fiscal management of the district's \$330 million school construction program, and the establishment and facilitation of the district's Finance Committee and the Basic Aid Special Reserve Fund.

His other professional accomplishments include having been named the American Association of School Administrators Education Scholar, the USC Dean's Superintendents Advisory Group Scholar, and the Beverly Hills Unified School District Administrator of the Year.

Saugus Union School District

24930 Avenue Stanford, Santa Clarita, CA 91355 • 661/294-5300 • www.saugusud.org

More Than a Century of Excellence



Dr. Joan Lucid
Superintendent

Saugus Union School District is proud of more than a century of excellence in elementary education. Our Governing Board, administrators, teachers and support staffs are dedicated to academic and personal success for every student.

We celebrate academic excellence with fourteen of our fifteen schools designated as California Gold Ribbon Schools, as well as thirty-four California Distinguished Schools awards, five as National Blue Ribbon Schools and one as a Title 1 Achieving School. Our teachers and staffs embrace 21st Century learning with Communication, Creativity, Collaboration and Critical Thinking as part of daily routines.

- Our District Goals articulate our commitment to excellence:
- Direct Instruction – Clean, first teach lessons with meaningful, rigorous activities that engage students and ensure in-depth understanding.
 - Systematic ELD – Specific strategies that address the needs of English Language Learners and 30 minutes of daily instruction.
 - Common Core Standards – High quality professional development that increases expertise and skills.
 - District Events – Junior Toastmasters, Math Field Day and Festival of the Arts showcase student learning, talents and abilities.
 - Communication – Communication through Facebook, online newsletters, email and traditional meetings and conferences.
 - Facilities – Voter approved Measure EE, \$148 million dollar bond that addresses the district's facilities needs in building 21st century classrooms.
- Saugus Union School District in partnership with the home and community is committed to excellence in elementary education. Our Governing Board encourages our efforts, supports our endeavors and takes great pride in our accomplishments.

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

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

Pursuing Excellence through Equity



Sandra Lyon
Superintendent

It is an exciting time in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District as we are finalizing new 21st century classroom technology installations, working to strengthen our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals and commitments and focusing our attention on equity and access for all students.

Issues of equity and access are high profile in school districts across the country including ours. In order to ensure that we are addressing any barriers for success, we have engaged this year in an equity review. This analysis of our instructional program will help us ensure that all students in our district have access and opportunities to succeed in each of our schools and at every level. We understand that we must provide a student-centered learning climate, encourage and support a strong connection with parents and the community and provide ongoing development of the professional capacity of staff. Each and every staff member must have buy-in to drive widespread change.

As we focus on equity through excellence, we also maintain our focus on the whole child. We continue to offer an exceptional visual and performing arts program for TK-12 students. We also know that climate is critical and our schools offer many supports for our students from the Olweus anti-bullying program, to mindfulness and restorative justice.

Our mission statement is "Extraordinary achievement for all students while simultaneously closing the achievement gap." With our focus on equity and access for all students while supporting the whole child, we are well-positioned to achieve our goals.

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Superior Educational Programs



Dr. Geoff Yantz
Superintendent

The South Pasadena Unified School District 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, administrators, 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 South Pasadena schools, as evidenced by the extensive school modernization programs and the recent renewal of the Measure S Parcel Tax, which provides much needed funds for student programs.

Each school site benefits from strong, effective Parent Teacher Student Associations, as well as the support of the South Pasadena Educational Foundation, the City of South Pasadena, and numerous other volunteer community organizations. The synergy created by these close relationships has built a community that can be proud of the many awards bestowed upon its schools. For the first time, all five schools in South Pasadena hold California Distinguished Schools designations. Four of the five schools have seen gains in their Academic Performance Index (API) scores for 2012-2013. The High School's Academic Decathlon Team, in only its third year of existence, scored 1st Place in Los Angeles County in this year's State competition. The SPHS Virtual Business team were National Champions in 2014. The high school also boasts seven National Merit Semi-Finalists and one Gates Millennium Scholar. The South Pasadena Middle School achieved 1stPlace in 2015 in the International Kangaroo Math Competition. This is just a small sample of the many academic achievements and accolades of the students of South Pasadena, and speaks nothing of the phenomenal CIF fall season for sports such as Girls Basketball, Boys Soccer and the volunteerism displayed through blood drives, and fundraising drives for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Award Winning 21st Century Schools



Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi
Superintendent

Sulphur Springs Union School District (SSUSD), home of nine-award winning preschool through grade 6 schools, is honored to provide academic excellence for its outstanding 5,400 students. The District takes pride in the fact that all staff collaborates to ensure that every student is learning in an environment that is nurturing and focused on high expectations for all.

The Board of Trustees and staff are committed to making sure that all classrooms are equipped with State-of-the-Art technology. Every child has access to iPads as well as working with SMART boards. In addition to the 1:3 ratio of iPads in every classroom, students are engaged in Robotics and Computer Coding Classes. It is the District's commitment to make sure that when students leave SSUSD and go to high school that they are well prepared for college and career.

In addition to having a highly trained teaching staff, all students are assured to receive an outstanding education that is focused on the California State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards. Students continue to thrive in an academically rich environment that supports and enhances student engagement.

Increasing family and community engagement is also a top priority for the District. The Principals and District Staff continue to collaborate to create opportunities for all students, and work on bringing community resources into the schools where needed.

The SSUSD is "Family-Centered" and will continue to embrace every child and stakeholder to be part of a community of learners in the District.

Success for Every Student



Gail Baxter
Superintendent

The South Whittier School District is celebrating 101 years of excellence this year. As our motto, "Success for Every Student", suggests we believe that given the right opportunities every child can be reached and learn. Students are taught by our highly trained and dedicated staff to think creatively and to work collaboratively with their peers to solve problems. We believe in "thinking big" and making the seemingly impossible, possible.

As is outlined in our LCAP our focus for this year falls under five key goals:

- 1) Create a learning environment where students feel safe and can grow and flourish as they develop skills needed in order to be competitive in the 21st Century global market
- 2) Provide opportunities and support for students including the necessary technological resources needed for success, as they develop and expand their knowledge across a broad course of study which will prepare them for college and the workforce
- 3) Increase professional development opportunities for all staff to develop and hone personal skills and to ensure high-quality instructions is provided to all students
- 4) Strengthen communications with parents and community members to provide resources and opportunities for parents to provide meaningful input into their student's education
- 5) Provide a comprehensive system of support services to facilitate student success, both academically and personally

Learning Today...Leading Tomorrow



Kathryn E. Perini
Superintendent

Our District serves the educational needs of nearly 6,000 students in Transitional Kindergarten through 12th grade. In addition to our shared emphasis on fostering a rigorous and relevant academic environment, each of our seven schools reaffirms the importance of partnerships with families and the broader community. As a former student, teacher, counselor and administrator in the award-winning Temple City Unified School District, I have been provided with a unique perspective into what is possible when students are afforded an environment in which they are taught that anything is possible.

College and career orientations, personal development and character education are some of our primary emphases as we work collectively to afford our students the skills necessary to be confident competitors in the 21st century global marketplace. We continue to formulate opportunities for students enabling them to value the process of learning as they explore, discover and develop competencies in the expression of their views and opinions within a collaborative context. The development of strong critical thinking skills is accentuated through our expansion of digital learning and STEM/STEAM offerings for all students.

We believe Stanford University Professor Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond says it best in her book The Flat World and Education: "The new mission of schools is to prepare students to work in jobs that do not yet exist, creating ideas and solutions to products and problems that have not yet been identified, using technologies that have not been invented." In TCUSD, we are excited about the current educational transformation that will require all of us to take on new and expanding roles as we explore the potentials of teaching and learning.

Focus On Student Success



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 over 80 different languages.

Student achievement is further advanced in our District through the dynamic leadership of our administrators and tireless efforts of our classified employees. TUSD is truly a family of people who are invested in the academic, social, and emotional success and well-being of all our students. I am so proud of the hard work, day in and day out that our faculty and staff put into educating Torrance students.

Classroom learning needs be supported at home by parents. TUSD is fortunate to have an involved and engaged parent community. In order to better prepare parents to be their child's champion and advocate, we host several events to provide parents with the resources they need to ensure their child's ongoing academic success.

Inspiring Students to Be Their Best



Dr. Robert P. Taylor
Superintendent

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

Our hard-working WVUSD schools, in the midst of significant changes by state and federal oversight to the curriculum, instruction, and assessment programs, continue to experience high gains in academic achievement. We recently earned the highest test scores of any school district with a minimum of 12,000 students in all of L.A. County.

This past year, our students, staff, and schools were distinguished with top awards including three California Gold Ribbon Schools, Schools to Watch, Civic Learning Award of Excellence, National Merit Scholars, National Orchestra Cup, CIF champions, and more. Additionally, WVUSD's high performing schools were ranked #1 in Southern California in the Best School District for Your Buck report.

WVUSD earned an A+ grade, ranking #149 in the nation and #14 in California in the Niche 2016 Best School District report. We are also one of only 33 school districts in the state to receive an A+ grade out of more than 1,000 California school districts.

We appreciate the ongoing support from our Walnut Valley community with volunteers donating time and resources to enrich the educational experience of our students.

We strive to develop first-rate learning facilities and recently celebrated state-of-the-art modernization at Chaparral Middle School made possible by voter approval of Bond Measures S and Y.

Thank you for reading *School News!*
www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

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.

Exciting Opportunities Ahead



Dr. Charles D. Hinman
Superintendent

As the 2015-2016 school year begins to wind down, I am already excited by opportunities we will be offering students next school year!

We will be moving into our second year of candidacy for International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program (MYP) from grades 6 through 10 and Primary Years Program (PYP) from Kinder to grade 5 to complement our existing IB Diploma Program at Edgewood High School. When these schools do become official IB programs, West Covina Unified will be one of the few districts in the State to have the IB Program as a K-12 continuum. At West Covina High School, the Board has approved the Advance Placement Capstone Program which will provide an AP Diploma for an already robust AP curriculum.

Another opportunity for our students that has been well received is the Dual Immersion Program happening at Monte Vista and Orangewood Elementary Schools. Beginning in kindergarten this year, students were immersed in two languages throughout their learning day, with Spanish as the foreign language. Next year the program will be run at both the kindergarten and first grade levels.

We are also placing a special emphasis to expand our College and Career Readiness Program by not only offering more post-high school choices for our seniors, but to give underclassmen a chance to plan ahead. Using state of the art technology, even middle school children can begin to consider life goals in the area of college and career.

I look forward to continue working with the School Board in helping West Covina Unified become a great professional learning community.

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

As we continue to help our students achieve success as 21st Century learners, we have upgraded their access to technology by expanding our available hardware and software as well as major revisions to our connectivity. Our newest schools have become the model for the remaining schools in the district, some that were built in the 50's, as to how staff and students can utilize technology in their daily instruction as well as learning about the ready access they now have to endless information. Students participate in many web-based programs for all subjects, use various apps and the District has concentrated its effort with students through the use of programs such as Fast For Word, Project Lead the Way and several other programs in science and math in particular.

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-- both have been operational for 2 years, and we've added a 6th grade Honors Academy, too.

We are fortunate to continue receiving community support for extracurricular and academic programs from 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, leadership camps, 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 Union High School District

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

Foundation for Ongoing Student Success



Sandy Thorstenson
Superintendent

The Whittier Union High School District is a high-achieving school district that does whatever it takes to ensure student achievement, while supporting teachers as they implement rigorous programs and educate our future leaders. Through embracing and fostering a culture of collaboration, inclusiveness and transparency, Whittier Union has set the foundation for its ongoing student success.

Whittier Union serves more than 13,000 ethnically diverse students at five award-winning comprehensive high schools, a model continuation school and an independent study program, as well as an adult school with more than 7,000 students, with every school continually demonstrating sustained academic growth.

Nearly 96 percent of students are graduating from our comprehensive high schools, which have an incredible low 2.7 percent dropout rate. Students in grades 10 to 12 have maintained the highest On Target for Graduation rates in District history. Nearly 91 percent of juniors and 97 percent of seniors are on track to graduate, and 54.6 percent are completing all courses required for entrance into four-year universities. Attendance rates exceed 96 percent, reflecting school cultures that are safe, nurturing and promote student success.

The number of students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) classes has increased from 8 percent in 2002 to 21 percent in 2015, with the number of AP tests taken growing from 1,284 to 4,344 in the same time span. More than 90 percent of graduates enroll in two- or four-year colleges. The District's achievement gap also narrowed from 35 percent to 8 percent in the last decade.

These achievements would not be possible without our teachers, staff, administrators and Board of Trustees, who have developed a culture that is deeply rooted in collaboration and the belief that demographics do not determine destiny. Whittier Union flourishes across demographics, proving that we don't have pockets of excellence, but widespread excellence.

Whittier City School District

7211 S. Whittier Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602 • 562/789-3075 • www.whittiercity.net

Students First, Every Decision, Every Day



Dr. Ron Carruth
Superintendent

Whittier City School District's motto, "Students First, Every Decision, Every Day" exemplifies our commitment to providing our students with the greatest opportunities for their success within a nurturing and respectful learning environment. With support from our families and community, Whittier City School District is dedicated to creating schools that capture the interest of students through highly engaged learning environments, the development of critical thinking, and the application of 21st Century Skills.

First and foremost is our commitment to student learning linked to the Common Core Standards, fostering collaboration, perseverance, and problem solving coupled with reading and writing across the curriculum. To support this goal and to promote innovative teaching, WCSD has launched a 1:1 iPad environment for students and staff. The foundation for all of our work is ongoing professional development supported by a collaborative culture at each school. Our teachers work diligently to design an outstanding curricular program with comprehensive support systems for struggling students.

Beyond our high quality instructional programs, we offer many innovative themed academies: Mill School Technology Academy, an Apple Distinguished School, Daniel Phelan Language Academy, which offers a dual immersion program, Hoover Fine Arts Academy, Sorensen Science Academy and Edwards STEM Academy. Outstanding academic programs have yielded impressive achievement gains and noteworthy distinctions. Andrews School was named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School and four Whittier City School District schools were named 2016 California Gold Ribbon Schools: Andrews School, Mill School and Technology Academy, Daniel Phelan Language Academy, and Sorensen Science Academy.

Whittier City School District is a great place for our students and families!

William S. Hart Union High School District

21380 Centre Pointe Parkway, Santa Clarita, CA 91350 • 661/259-0033 • www.hartdistrict.org

College and Career Ready



Vicki Engbrecht
Superintendent

The William S. Hart Union High School District is located in the Santa Clarita Valley, in northern Los Angeles County, and serves students in grades 7-12. The District is committed to ensuring that students are college and career ready. More than 90% of Hart District graduates continue their education after high school in four-year colleges or universities, community colleges, or career technical programs.

Academically, the District consistently ranks in the top tier of districts of its size in California. In 2013, U.S. News recognized seven District high schools in the top 1,000 in their annual "Best High Schools in America" report. Outstanding extra-curricular programs, including athletics and performing arts, are available on all campuses, and are regionally, state, and nationally recognized for their excellence.

A variety of educational options are provided. Nearly 23,000 students are enrolled in the six comprehensive high schools, six junior high schools, a California Model Continuation school, a "Middle College" high school, an independent study school, a home school support program, an adult school, a "Sober Academy," a therapeutic school, and a Regional Occupational Program.

The Hart District has strong partnerships with the local community college and the City of Santa Clarita. Academy of the Canyons, a partnership between the college and the District, allows students to take college courses while completing high school graduation requirements, and students enrolled on our comprehensive high school campuses take more than 1000 college courses each year through concurrent enrollment. For the last 4 years, the District has partnered with the City to launch "Drug Free Youth in Town" (DFYIT). Currently over 2000 students-strong, the club empowers teens to promote a drug and alcohol free lifestyle among their peers.

Wilsona School District

18050 E. Avenue O, Palmdale, CA 93591 • 661/264-111 • www.wilsonasd.net

Focused On Student Success



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 1310 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 one of the highest poverty rates.

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 want to provide the best educational opportunities for our students. 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.

Wiseburn Unified School District

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

Celebrating 120 Years of Innovation



Dr. Tom Johnstone
Superintendent

After 119 years as a K-8 district, Wiseburn finally graduated on July 1, 2014 to become the K-12 Wiseburn Unified School District! As a K-12 district, Wiseburn shares a very unique and innovative school district/charter partnership that takes advantage of the very best educational opportunities offered by both methods. With approximately 4,000 students and 8 schools, Wiseburn continues to enjoy the benefits of being one of the “small” districts in Los Angeles County. Diversity with balance is one of Wiseburn’s greatest strengths and in the past few years we have virtually eliminated the achievement gap.

In August 2009, Wiseburn chartered two independent high school charters, Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design, to offer Wiseburn families a high school option for the first time in our district’s history. The Da Vinci Schools excel academically using project-based learning and strong support from local aerospace corporations. In August 2011, Da Vinci Schools launched the K-8 Innovation Academy, which provides a two-day per week program that targets the home school student population. In 2013, Da Vinci launched a third high school program, Da Vinci Communications with a Liberal Arts and “coding” focus.

Capitalizing on the Wiseburn community’s approval of an \$87 million school construction bond in November 2010, the district purchased a 13.7 acre site in El Segundo in September 2012. In November 2014, the State Allocation Board approved \$52.7 in charter school state matching funds that will enable us to complete the \$150 million Wiseburn High School construction project by August 2017! On August 24, 2015, we held a Ground Breaking Ceremony attended by more than 500 guests. We are off and running!

Whole Health Everyday Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put LA County in the subject line)

Entries must be received by November 15, 2016
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

ALKALINE	HEALTH	NUTS
ALMONDS	HUMMUS	PROTEIN
APPLES	KALE	SALMON
CARROTS	LEMONS	SEEDS
CHICKEN	MINERALS	VEGETABLES
FIBER	NATURAL	VITAMINS
FRUITS	NOURISH	WATER

Congratulations to Steven Tram
Winner of the 2015 Word Search Contest!

A	D	I	C	F	Q	R	H	F	G	V	D	Z	J	C
T	L	T	G	V	P	M	R	S	D	N	O	M	L	A
E	O	K	J	Y	Z	S	P	N	I	S	T	U	N	R
Y	X	O	A	H	A	R	C	I	S	N	E	H	U	R
O	G	S	D	L	F	H	B	M	T	O	A	E	T	O
H	L	N	M	Q	I	Y	I	A	I	U	Y	K	D	T
B	B	O	O	C	B	N	A	T	U	R	A	L	M	S
R	N	M	K	K	E	I	E	I	R	I	F	H	B	F
V	D	E	A	R	R	E	D	V	F	S	Z	S	G	C
U	N	L	A	E	H	T	L	A	E	H	H	C	I	Y
F	E	L	T	C	K	O	H	L	I	M	N	Z	O	F
A	S	A	P	R	W	R	P	E	D	O	T	W	F	N
O	W	P	R	V	C	P	Y	X	R	U	U	G	W	K
V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	S	E	R	K	W	H

A Bit of History

By D.H. Coop

The Jazz Age: The Roaring Twenties

In American social history, the 1920s period is often overshadowed by the Great War, Prohibition and the Stock Market Crash of 1929. Yet, it was a period of sudden change in the home, on the road, in the economy, in attitudes, and in behavior. These changes seem so second nature to us today that we think they have always been around.

Starting in the home we can see changes in workload, entertainment, and travel spread across the social environment. Prior to the '20s, the housewife scheduled her work according to the days of the week. Washing was done by hand and took all day, along with preparing the meals and caring for the children. Her workload was lightened with new time-saving devices, such as the electric vacuum cleaner, the electric refrigerator and stove, and the electric iron.

Also, the radio changed home entertainment. Before the radio, communities were informed of the local news by the newspaper or gossip at the market or pub. Now it was broadcast (a word from farming for scattering seeds by hand) right in their front rooms, along with other programs. Family entertainment then shifted from board games and singing to sitting and listening to the radio. As the price of the radio dropped, the children moved off to their own rooms with their very own radios. During the day, the programs were centered on housewives and sponsored by soap companies, thus the birth of the "soap opera."

Availability of the automobile changed all aspects of life. It provided the housewife with more independence and a more convenient way to do her shopping. Automobiles required better roads and better roads cost money, which caused a shift from railroads to automobiles being the force driving the economy. Restaurants became roadside cafes, hotels became motels, and crime became more mobile. To get the car into everyone's hands, Henry Ford produced the Model T from 1914 to 1927 with the sales pitch of "in any color (black)." Ford outsold all other carmakers until 1927. General Motors allowed credit and sold cars in multiple colors, finally overtaking the Model T in sales.

Credit shifted the sales pitch. Advertising became more scientific, with research and studies. Slogans and sayings were rooted in the '20s, such as "Say it with flowers" and "Don't light three cigarettes with one match." Advertising was given a boost with the Silver Screen and the images it portrayed in dress and style.

Finally, the '20s saw the development of sports and entertainment on a mass scale. Baseball became a national spectator sport. The local bar became a speakeasy that respectable couples could go to and have a drink. The new drink to appeal to women was called the "cocktail"—drinks with decorations. The drinks required illegal alcohol, which was provided by bootleggers in fast cars, which gave birth to the modern race called National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR).

All in all, the 1920s changed the modern home, transportation, the economy, and social life.



Fluoroscope

If you lived in the United States from the 1930s to the early 1950s, shopping with your mother was not an adventure for young children. The only thing for those of us who were young was getting into trouble by asking questions or wandering off and getting lost in the store. Yet, there was that one day that the shopping trip was a step into a world of wonder and amazement, and that was the trip to the shoe store.

The salesperson would take you over to a machine that measured your feet scientifically, measuring the length and width of your foot for the perfect fit. At the huge machine, you would stick your feet into the base, look into a view port at the top of the machine, and see with Superman vision the bones in your feet. Other children would stand around the machine waiting for a turn to see their feet or each other's hands. The machine was a place of wonder and excitement, and it often turned into a fight over who would be next.

Machines like these showed up in the 1920s for a variety of medical problems. The shoe fluoroscope was advertised as visual proof that fitting your child's feet with shoes was done with scientific precision. Early in the 1920s, concerns were raised about the exposure to X-rays. Yet, real concerns only came after the atom bomb was dropped on Japan and radiation concerns became more evident. Real warnings were published in 1948. Then, in 1953, more warnings were reported, and the Food and Drug Administration placed a ban on the machines. Pennsylvania was the first state to ban the use of the machines in 1957. The one in use in the United States was in Boston in the 1970s.

I still have fond memories of visiting the shoe store and the machine that had nothing to do with the way my shoes fit. The only reason for the machine was to entice mothers and their children to the shoe store by giving us the thrill of seeing the bones in our feet, just like Superman.



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