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# School News

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# LA County 2022 — 2023

**K-12  
Public Schools**

# Superintendents

**15th  
Edition**

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## Balfour Beatty

[balfourbeattyus.com](http://balfourbeattyus.com)

## Keeping Our Students Safe, Healthy and Engaged in Learning



**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



This is our 15th edition highlighting each of the district superintendents in the Los Angeles County K-12 public schools. Our mission is to introduce each superintendent with their brief message to encourage you to visit their individual web sites for in-depth information.

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

To enjoy our publications covering individual districts, please visit our web site [www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com).

## School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

**15th Annual Edition**  
Covering the  
**Los Angeles County Public Schools**  
**K-12 Superintendents**

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**Dr. Debra Duardo**  
Superintendent

I am honored to welcome you to the *School News Roll Call* Los Angeles County Superintendents Issue for 2022-23.

Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, our education communities continue to rise to the extraordinary challenges brought by this health crisis. The pandemic underscored the vital and unique role of public education in our society.

A school is more than a place to learn. For many students, it is a place that supports their physical, mental and emotional needs.

In this special annual edition, you will find valuable information about your school districts and the efforts to keep students safe, healthy, and engaged in learning. You will learn how districts promote educational excellence with in-person and virtual learning, and how educators provide hope and determination to see students succeed through COVID-19 and beyond.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) is the nation's largest regional education agency. We support and protect the education and wellbeing of LA County's 2 million children across 80 school districts — always through an equity lens.

We provide services in many ways. In addition to supporting the 80 school districts, we operate programs and schools that educate and serve the county's at-promise students, including justice-involved youth, students experiencing homelessness and young people in foster care. We work with children from an early age, serving about 11,000 children and their families each year through California's largest Head Start early learning and state programs. Finally, we offer young people unique learning experiences through our top-performing Los Angeles County High School for the Arts and the award-winning International Polytechnic High School.

Over the past two years, the COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the unique role LACOE plays in providing services, guidance, and advocacy for LA County's education community.

Throughout the pandemic, LACOE's top priority has been to support our 80 districts and charter schools in addressing the disruption to school services and learning. We address the anxiety, fear, separation and uncertainty students and families experience, along with and the needs of students, educators and staff at the community and countywide levels.

LACOE offers tools and resources to help districts successfully navigate the crisis and keep schools open. We provide childcare through our Head Start program, connect families with food services through our Nutrition Services and Community Schools, and support in-person and virtual learning through professional development.

A key LACOE priority is the physical and mental wellbeing of students. I recently announced the appointment of a chief of wellbeing and support services who oversees our programs that focus on student mental health. We are expanding the Employee Assistance Services for Education program, which provides counseling for school employees.

Additionally, we launched a professional development series that provides educators with tools to teach and create social-emotional learning skills. We partnered with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health on a new program that helps schools recover from the pandemic with grants to teachers, schools, and districts.

With our focus on Equity, the Whole Child and the Power of One LA County, we build strong partnerships in providing critical support systems for students and families through our Community Schools Initiative. This initiative aims to disrupt poverty and address longstanding inequities by identifying schools as the heart of every community.

Throughout the pandemic, we have collaborated with the departments of Public Health, Mental Health and Children and Family Services to deliver essential services to our students and families.

For example, we have collaborated to allocate COVID-19 vaccinations for more than 100,000 education sector employees, coordinated 800 vaccination clinics

for school communities, and facilitated the distribution of PPE donations for schools across the county.

We also partnered with the Department of Public Health to make more than \$300 million in federal funds available for LA County districts and schools to implement comprehensive COVID-19 testing programs. The money facilitated more than 600,000 weekly COVID-19 tests by 78 districts and more than 200 public charter schools.

In the Omicron surge, we worked with our public health partners at the state and county levels to deploy 2.5 million at-home test kits to districts and charter schools and secure additional professional test supplies to meet local needs. We developed communications toolkits to help school communities combat COVID-19 misinformation.

These are just a few examples of our initiatives to ensure every student is safe and healthy and receives the support and opportunities they need to achieve their potential.

I invite you to browse the pages of this special edition of *School News Roll Call* and learn how our distinguished district superintendents are leading efforts to keep our students safe, healthy and engaged in learning while we work together to emerge stronger from this crisis.

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providing services, guidance, and advocacy  
for LA County's education community.

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## ABC Unified School District

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

### Schools for 21st Century Learners



**Dr. Mary Sieu**  
Superintendent

ABC Unified School District is comprised of ten preschools, 30 schools and serves over 20,000 (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 10,000 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 Program, an IB World School, bi-literacy programs, and international exchange programs. Technology is transforming our classrooms where 1:1 mobile devices are being implemented in several of the schools.

We are proud of our National Blue Ribbon School Awards, California Distinguished Schools, nineteen Golden Bell Awards from CSBA, Seal of Excellence Award from CABE, and all five of our middle schools selected as Schools to Watch/National Model MS.

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.

## Alhambra Unified School District

1515 West Mission Road, Alhambra, CA 91803 • 626/943-3330 • www.ausd.us

### Relationship-Driven Excellence and Equity



**Denise R. Jaramillo**  
Superintendent

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

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

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

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

## Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District

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

### Reaching New Levels of Success



**Dr. Eric Sahakian**  
Superintendent

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

Acton Agua Dulce USD would like to express its gratitude to all AADUSD educators, administrators, staff and community partners for ensuring high achievement for all learners. The District continues to provide innovative programs in support of student achievement through the introduction of new partnerships which include Advancement Via Individual

Determination (AVID), Antelope Valley College and Dual Enrollment offerings for our high school students, the opening of a new Paxton Patterson CTE exploration lab, and the addition of Project Lead the Way. AADUSD will continue to reach new levels of success for our students with communication, persistence, and collaboration.

In the spirit of continued collaboration during a time when many families cannot make it to our campuses, it is important to provide an avenue to help them build strong connections. With the introduction of a new Parent Ambassador program, parents are provided tools that make them even more effective at sharing information about the schools and school district while being fully engaged.

As AADUSD's new superintendent, I am truly inspired by the acts of kindness and resilience that are demonstrated throughout the community. Together we will continue to nurture and support our future leaders.

## Antelope Valley Union High School District

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

### Determination and Perservance



**Greg Nehen**  
Superintendent

Serving approximately 23,000 students and employing 2,300 faculty and staff, the AVUHSD is nestled in the high desert just an hour north of Los Angeles. The District encompasses eight comprehensive high schools, an early college high school on the Antelope Valley Community College campus, three alternative high schools, a no-cost, dependent charter Academy Prep Junior High, a virtual school and Antelope Valley Adult Education.

This past December, the Board of Trustees appointed Mr. Greg Nehen as Superintendent. Mr. Nehen has served in the District for 19 years. His tenure began as a social science teacher at Antelope Valley High School and soon after transitioned into site leadership positions. Mr. Nehen served as Principal at both Littlerock and Palmdale High Schools before joining the Educational Services team at the District office. Mr. Nehen lead the Educational Services division as the Assistant Superintendent for the past 7 years.

Mr. Nehen is passionate about increasing opportunities for students to access STEM and career technical based curriculum. This type of education has been a priority for Mr. Nehen because of the real-world application it provides, all while maintaining a high level of academic rigor. He has been instrumental in the implementation of Linked Learning and the growth of academies and pathways throughout the District.

“I am honored to serve as the Superintendent of the Antelope Valley Union High School District,” said Nehen. “I am incredibly proud of our students and staff for their determination and perseverance throughout the past two years and look forward to the years ahead.”



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## Arcadia Unified School District

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

### #ImagineInquireInspire



**Dr. David Vannasdall**  
Superintendent

Each day, in every way, no matter the circumstances, our remarkable Arcadia Unified staff, students, families, and community partners breathe life into our tagline: Imagine, Inquire, Inspire. As a hashtag, #ImagineInquireInspire has helped curate a searchable history of the powerful ways that public education in Arcadia challenges and inspires students to make a positive and profound impact on their world.

When searching “#ImagineInquireInspire” on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram, you will find classroom aha moments, team triumphs, dynamic vertical collaboration, student voice, and much more. From our inspiring Arcadia High Marching Band and Color Guard ending 2021 as the first high school team to ever perform at SoFi Stadium during an NFL halftime show and the group’s beautiful performance in the 2022 Rose Parade to AUSD school counselors reimagining how to promote mental health and wellness via a Middle School Wellness Summit, and from our students using their inquiring minds to report on the stories from across the district through news and podcast segments to even more instances than I have space to share here, #ImagineInquireInspire opportunities can be found around any corner you turn in Arcadia Unified.

These incredible feats of our students and staff are evidence of why Arcadia Unified continues to earn Niche recognition as being in the top 1% of the best public schools in America, as do they showcase what’s possible when a public school system is filled with passionate educators, engaged school board members, devoted staff, supportive families, and dedicated community partners who #ImagineInquireInspire together.

## Azusa Unified School District

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

### A Vibrant Community



**Arturo Ortega**  
Superintendent

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

AUSD programs include International Baccalaureate (IB); Advanced Placement (AP); 14 career pathways and academies, including a K-12 STEM Pathway; Academy of Health Sciences; and Academy of Automotive Design; Early College Program; California State Preschool Program; award-winning K-12 Visual and Performing Arts, including mariachi, orchestra, elementary band, Dual-language Immersion; computer coding; competitive athletics at the middle and high school levels, and much more!

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

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

AUSD students are problem solvers, critical thinkers, and effective communicators. To learn more about our vibrant community, visit our website [azusa.org](http://azusa.org).

## Baldwin Park Unified School District

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

### Ensuring High Achievement for ALL Learners



**Dr. Froilan N. Mendoza**  
Superintendent

At Baldwin Park Unified School District, our mission is to ensure high achievement for all learners.

Baldwin Park Unified serves a diverse community and is represented by 12 elementary schools, three middle schools, one STEM Academy, two comprehensive high schools, one continuation high school, an adult education center, and an award-winning Early Childhood Education program.

We are proud to offer a rigorous and robust instructional program at all grade levels that delivers an effective blend of academics, leadership, athletics and enrichment programs to prepare students for futures as lifelong learners.

This school year, BPUSD launched the city’s first science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) Academy for students in grades four through eight, providing students with comprehensive courses that prepare them for futures in competitive and constantly evolving professional industries.

Now well into the second year of a worldwide pandemic, it became critical to address the importance of mental health resources to help nurture the social-emotional wellbeing of our students. Through virtual and in-person wellness centers and counseling service partnerships, our students and families continue to receive the tools necessary to thrive.

Despite the challenges, the Baldwin Park community came together as a whole to support families by providing supplemental educational resources to mitigate learning loss, social-emotional support services, and helping with basic necessities.

We thank our community for their continued trust, collaboration, and perseverance, as we move forward and meet the challenges that lie ahead.

## Bassett Unified School District

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

### An Enriched Education



**Dr. Alejandro Alvarez**  
Superintendent

The Bassett Unified School District has a rich history of providing the children of its community with a well-rounded education. Located in the San Gabriel Valley within the city of La Puente, California, the District provides educational programs for students as young as eighteen (18) months.

Through the vision and direction of the Board of Education, the District continues its focus on ensuring all students are inspired to develop academic curiosity, creativity, innovation, and the will to succeed. With the introduction of new programs such as E-Sports, Dual-Immersion, high school course credit at its middle school, and STEM, the District continues to move forward in providing its students with an enriched education that provides them with the opportunity to build the essential skills needed to be successful in their future college or career experience.

Students who attend schools in the Bassett Unified School District transition between grade levels and schools with the same focus of being college ready by the time they graduate from Bassett High School. The District continues its campaign of No Excuses University at every school site and across the district. This is further supported at the high school with students having the opportunity to attend and receive college courses through our partnership with Mt. San Antonio College and the Dual Enrollment Program offered under AB 288. In conjunction with the Dual Enrollment Program, and through its on-going partnership with Kaiser Permanente, the District continues its focus on career pathway courses such as Medical Assistant, Pharmacology, and Hospital Occupation.



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**Daniel Rodriguez**  
**(661) 877-1770**

Email: **[scvpsmgmt@gmail.com](mailto:scvpsmgmt@gmail.com)**

## Bellflower Unified School District

16703 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/866-9011 • www.busd.k12.ca.us

### We Build Futures!



**Tracy McSparren**  
Superintendent

BUSD is happy to have all students back for full day in-person learning for the 2022-2023 school year! The pandemic has generated change and adaptation at record speed. Our teachers and staff have been heroes who have adapted at every turn to provide. We started off our year with our first ever K-12 summer program to both assist students in recovering credits at the high school level and accelerate learning in grades K-8. The summer program included academics, social emotional learning and physical activity in the afternoon.

BUSD expanded our online independent study program to grades K-6, and developed a robust virtual academy that includes a combination of real time virtual instruction, small groups, and intervention-all online.

With students returning to campus we have an increased focus on supporting the mental health of our students. We have added additional school counselor's at all elementary sites. We have leveraged a community partnership to hire two Marriage and Family Therapist to oversee interns at district schools. Through our Caring Connections Collaborative, we continue to work with our communities and local service organizations for referrals to additional services and supports for our students and families. We have continued to focus efforts on CTE and STEAM opportunities for our students to connect them to future opportunities for learning and to make connections that make learning meaningful as we work together to build their futures.

We are proud of how our schools and the community work together to build futures for our students.

## Bonita Unified School District

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

### Bonita Unified: A Place for Everyone



**Carl J. Coles**  
Superintendent

Bonita Unified School District offers exciting opportunities for our students, teachers, staff and community to live their purpose. From our top-tier academics, to our award-winning athletics, arts and activities, Bonita Unified is a place where everyone can explore their passions, hone their skills and knowledge, and prepare for lifelong success.

Our District has had much to celebrate this year, from ranking first in the state on the California Reading Coalition's 2021 Reading Report Card for our efforts to bolster student achievement in English Language Arts, to gaining our third consecutive recognition from the Inland News Group as a 2021 Top Workplace in the Inland Empire.

There are many reasons why Bonita Unified is one of the top public school districts in the state, and our extraordinary employees are at the top of the list. We are so proud of them for navigating this school year as a team, supporting one another and our students.

Chaparral-Vista High School was also named a 2021 Model Continuation School by the California Department of Education for its innovative approach to addressing the academic, social and emotional needs of students as they pursue their paths toward graduation.

By adhering to our core values of equity, mastery and a focus on results, our schools continue to achieve the high standard of success that Bonita Unified is known for. Together, with the support of our highly dedicated community, we will ensure that Bonita Unified remains a place where everyone can learn, grow and thrive for years to come.

## Beverly Hills Unified School District

255 S. Lasky Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90212 • 310/551-5100 • www.bhusd.org

### Pathways to Success for Every Learner



**Dr. Michael Bregy**  
Superintendent

Nation-wide, families are attracted to Beverly Hills for the world-class offerings, including our exceptional School District, Police, and Fire Departments. Due to the strong cultural, artistic, and educational backgrounds, our parents and community expect an outstanding instructional program and are committed to excellence in education.

Just this year, Beverly Hills High School opened two state-of-the-art buildings housing modern, student-focused facilities including a Media Center, Career Center, College Center, NormanAid Wellness Center exclusively designed to support every student's mental wellness, and fully integrated technology-centered classrooms ensuring the innovative delivery of robust academic instruction. BHUSD boasts 22 sports offerings, an award-winning visual arts program, a 3+ median AP Score in all subjects, and numerous National Merit Scholar Winners. Our dedicated Middle School offers over 44 electives allowing students to explore their interests in subjects including Robotics, Audio Media Production, Entrepreneurship, Foreign Languages, and more.

BHUSD offers an acclaimed education for all learners. Gifted and Talented Education, Intellectual Intervention, Multilingual Learner Curriculum, Environmental Bridging, and Targeted Specialized Academic Instruction and Related Services through our Special Education programs. These supports range from Occupational Therapy, Student-Driven Support, Counseling, Skill Based Instruction, Specialized Attention, Speech, and Language.

The Beverly Hills Unified School District consists of two TK-5 Elementary Schools, one 6-8 Middle School, one 9-12 High School, with a TK-12 enrollment of 3,200. To learn more about our educational offerings visit [bhusd.org/pathways/](http://bhusd.org/pathways/).

## Burbank Unified School District

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

### Staying Focused on Our Core Mission



**Dr. Matt Hill**  
Superintendent

At the Burbank Unified School District (BUSD) we focus on providing quality education to more than 14,000 students via our infant program all the way through our Adult School. Staying focused on our core mission of teaching and learning has been challenging during the pandemic, but our amazing and dedicated employees have gone above and beyond to meet the needs of our students and families.

By focusing on the health and safety of our employees this past year we were able to return our students and employees to campus. Most of us have felt the toll this ongoing pandemic has taken on us physically, mentally, and emotionally. Exhaustion does not begin to describe how many of us are feeling right now. We must continue to focus on supporting ourselves and each other.

Burbank Unified will not be satisfied until we ensure 100% of our students graduate high school. A high school diploma is just the beginning for our students. Looking ahead we will build on our foundation and will focus on continuous improvement in order to ensure all students become life-long learners.

- Lift up and celebrate our teaching and learning best practices.
- Continue to expand and deepen our work around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).
- Expand the awareness of the mental health resources available through our partnership with the Family Service Agency of Burbank.

By continuing to work together, we will build a stronger BUSD!

# YOU INSPIRE US

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## Castaic Union School District

28131 Livingston Ave., Valencia, CA 91355 • 661/251-4500 • www.castaicusd.com

### Sustained Resilience for CUSD



Steve Doyle  
Superintendent

To say that the past 20 months has been a challenge is an understatement. I am so proud of everyone in this organization for our perseverance, compassion and grit. The constant pivoting with new protocols and requirements has challenged our thinking in ways we could have never imagined. I sincerely appreciate the creative ways that all of staff has come up with to make school feel “normal” for our students during a pandemic. Through it all, our amazing staff has been resilient, calm and prioritizing that students are safe! Thank you for your leadership and being role models in our community.

We have visited every classroom, in every school, and in those observations we see all staff working diligently to meet the needs of our students. We recognize that staff is always dedicating time and energy to meet the diverse needs of our community. Thank You!

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

## Charter Oak Unified School District

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

### Focus on Student Achievement



Dr. Jeffrey D. Jordan  
Superintendent

Charter Oak Unified School District is committed to fostering strong relationships between administrators, teachers, classified staff, and parents to build cohesiveness to support kids. Having provided all stakeholders with the opportunity to offer input on key areas of focus within the district, consistent elements emerged as essential factors to everyone in Charter Oak. The areas of concentration focus on building strong relationships, teaching and learning, financial stabilization, and safety/wellness.

Charter Oak Unified supports the whole child and provides pathways in various programs. Our schools offer opportunities for kids in AVID, Project Lead the Way, STEAM, GATE, Technology, Capturing Kids Hearts, Career Technical Education, and International Baccalaureate. We are also proud of providing a high-quality education for students in need of an alternative setting. This includes a growing virtual academy that allows families to choose between a full-time online program or a hybrid program. Charter Oak recently established itself as a strong proponent to prepare adults for the workforce. The growing Adult Education program has nearly 800 students who receive experience and certification in various areas.

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

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## Centinela Valley Union High School District

14901 S. Inglewood Ave., Lawndale, CA 90260 • 310/263-3200 • www.cvuhsd.org

### Supporting the Whole Student



**Dr. Stephen Nellman**  
Superintendent

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

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

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

## Compton Unified School District

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

### Centering Student Achievement



**Dr. Darin Brawley**  
Superintendent

Compton Unified School District continues to elevate student outcomes by centering student achievement. We fully embraced the fact that our role as a source of community building, stability and of course education during such uncertain times has become even more paramount. Much credit goes to our administrators, teachers, classified staff, and families who have come together to center the wellbeing of students. Not only did our senior class graduation rates increase to their highest level (90% on average), our college-acceptance rates did as well. Our middle schools, elementary schools, and early education programs all saw ground-breaking partnerships flourish--from innovative STEAM programming grant from Boeing for our youngest scholars, to an expansion of GEAR-UP funding (in partnership with Compton Community College and the University of California, Irvine) to continue the work of locking arms with scholars in middle and high school to prepare them to successfully pursue a college education.

Finally, we were delighted to become home to two more Verizon Innovative Learning schools and will embark on efforts at those schools to build cutting edge labs and curriculum. Speaking of ground-breaking, we completed demolition of the current Compton High School campus and are preparing to break ground on the construction of a state-of-the art new facility for Compton High, complete with a performing arts center named by its major beneficiary — -Andre “Dr. Dre” Young — who donated \$10 Million toward its construction. The entire project comes by way of a successful bond measure passed by Compton voters in 2015: Measure S. Indeed, we look forward with great expectation and hope as we round out this school year.

## Claremont Unified School District

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

### Inspired to be Life-Long Learners



**Dr. Jeff Wilson**  
Superintendent

In the Claremont Unified School District, we are proud of the diversity of our student body, the variety and school choice within our seven elementary schools, our equal focus on the sciences and arts, and our distinctive community focused on education. Besides our 10 outstanding TK-12 schools sit the 5 internationally known and ranked Claremont Colleges – true partners in our mission to develop “each CUSD student [to be] equipped academically, prepared socially, and empowered to participate and thrive in a challenging, diverse world.”

CUSD is proud of our schools’ many achievements including four Apple Distinguished Schools (the ONLY alternative high school A.D.S. in America), California Distinguished Schools, a California Gold Ribbon Intermediate School, PBIS Platinum and Gold Award Schools, a California Green Ribbon School District, Campaign for Business and Education Excellence Schools, and award-winning Visual and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, and Athletic Programs which help CUSD stand alone and above in the northeast San Gabriel Valley.

Outstanding programs like Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, and International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme in our secondary schools, Dual Language Immersion, AVID, Career Tech Ed (CTE), and a robust partnership with Regional Occupational Program (ROP) ensures we are providing opportunities for a variety of learners engaged in their own individual educational journey.

Our focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion is producing substantive positive changes in policy, curriculum, supervision, hiring practices, mental health, student voice, and culturally proficient teaching and learning, and is helping “each CUSD student [to be] recognized and valued, inspired to be a life-long learner, and prepared to be a contributing member of our global society.”

## Covina-Valley Unified School District

519 E. Badillo St., Covina, CA 91723 • 626/974-7000 • www.cvusd.org

### Educational Excellence for Every Student



**Dr. Elizabeth Eminhizer**  
Superintendent

Covina-Valley Unified School District is committed to providing its students with the best education possible, preparing them for success inside and outside of the classroom. Our District vision of “Educational Excellence, For Every Student, Every Day,” can be seen in our students as they continue to thrive and achieve academic success.

Covina-Valley Unified was ranked second in Los Angeles County and fifth in the state by the California Reading Coalition’s 2021 Reading Report Card for our efforts in improving student achievement in English Language Arts (ELA).

We also continue to expand our community reach and implement innovative, research-based programs that promote a well-rounded education for our students. The District offers 22 robust career technical education (CTE) Pathways in fields such as digital filmmaking, animation, agricultural science, and information technology that develop students’ career awareness and readiness by engaging them in real-world problems, projects and experiences.

Most of the District’s CTE courses count for University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) credit and are fully articulated with Mount San Antonio College, saving time and tuition for students who wish to pursue post-secondary education in their career field.

The fantastic opportunities the District offers its students would not have been possible without the hard work and engagement of our teachers, staff, parents and community. The entire C-VUSD team appreciates the support from our community and industry partners as we continue helping our students attain success in college and careers.

## Culver City Unified School District

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

### CCUSD Bolding Leading the Way



**Quoc Tran**  
Superintendent

For decades, Culver City has been known as a small town inside the big city of Los Angeles, with an excellent public school district based on three pillars: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

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

We embrace the arts with a best-in-class arts education program beginning with visual arts, music and dance in all five of our elementary schools. In middle and high school we offer both CTE and afterschool pathways into film, music, visual arts, performing arts and dance. Next year we begin a Game Design pathway through our signature Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) program, fortunate to make use of living in the Heart of Screenland.

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

This fall CCUSD made national news as the first district in the country to mandate Covid-19 vaccines for staff and for all eligible students. Our number one priority has been to keep all 7000 of our students learning in person, in support of their social-emotional health and academic achievement.

This bold move is a symbol of CCUSD's bold existence in the public education landscape. We go for it with full gusto. CCUSD was the first district in California to offer a dual language immersion program, opening both Spanish language and Japanese language K-5th schools in 1994. These programs have served as models for other public school districts throughout the state and across the country.

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

## Downey Unified School District

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

### Our Kids Deserve the Best...



**Dr. John A. Garcia, Jr.**  
Superintendent

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

We are proud to have quickly adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic and have transitioned our district to provide 1:1 technology for all of our students, TK through 12th grade. Over 14,000 various devices were distributed to our students since March 2020, including WiFi enabled devices as well as thousands of hotspots to ensure the equitable access for all students.

Downey Unified provides students with robotics and coding courses beginning as early as kindergarten and access to state-of-the-art facilities, CIF championship sports and cheer, STEAM classes/programs, and countless Career Technical Education pathways. Downey Unified is also the first school district in LA county to incorporate an eSports competition for high school students, which provides them with a direct link to pursue a career in game design.

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

## Duarte Unified School District

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

### 21st Century Schools – 21st Century Students



**Dr. Gordon Amerson**  
Superintendent

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## East Whittier City School District

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

### Expanding Our Reach



**Marc Patterson**  
Superintendent

As we continue to carry out our mission of “Opening the Door to Every Child’s Future,” our teachers, classified staff and administrators remain dedicated to enhancing the educational experience for all 8100 students. With a focus on our five Cs of communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and community, each EWCS student is able to develop into a well-rounded, 21st century learner that is prepared for the future. While this year has brought many challenges, we have continued to persevere and expand our reach with the student body, EWCS families and the greater Whittier Community.

From an academic standpoint, we have continued to enhance our conditions of learning by growing existing educational programs. The Virtual Learning Academy is now available to all grade levels and is a great opportunity for students who prefer an alternative, media rich learning environment. In addition, the Dual Language Immersion Academy is also extending to 2nd grade, which will provide more growth and development for both English and Spanish learners. EWCS is also excited to appoint Student Board Members in order to enhance communication and collaboration between the Board of Education and student body.

We are also focused on expanding our reach within the EWCS community through engagement and collaboration. Our Superintendent Community Chats have provided EWCS families with direct, two-way communication with the District, which has led to new ideas and ways to refine our processes. Beyond the classroom, we are proud of the many partnerships we have with local Whittier organizations and look forward to developing new ones.

With all of the exciting things happening at EWCS, the future is bright for our students. We look forward to continuing the District’s reputation of high academic achievement and a nurturing learning environment for all students.

## El Monte City School District

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

### The Power of Community Partnership



**Dr. Maribel Garcia**  
Superintendent

If we learned anything from the last two years of this pandemic, it is that our success as a school district relies on the relationships we develop and maintain with our school communities.

The El Monte City School District (EMCS) has seen remarkable educational, social, and emotional growth and development from our students, families, and staff. Taking the lessons we learned from the first year of Distance Learning, we know that we can navigate the most complex challenges in order to provide the necessary services to our families. We have helped serve over 5.5 million meals to children in our community.

We also became a 1:1 technological district providing access to Chromebooks, internet, and a multitude of digital programs to help our children succeed. As a result of this investment, we saw little to no disruption in student academic prowess.

We also expanded services to include COVID-19 vaccine and booster opportunities to the general public. Since May 2021, we have hosted over 20 pop-up vaccination clinics across District schools to create equitable access to vaccines at locations our families trust. Through our vaccination effort, we have provided over 4,000 vaccines to the LA County community with more clinics scheduled through the rest of the year.

Trust has been instrumental in our success. Students, staff, and families are ALL IN on providing the best environment for education to thrive and I am eternally grateful for the confidence the community has in our district. We will honor that trust by continuing to provide services our community needs and deserves.

## Eastside Union School District

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

### Innovative Education, Unparalleled Results



**Dr. Joshua Lightle**  
Superintendent

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

Our mission is to provide an inclusive, challenging and innovative education in a safe, positive and rigorous learning environment with dynamic and responsive staff, who encourage unparalleled results for students. We do this by providing our faculty and staff with professional learning opportunities to further their development in providing a rigorous academic program using a variety of instructional strategies to meet the differentiated needs of every student in the classroom.

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

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

## El Monte Union High School District

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

### College and Career Readiness



**Dr. Edward A. Zuniga**  
Superintendent

El Monte Union High School District’s mission focuses on preparing students to be lifelong learners, who are contributing members of our global society and graduate from our District college and career ready.

El Monte Union is proud to maintain a positive school environment, while providing students with a rigorous and robust curriculum, and supporting their social and emotional growth.

As we transitioned back to in-person instruction, the District focused on three key principles: providing safe learning environments, rich learning opportunities and helping our students readapt to an in-person high school setting. El Monte Union closely adhered to the safety protocols set forth by the county and state, and hosted multiple COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics for our District community.

El Monte Union also created several initiatives to support students, including EMUHSD Cares, a platform for sharing information and resources on mental health, Wellness Centers at each high school with counselors and therapists present, and virtual Parent Engagement Workshops to help parents better support their students.

We are proud of the deep learning and academic success that has continued in our District. Each of our five comprehensive high schools has been named to the *U.S. News & World Report* 2021 Best High School list and our career technical education (CTE) program, Zoo Crew: Engineers Gone Wild!, was recognized with a 2021 Golden Bell Award.

El Monte Union also has exciting new programs in development, such as our Online Personalized Learning program, the expansion of CTE pathways to include entrepreneurship and residential construction, and our vibrant Dual-Enrollment Programs, which will graduate our first four-year Early College Academy cohort from South El Monte High School this school year.

## El Rancho Unified School District

9333 Loch Lomond Dr., Pico Rivera, CA 90660 • 562/801-7300 • www.erusd.org

# We Continue to Be El Rancho STRONG!



**Dr. Frances Esparza**  
Superintendent

In El Rancho Unified School District, we are continuously celebrating our success. This soon to be post-pandemic has given us unprecedented opportunities to better serve our students, families, and the community of Pico Rivera. Being one of the hardest hit cities during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the loss of staff, students, parents and community members, El Rancho Unified did not stop from teaching our students, providing access to all. We began with Small Cohorts, then Summer School, a full Reopening of Schools, and added intervention supports to mitigate learning loss. Some students needed more than academic support, and we gave them more! We provided onsite and virtual Mental Health Counseling and continued to implement PBIS throughout the pandemic.

Our focus and commitment is to ensure that the needs of all students are met which resulted in being a CSBA Golden Bell recipient for Mental Health Services. In addition, we have met state academic goals in both ELA and Math, we are a 2:1 device District, seven high school athletic teams participated in CIF playoffs, band and cheer have won numerous awards, robotics teams are going to the State Championship, and El Rancho High School is going to the State Academic Decathlon Wild Card series!

As the Superintendent of El Rancho Unified, I continue to be proud of the success of our amazing students and staff, including our school administrators, our teachers, and our classified staff. We are fortunate to have such talented and forward-thinking educators and staff. It is their work, their drive, and their passion that motivates our students and increases their desire to learn. Together, we continue to be El Rancho STRONG!

## El Segundo Unified School District

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

# Transforming Education



**Dr. Melissa Moore**  
Superintendent

El Segundo Unified School District (ESUSD) embraces innovative practices for student growth and empowerment. Our motto, Transforming Education for a Changing World, focuses on the true transformation needed for students to be successful in a vastly different world than previously known. ESUSD embraces a learner-centric, future-forward, and innovative-minded approach to educational leadership and excellence.

At the core of ESUSD's learning environment is our Graduate Profile, expressly developed to prepare students for jobs of the future. It outlines the cognitive, personal, and interpersonal competencies students should possess when they graduate from high school. It guides and aligns our educational practices to help students achieve the identified competencies. It also provides a clear visualization of priority goals for teaching and learning that can be easily communicated to students at all grade levels, parents, faculty, and staff to align our collective efforts.

To help students thrive not only academically but as self-directed and resilient individuals, ESUSD adopted the RULER Approach for K-12 social emotional learning in 2018. Developed by Yale's Center for Emotional Intelligence, the RULER Approach provides learning tools for educators, students, and parents to better Recognize, Understand, Label, Express, and Regulate personal feelings.

As a Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools member, ESUSD was selected to host representatives from 114 member U.S. school districts for an annual convening in October 2022. We are excited to welcome fellow educators to observe best practices in student-centered, blended learning classroom environments; innovation for college and career readiness through electives and pathway programs; and the cultivation of global citizens through community impact projects and STEAM education to help students develop global awareness and skills.

## Garvey School District

2730 N. Del Mar Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3444 • c

# Re-visioning, Revitalizing & Relaunching



**Anita Chu**  
Superintendent

2021-22 School Year is a unique time in history.

Garvey is committed to journey through this unprecedented time with a relentless commitment to reach unparalleled heights.

**Re-visioning** — Leadership development is the heart of the District's vision. The pandemic has inspired Garvey to deepen our conviction and revive our vision in developing leaders who are not only academically competent, but also emotionally strong and morally driven to advance the wellness of all, particularly the vulnerable, in both prosperous and turbulent times.

**Revitalizing** — To realize this compelling vision, Garvey is tapping into the synergy of our stakeholders. Parents selflessly provide extensive support for their children to accelerate learning and rebuild social-emotional wellness. Community partners offer a variety of onsite services, including testing and vaccination, in support of our efforts to ensure safe in-person learning. Garvey staff devote themselves to building a culture of mutual support for one another and for students. Working collaboratively, Garvey's community of caring partners creates dynamic synergy to revitalize the school experiences for our students.

**Relaunching** — Driven by an inspiring vision and fueled by the community synergy, Garvey has worked studiously to relaunch an array of innovative and rigorous programs to address the unique and diverse needs of our students. High-leverage programs include the newly adopted social-emotional learning program, the "wellness center" program at each site, small-group support from additional intervention teachers, STEM program, and extended-time enrichment.

Emerging stronger from the pandemic, the Garvey community of leaders continues to journey and work together in revisioning, revitalizing, and relaunching to reach unparalleled heights for all students.

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## Glendale Unified School District

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

### Endless Pathways for Success



**Dr. Vivian Ekchian**  
Superintendent

In Glendale Unified schools, we embrace diversity, focus on equity, and guarantee safety to accelerate learning and increase pathways for every student. Our track record of success is attributed to the hard work of our talented education professionals and strong support from our highly engaged families and community leaders.

Nine Glendale Unified schools have earned the U.S. Office of Education's highest designation, the National Blue Ribbon. Additionally, 26 Glendale Unified schools have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools and 17 of our district's 18 Title I schools have been named Title I Achieving Schools.

We proudly offer dual immersion programs in seven languages, Armenian, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish. Glendale Unified also offers six magnet schools focused on technology, world languages, and visual and performing arts, and a wide variety of Career and Technical Education pathways beginning in middle school. Through a collaborative partnership with Glendale Community College, Glendale Unified offers students multiple opportunities to earn college credit before they graduate from high school, including our Hoover High Early College Academy, Glendale High Cloud Computing and Computer Science Academy, and our new Online College and Career Academy virtual high school.

In Glendale Unified, we remain relentlessly focused on maximizing student achievement, fostering students' social and emotional growth, and creating a vibrant, inclusive environment where all children can learn and thrive. We are excelling together to provide our students with endless pathways for success.

## Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

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

### Partners in Your Child's Future



**Dr. Alfonso Jiménez**  
Superintendent

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District offers a multifaceted curriculum, enriching learning opportunities, and educational and socio-emotional resources to ensure our transitional kindergarten through adult education students have the tools necessary to succeed.

The safety and well-being of our community is our top priority and to support us in this effort, Hacienda La Puente Unified continues to host parent education workshops and offer online tutoring and mental health resources, which are available to students 24/7.

Hacienda La Puente Unified has remained resilient in the face of COVID-19, maintaining safe learning environments, distributing at-home tests to all students and staff, and creating partnerships to provide convenient testing and vaccination clinics across school sites.

Our District is dedicated to maximizing the talents and abilities of our students and fostering deep learning through real-life problem-solving skills, demonstrated in our innovative programs that include New Pedagogies for Deep Learning, C-STEM and robotics, dual language immersion in Mandarin, Korean and Spanish, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and Speech and Debate.

Our District's success has been recognized on a state and national level. Several schools were named 2022 Best K-8 schools and 2021 Best High Schools by *U.S. News & World Report*. Orange Grove and Newton Middle Schools were named 2022 California and National "Schools to Watch," and *Forbes* included us in their 2021 list of America's Best Employers for Veterans.

With a five-year cohort graduation rate of 96.5%, Hacienda La Puente Unified prepares its students with the skills, confidence and tools they need to succeed in college, careers and beyond.

## Glendora Unified School District

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

### A Premier School District



**Dr. Penelope A. DeLeon**  
Superintendent

The Glendora Unified School District is one of the premier school districts in the state of California. We proudly serve over 6,600 students in the foothills of east San Gabriel Valley, where our staff, students, parents and community work together to ensure our students thrive both academically and personally.

As a District of Choice, our schools continue to earn distinction at the state and national levels, with 7 California Distinguished Schools, 4 California Gold Ribbon Schools and 6 California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll schools. 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.

We are an AP District of Distinction and offer the prestigious AP Capstone program. Volunteerism is alive and well through our Glendora Good campaign, through which students are encouraged to give back to the community, and the generosity of our many active community service groups, PTA's and the Glendora Education Foundation are celebrated.

In addition to world class academics, we offer exceptional educational experiences, including CIF Championship athletic programs, award-winning performing arts programs, state-of-the-art visual arts and expanded CTE programs. 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 board of trustees. Please visit our website to see how you can become part of the Glendora family!

## Hawthorne School District

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

### A Community of Support and Learning



**Dr. Helen E. Morgan**  
Superintendent

When I think of the Hawthorne School District, I think of the entire community in which we operate. I have been fortunate to spend my forty years in education here and I couldn't ask for a more supportive and committed community of students, staff, parents, and residents. Our Board of Trustees are well known in our neighborhoods as stewards of the school district who place students above all else.

Our students are encouraged, supported, and held to a high standard. The last two years have challenged us to redefine how we engage our students and families to ensure continued success. It has not been an easy path. We continue to see the lasting effects of students who have not been able to experience school in a traditional manner. We are working diligently to provide additional supports for students who may experience learning gaps or feel the social and emotional effects the pandemic has thrust upon many of us.

We recently revisited our strategic plan and ensured these aspects of our lives are included in our mission statement as well as the goals we strive to attain. The continued work will not be easy, but nothing about life during a global pandemic is easy. We are committed to ensuring that our students, staff, and families have what they need to be successful.

The Hawthorne School District Mission Statement: To maximize each student's potential to achieve educational excellence and social and emotional well-being.

## Hermosa Beach City School District

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

### Still Thriving



**Dr. Jason Johnson**  
Superintendent

Our small school district continues to rise and champion a tradition of excellence despite the challenges of COVID-19. The new year brings new opportunities and we are thrilled to keep thriving. Small community, exceptional staff, and talented students is what makes us the Best Little Beach School. Putting our dollars to work, we have expanded learning opportunities unlike ever before with after school reading and math intervention, online tutoring, academic support classes, and an intensive reading program. To accelerate student achievement, our teachers have been training with the gold standard in reading: the Fountas & Pinnell Reading Assessment and Leveled Literacy Intervention. With student health and wellness top

of mind, we are focused on social-emotional support now more than ever. Our commitment to two counselors has reached more than 150 students for counseling services. To keep school funding strong with healthy enrollment, we are offering interdistrict permits for 2022-2023 and expanding TK. COVID-19 is still with us and we continue to evaluate and assess best practices for keeping everyone healthy in this dynamic public health environment. Our campuses recently received commendation for excellent procedures from the Los Angeles Department of Health and our commitment to health, safety, and open schools is as strong as ever.

We are grateful to the community for working together to keep everyone safe and thriving and look forward to a healthy and productive 2022.

## Inglewood Unified School District

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

### Inglewood Unified on the RISE!



**Dr. Erika F. Torres**  
County Administrator

Inglewood Unified School District (IUSD) continues to be on the rise by giving our resilient and dedicated students access to high quality educational experiences.

Our District greatly values elevating the voices of those we serve and we are proud to engage our students and parents in our decision-making process. We are thrilled to share that we have formed Student and Parent Advisory Councils, to receive feedback about the progress of our District and strategize on ways we can maintain our best efforts that will contribute to their achievements.

IUSD prides itself on collaborative school and community partnerships that support students' academic and social-emotional wellbeing. In partnership with Nike, the Los Angeles Rams and Chargers, our Coleman Stadium will be remodeled giving our student athletes access to state-of-the-art facilities. We are creating more pathways for young women in sports and are in the process of forming an interdistrict sports league, targeting our middle school students. This exciting opportunity will provide our students equitable access to sport programs, new experiences, and skill-set growth.

The unwavering commitment from our Board of Education, District leadership, certificated and classified staff, is a strong foundation for the type of support we always want to maintain for our students. Our staff members work collaboratively to support our District's vision and their efforts of formulating goals, defining results and setting the course for an education program that is equitable and inclusive, to improve student success.

We are committed to providing college and career readiness opportunities for all our students while ensuring they graduate with the skills, confidence and motivation to succeed.

#WeAreInglewoodUnified

## Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District

16633 Elizabeth Lakes Rd., Lake Hughes, CA 93532 • 661/724-1231 • www.helus.org

### A Community of Learners



**Dr. Lori Slaven**  
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 165 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 as is the old school district in the Antelope Valley.

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes school district is "Family-Centered" and fosters every child and stakeholder to be part of a community of learners in the District. Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes also serve students from neighboring communities in the Antelope Valley. During the pandemic, we offer long term and short independent study for students not wanting to wear a face mask as well as students in quarantine or isolation. We have reduced class size to mitigate learning loss through increasing teacher time with each student. We have a dedicated group of teachers and staff. Teachers and staff collaborate and continuously improve services to students.

Parents and community members are an important part of our school culture. 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. Our families enjoy county living and value our solid educational program. Our vision at Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes School is to provide an excellent education in an atmosphere that supports students as they develop into outstanding members of the community. Our mission is to enable our students to reach the highest levels of achievement. This goal is obtained through a total commitment to the ongoing success of each student and through open and honest communication within our school community.

## Keppel Union School District

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

### Infinite Possibilities for Students



**Dr. Jacqueline A. Cardenas**  
Superintendent

The Keppel Union School District is nestled in Antelope Valley's picturesque high desert in northern Los Angeles County. Six schools provide stellar academic programs for 2,620 preschool - 8th grade students from diverse backgrounds. Support for students includes a districtwide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, school counselors, school psychologists, program specialists, and intervention teachers. In addition, we provide the Rodriguez Instructional Systems Enterprise (RISE) afterschool program for academic intervention and enrichment, an early childhood program for ages birth to 5-years-old through a partnership with Save the Children, tutoring, Saturday school, and summer school programs. The Keppel learning community accesses rich resources through a Parent Center, Keppel Closet, Resource Center, Wellness Center, Immunization Clinic, and Keppel's own Bus Transportation Department.

Our District's mission to "Seek Education, Strive for Excellence, and Aspire to Greatness," is operationalized by this year's theme, "You are the KEY to Opening Doors to Infinite Possibilities." "KEY" represents Knowledge, Engagement, and Yield. It signifies that as a learning community we provide students with the best opportunities to become confident, well-rounded and grounded students, who have mastered grade level standards. Our students are prepared and ready to embark on high school, college, career, or military options as a pathway to fulfill their dreams and potential.

This year as we welcomed students to our campuses, we prioritized social-emotional learning, enrichment, and closing the learning gap. Additionally, having a sharp focus on ongoing, evidenced-based staff professional development, we increased students' knowledge, engaged them, and yielded increased achievement that will open doors to infinite possibilities for our KUSD students today and in their future.

## La Cañada Unified School District

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

### Our Success is Intentional



**Wendy Sinnette**  
Superintendent

La Cañada Unified School District is a learning community committed to personal growth and academic excellence. 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 grades 7-12 school. Current student enrollment is approximately 4000. Each school in the district has developed an “Every Student Succeeds” plan and has adopted Stanford’s Challenge Success initiative to ensure that all students receive appropriate support in mastering academic standards and in developing their social, emotional,

and physical health and resilience. La Cañada Flintridge is home of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Descanso Gardens. The professional residents of La Cañada are attracted to the city because of its excellent schools and its strong community spirit. Parent participation and involvement in the schools are extensive as evidenced by a robust La Cañada Educational Foundation which contributes over 2 million dollars annually to the district and the active volunteerism and program support by the PTA at each school site and the Spartan Boosters at LCHS 7-12. Approximately 99% of graduating seniors enroll in post-secondary schools, with students attending their best fit colleges and universities across the nation. All of its schools have been named National Blue Ribbon schools, with Palm Crest and Paradise Canyon Elementary Schools most recently being recognized in 2021. La Cañada High School 7/8 was named a National Forum “School to Watch” school in 2014, 2017, and 2020 and all four schools have been designated as California Distinguished Schools (with Palm Crest Elementary awarded again in 2020) and as Gold Medal winners by California Business for Education Excellence.

## Las Virgenes Unified School District

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

### Access to Every Opportunity



**Dr. Daniel D. Stepenosky**  
Superintendent

Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) consists of eight elementary schools, one K-8 school, three middle schools, two high schools, and a district-wide preschool program. The District serves approximately 11,000 students in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village.

Las Virgenes boasts student achievement and college-going metrics that are amongst the top in the state. Las Virgenes high schools have been named to the National College Board Annual AP District Honor Roll for expanding student participation, especially among our subpopulations, in our AP program. Las Virgenes has a wide variety of options for our students that include Dual-Immersion English and Spanish programs at the elementary and middle school levels, High School International Baccalaureate Program, Arts and Media Academy, a Waldorf-inspired school, and arts-embedded elementary programs.

The District has two state-of-the-art performing arts centers, top-ranked athletic programs, and comprehensive career education pathways. The District boasts a robust counseling program that has specialists available to all students in the areas of college guidance as well as social-emotional and family wellness counseling.

LVUSD is committed to social justice, equity, and inclusion with coursework, curricula, and ongoing teacher training in place to ensure that all students feel welcome, included, supported and able to thrive. The District prides itself on ensuring that every student has access to every opportunity every single day. Please visit our website at [www.lvusd.org](http://www.lvusd.org) to learn more about our district.

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## Lancaster School District

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

# Options and Excellence in Education



**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 1885, we continually strive to ensure options and excellence in educational opportunities for the more than 14,000 students that we serve each and every day.

Our District has five middle schools, thirteen elementary schools and alternative programs that provide home school, a blended virtual academy, and alternative education. In addition, we serve over 500 students in our progressive preschool program.

Focused on 21st century skills, college and career readiness, and acquisition of core knowledge, Lancaster School District 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 may participate in: STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math), AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), Computer Science, Music, Foreign Language, Dual Language Immersion, Visual and Performing Arts, Sports and other exciting elective and enrichment programs. Promoting meaningful family engagement and strong community partnerships are also an essential part of the work that we do. We are extremely pleased to see growing levels of involvement.

Lancaster School District maintains an uncompromising commitment to “Options and Excellence”, providing all students the knowledge, skills, resources, and support that they need for academic and personal success. Our district’s Strategic LCAP is designed to “chart our course” as we continually enhance our practices and programs to encourage continuous improvement and ensure equity, access and engaging learning experiences for all students.

## Lawndale Elementary School District

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

# Students at the Center of Every Decision



**Dr. Betsy Hamilton**  
Superintendent

The Lawndale Elementary School District Board of Trustees and staff ensure that students are at the center of every decision. Through systems of collaborative professional learning and the provision of instructional coaches, we develop staff capacity and ensure continuous improvement of staff and students alike.

LESD fosters positive and inclusive environments where everyone is welcome. We invest in the “whole child” through robust systems of counseling, mental health, and full day programming. Social Workers and Community Liaisons at every site strive to connect families to schools and community services. LESD’s no-cost extended day program provides additional student enrichment through STEAM-focused programs that include coding, robotics, band and more.

LESD promotes multilingualism as a 21st century skill and proudly boasts a diverse student population with 89% of students speaking a language other than English. In 2022-23, the District will expand its coveted dual immersion program. This program uses Spanish and English as the vehicles for instruction in all subjects while providing a broad multicultural understanding and appreciation of cultures in our globalized society.

We believe strong parent engagement practices enhance student achievement by eliminating barriers to ensure that families can join the District as partners in their students’ education.

Through LESD’s “Family University” program, parents participate in workshops, volunteer activities, and school committees to develop skills that support learning at home and become successful advocates for their students’ education.

LESD strives to build brighter futures by offering rigorous academic programs, 21st century learning environments, 1:1 technology, counseling and health services, a robust arts program and more. Visit [www.lawndalesd.net](http://www.lawndalesd.net) to learn about LESD.

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## Lennox School District

10319 Firmona Ave., Lennox, CA 90304 • 310/695-4000 • [www.lennox.k12.ca.us](http://www.lennox.k12.ca.us)

# On the Flight Path to Success



**Gabriela Tavitian**  
Superintendent

Lennox School District proudly serves approximately 5,000 students in grades preschool through eighth grade. The District’s motto is “On the Flight Path to Success” and this is evident in the dynamic offerings we offer our students! Lennox provides our students with a world-class education with programs such as Spanish Dual Language, A.V.I.D., and our Engineering Academies. Our students are developing skills and characteristics that will prepare them to transition into high school, college, and eventually a career.

Our Vision below guides our important work to ensure students receive the following 4 Cs in their educational experience beginning with preschool. All five elementary schools offer an outstanding Preschool program that is committed to building strong foundational skills in students and leadership skills in families. This commitment to our parents extends to our vibrant Parent Centers that are housed at each of our school sites to support families and improve student achievement. To support our students beyond the school day, Lennox offers an outstanding after school program, the Lennox Enrichment After-School Program (LEAP).

- Cradle to College: Prepare students academically from birth to career.
- Community: Embrace the role of parents as partners in the educational process.
- Culture of Caring: Encourage committed employees to support students and their families socially, emotionally, and academically.
- Continuity: Entrust that each generation achieves and excels, and returns to the Lennox Community to give back.

As Superintendent, I am honored to serve this District and look forward to working collaboratively with all of the educational partners to ensure our students, staff, and families feel welcome, safe, and successful!



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## Long Beach Unified School District

1515 Hughes Wy., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/997-8000 • [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net)

### Resilience As New Semester Begins



**Dr. Jill Baker**  
Superintendent

Our students and schools began the spring semester while emerging from one of the ongoing pandemic's most difficult phases – the regional and national surge in COVID-19 cases that placed significant stress on school systems everywhere. Our schools were no exception, but our school communities showed exceptional resolve as we further learned how to live with COVID while keeping students' growth and well-being at the heart of our work.

A silver lining of these difficult times is the additional state and federal funding that schools have received to manage the effects of the pandemic. Some of our latest efforts to help meet the needs of students and families include the hiring of 400 certificated staff, including teachers, counselors and social workers. We are also implementing literacy acceleration and intervention at every elementary and K-8 school. To read more about our plans, view our Learning Acceleration and Support Plan at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

Despite our challenges, we have come a long way. Last year at this time, I was describing to School News Roll Call readers our plans for a phased reopening of our schools to in-person learning after our students and families had endured an extended period of virtual instruction only. We successfully implemented that plan, continuing with in-person summer school and then a full-scale, in-person fall semester. Today we remain determined to offer high quality, in-person learning because it's so essential to helping students recover from this pandemic both emotionally and academically.

Thank you to our school communities for your support of our important work. We look forward to sharing our progress with you in the months ahead.

## Little Lake City School District

10515 S. Pioneer Blvd., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • 562/868-8241 • [www.llcsd.net](http://www.llcsd.net)

### Students First!



**Dr. William Crean**  
Superintendent

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

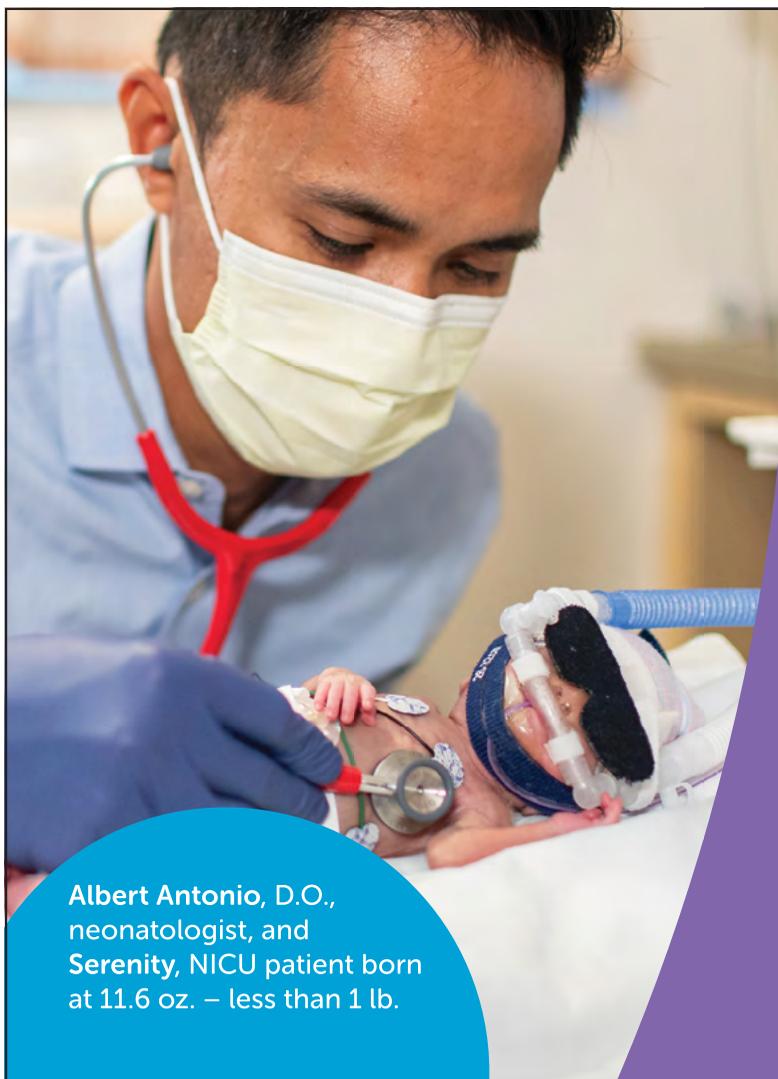
Little Lake is proud of our numerous achievements and awards. In spite of the many pandemic challenges that have now become a part of our daily and weekly routines, student proficiency rates continue to increase and our instructional program continues to offer rich and innovative opportunities in academics, the arts, physical education, and co-curricular experiences for students.

The personal, emotional and social development of our students are supported daily through both counseling services at all sites, the implementation of the Second Step SEL program, and dedication to a districtwide program to address bullying and Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS).

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

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

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



**Albert Antonio, D.O.,**  
neonatologist, and  
**Serenity,** NICU patient born  
at 11.6 oz. – less than 1 lb.

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## Los Angeles Unified School District

333 S. Beaudry Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90017 • 213/241-1000 • [www.lausd.net](http://www.lausd.net)

### Turning the Impossible into the Inevitable



**Alberto M. Carvalho**  
Superintendent

Our schools are among the safest places for children and teachers to be. We want to help our students recover from the trauma of the pandemic, deepen relationships and reinforce positive supports. The work is to build upon solid goals targeting literacy and numeracy, graduation rates, post-secondary success, as well as social and emotional needs of students and the workforce, ramping up efforts and refining toolkits to optimize our response to future realities not yet realized.

Now that students have returned to schools, we can see the energy and excitement around learning taking place in our classrooms. We are here to accelerate the opportunities for students to excel, thrive and reach their full academic potential.

It is time for us to intensify the focus on what is most important to our students – and those who support them every day – to inspire a theory of action that turns the impossible into the inevitable for everyone in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Together, we will take our students to where they need to be, focusing our attention on unapologetically accelerating equity and bridging the opportunity gap and emboldening our community to show up, step up and speak up in support of one another. When the community shows up, fences come down. We have the opportunity, and an obligation to demonstrate what a high-quality public education can do and be each and every day.

## Los Nietos School District

8324 S. Westman Ave., Whittier, CA 90606 • 562/692-0271 • [www.losnietos.k12.ca.us](http://www.losnietos.k12.ca.us)

### A Dynamic Learning Environment



**Jonathan Vasquez**  
Superintendent

Established in 1861, the Los Nietos School District (LNSD) is one of the oldest continuously run elementary school districts in California. I am extremely proud of how the staff and community has worked collaboratively to successfully re-open our schools safely with all LACDPH mandates in place for the 2021-2022 school year. The sense of collaboration between our staff and community supporting the mitigation strategies necessary to keep the school community safe and healthy has allowed us to resume the vital work of in-person instruction.

To offset the instructional and social emotional impacts of a year of virtual learning, the LNSD instituted new programs to support the needs of the students. Students received weekly Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons allowing them the opportunity to express their feelings and talk about the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on students and families. Additionally, intervention teachers support student academic learning loss. Providing a holistic support for our students, we have been able to smoothly transition our students back to in-person learning.

Augmenting the educational technology micro-credentialing that teachers received last year during distance learning, this year our TK – 8th grade teachers entered into a LACOE sponsored literacy training, “Getting Reading Right”, which teaches the science of reading. By blending technology and small group literacy training, we have created a dynamic learning environment for our students.

Transitioning from a pandemic to an endemic state will prove challenging; however, the LNSD staff with the support of our parent community is more than capable of transcending obstacles in order to continue delivering high quality instruction.

## Lowell Joint School District

11019 Valley Home Ave., Whittier, CA 90603 • 562/943-0211 • [www.ljds.org](http://www.ljds.org)

### Destination District



**Jim Coombs**  
Superintendent

The Lowell Joint School District strives to be among the leading districts throughout the State of California, holding true to our traditional American core values since 1906. Our students receive a quality education from outstanding teachers whose #1 priority is the success of their students. This is evident in the fact that the students of LJSD exceed the scores of Los Angeles and Orange County as well as the State of California in all grade levels. We are honored to serve the families from the communities of La Habra, La Habra Heights, and Whittier. Each of our six schools are Gold Ribbon, Distinguished, and California Business Excellence Schools. Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate

School is also recognized as a “Schools to Watch” and six CSBA Golden Bell awards in the last six years. LJSD has also received two Magna Awards from the National School Board Association 2021 & 2022. The importance of education, family, and traditional American values are the bedrock to LJSD, as is our emphasis on higher education, personal integrity, and Character Education.

Specialized academic programs are provided at our schools for all students such as 1:1 instructional technology, AP Computer Science (7th-8th), coding & robotics, STEAM Innovation Labs, and ARTS FOR ALL: instrumental music, dance, vocal music, fine art, and strings. Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate School is proud to provide students with enhanced educational opportunities through the Pre-AP/IB Honors Academy, Conservatory of the Arts (COFA), AP Computer Science, Robotics and Engineering, Audio Engineering, and Green Architecture. Each of these programs prepares our students to transition into our local high schools and onto post-secondary education.

LJSD continues to focus on 21st Century learning while assuring that we keep our attention on the whole child. This ensures that our students have the foundation to be globally competitive and grounded in traditional American values.



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## Lynwood Unified School District

11321 Bullis Rd., Lynwood, CA 90262 • 310/886-1600 • www.mylusd.org

### Empowering Students to Reach their Goals



**Dr. Gudiel R. Crosthwaite**  
Superintendent

At Lynwood Unified School District, we empower students to reach their goals in a changing educational environment and provide them with the instructional tools and socio-emotional support needed to reach their college and career aspirations. Lynwood Unified serves over 14,000 students across 12 elementary schools, three middle schools, three high schools, a preschool, and adult and independent study programs. As we transitioned to distance learning this past year, we worked to create an individualized learning system that meets each child at their place of need. We launched a Virtual Academy to tailor instruction to families and created a student-led tutoring support program for K-8 learners that allowed students to inspire their peers. A partnership with PAPER Educational Support system allows us to provide 24/7 tutoring and guidance to high school students. The rewards of these instructional programs can be seen in our soaring graduation rates and the number of college-going graduates. Our African American students boasted a 94.4% graduation rate thanks to the impactful engagement of our Equity, Access, and Instructional Department. Our students have been accepted at such elite universities as Stanford, Dartmouth, UC Berkeley, and several HBCUs. Our career technical education pathways begin in elementary and middle schools, helping students determine which professions they might want to pursue. Our high school pathways include manufacturing and engineering, biomedicine and nursing, media and design arts, performing arts, photography, culinary arts and automotive. The District's emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects continues to expand with an elementary robotics course and a TK-2 iPad initiative, which gets young students involved in computer coding through games and robots. Lynwood Unified's success has transcended the challenges of these uncertain times and soared through our community collaboration and commitment to giving our very best in support of students.

## Monrovia Unified School District

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

### World-Class Schools – World Class Students



**Dr. Ryan D. Smith**  
Superintendent

Our mission at Monrovia Unified School District focuses on providing World-Class Schools for World-Class Students. Throughout the pandemic, we've never lost sight of that goal. The 2021-22 school year has had its own unique set of challenges, but our team has gone above and beyond to make sure our students have everything they need to succeed.

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

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

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

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

To learn more about the Monrovia Unified School District, I invite you to check out our website at [www.monroviaschools.net](http://www.monroviaschools.net)

## Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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

### Dynamic Learning Opportunities



**Dr. John Bowes**  
Superintendent

Manhattan Beach Unified School District (MBUSD) is fortunate to be supported by a community that values the importance of a high-performing public school system. We have achieved national success and recognition in academics, arts, athletics, and sustainability, and because of this, many residents cite our schools as the primary reason for moving to Manhattan Beach. MBUSD serves over 5,800 students TK-12 with five elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. At MBUSD, we aim to maximize student achievement and promote our students' social and emotional growth.

We are fortunate in Manhattan Beach that we are a small community with a long history of extraordinary community partnerships, more notable than ever in our support of each other in addressing the many needs of students, staff and families. The Board of Trustees has been focused for many years on improving student achievement, and our administrators, faculty and staff strive to continuously improve — this teamwork has proven more important than ever during the COVID pandemic.

Using research-based teaching and learning, targeting students not meeting standards, and providing our staff with high-quality professional development, we are helping our students to be better learners who are more prepared to be successful in their future endeavors. We continue to support our educators and staff, and partnering with our families and community to offer dynamic learning opportunities for every child. All of us in MBUSD are committed to making our district a place where every student feels welcome, supported, encouraged, included, and safe. To us, success is not limited to academic or extracurricular achievements. It also means that all students are healthy, happy and able to thrive, in and out of school.

## Mountain View School District

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

### Inspiring Each Student to Succeed



**Raymond Andry**  
Superintendent

Inspiring each student to succeed every day is the mission of the Mountain View School District, a K-8 District located in El Monte. In MVSD we believe in our students and through a spirit of commitment, high expectations, collaboration, respect and care each member of our team is dedicated to providing outstanding instruction, programs and support for our students and families.

Throughout the many challenges brought on by the pandemic, the collective efforts of our staff, and the inspiring resilience of our students and families have enabled us to adapt to the continuing changes and remain focused on supporting the academic and social emotional growth of all students.

In MVSD, we are proud to equip our students with 21st century skills and prepare them to be future leaders and positive contributors to their community. This is achieved by focusing on the development of the whole child through programs like STEAM, Project Lead the Way, AVID, Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL), extensive technology learning including in school 1:1 technology devices, Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program, Mandarin Enrichment Program, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), comprehensive Visual and Performing Arts, a strong college and career-bound culture, nationally recognized nutrition and health education, nationally recognized family engagement programs and a Golden Bell award-winning Parent Leadership Academy.

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

## Newhall School District

25375 Orchard Village Rd., St. 200, Valencia, CA 91355 • 661/291-4000 • [www.newhallschooldistrict.com](http://www.newhallschooldistrict.com)

### Self-Reflection is the Key



**Jeff Pelzel**  
Superintendent

Newhall School District prides itself on a continuous improvement process with the most critical element being **self-reflection**. As we begin to prepare for the 2022-2023 school year, we must first celebrate the efforts of our staff, students, and families across the Newhall School District. We have successfully implemented our first year of a new three-year Local Control and Accountability Plan, with a significant shift in increasing parent voice in this process by implementing the **Newhall School District LCAP Parent Advisory Council**. Traditionally we engaged our families in stakeholder meetings in January to provide feedback on the goals and actions of the plan, which then drove the adjustments moving forward for

the subsequent years, however this year, this group of dedicated parents met four times throughout the year taking deeper dives into the LCAP Goals and Actions.

This year our staff committed to a focus on high quality, researched based, instructional practices around reading instruction with the support of on-going professional development and the backing of our Learning Support Teachers at each site. These highly skilled teachers (LSTs) have worked closely with grade level teams to provide intensive support to our most struggling readers throughout the year. The most rewarding part is seeing students gain confidence in their ability to read and comprehend text.

Looking ahead at the 2022-2023 school year, we will be taking the lessons learned this year to improve on what we do for students. Our primary vision is to **Empower Every Child Every Day** and that only happens when dedicated staff are willing to be continuous learners who strive to get better each day.

## Palmdale School District

39139 N. 10th St. East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/947-7191 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)

### Keeping the Palmdale PROMISE



**Raul Maldonado**  
Superintendent

It has been eight years since the initial launch of the Palmdale PROMISE strategic plan. Stakeholders often ask if we are changing the goals, values objectives of the PROMISE. As we often say in Palmdale, "Palmdale LEADS." The Leadership Team and School Board members are still fully committed to the high achievement of all students and the nurturing of a respectful and collaborative district culture. As a result, the District is poised to experience transformational changes in our community. Stakeholders understand the impact of PROMISE on our students, staff, and community. In addition, staff and community have consistently expressed a noticeable shift in positive relationships and high student expectations.

Robust instructional programs, professional learning opportunities, and parent support are evident. The idea of what constitutes robust education is being re-envisioned, and multilingual learning opportunities, the arts, technology, and much more translates to a well-rounded education for global competitiveness. There is palpable energy and enthusiasm about what is possible under the PROMISE. Students themselves take a much more visible role in determining their futures and voicing their opinions. Community relationships and partnerships continue to grow, and the City of Palmdale works hand-in-hand with the District to support students and families. The idea of Palmdale emerging as a national model of excellence is empowering and provocative. There are conversations about what it would take to make that a reality. Palmdale School District continues to shine, evidenced by all the awards won during the last few years in the State of California. I am honored to serve as the Superintendent of Schools in Palmdale.

## Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

12820 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-2000 • [www.nlmusd.org](http://www.nlmusd.org)

### Providing the Tools for Success



**John M. Lopez**  
Superintendent

In a year unlike any other that we have encountered in our academic careers, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District is focused on meeting the social-emotional needs of our students to ensure a welcoming and engaging environment for them to thrive academically.

The District's Mental Health & Wellness team promotes resiliency for students and helps them to reach their potential through effective stress management. Parents are also encouraged to attend workshops that offer tools on a variety of topics associated with mental health.

The devotion to the whole student is also evident in the number of strong academic programs offered within NLM.

Students are introduced in elementary school to the arts, dual language immersion, STEAM, robotics, and technology among many other things. Middle school students gain more exposure to pathways and secondary educational options, including Golden Bell Award-winning STEM programs and high school credit opportunities. The emphasis peaks in high school with offerings meant to hone academic knowledge and skill sets to prepare them for postsecondary education and career pathways. The District also offers an exceptional Continuing Education Program as El Camino High School was recently named a Model Continuation High Schools for 2022.

In addition, thanks to the passage of the community-backed \$375-million dollar Measure G bond, NLM has completed a host of facility upgrades including:

- New equipment, buildings, and fields at Benton Middle School
- An athletics complex, including a new football stadium at Norwalk High School
- A new gymnasium at La Mirada High School that doubled the building square footage
- District-wide safety upgrades to existing fire and other support systems

NLM will always strive to ensure Every Student is Future Ready! Our Promise!

## Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District

375 Via Almar, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274 • 310/378-9966 • [www.pvpusd.net](http://www.pvpusd.net)

### Putting Kids First



**Dr. Alex Cherniss**  
Superintendent

PVPUSD is very fortunate to have incredible teachers, principals, staff, and a supportive community who have worked diligently to accomplish our goal of keeping our schools open and safe. We are proud that our students have been able to experience in-person teaching and learning as well as extracurricular programs that make school more meaningful for so many kids.

Our district focus continues to be on supporting our students both academically and socially-emotionally. We made significant efforts to mitigate learning loss during the pandemic. During the summer, we provided learning opportunities with continued access to a variety of software applications and an optional two week "jump start" program. Our district continues to offer free after-school online tutoring in math and Language Arts. Recognizing the increased emotional health needs, we increased our school psychologists' and mental health provider presence at all sites and continue to provide information regarding available mental health resources. In addition, teachers provided virtual office hours during times of high absenteeism so students felt connected and did not fall behind. We have dedicated resources to create a district-wide writing program across subject areas at all levels to address the learning gap and ensure our students' proficiency.

A positive outcome of the past year has been increased community participation at our school Board meetings and PTA meetings. We have had over 350 parents, students and community members join our new Superintendent advisory committees and provide meaningful input toward the betterment of our school programs. Together, we are committed to the development of our kids and their future success in whatever path they may take.

## Paramount Unified School District

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

# Resilience and Perseverance



**Ruben Frutos**  
Superintendent

As we continue our second semester, we reflect on the many adaptations our school community has made to continue our amazing education programs. We strive to inform everyone about the constantly changing conditions we face working under the pandemic. At times, day by day has felt more like a rollercoaster ride. Our students adapt and thrive in their academic pursuits even under these conditions. A few examples include Jefferson Elementary was recognized as an AVID Elementary Showcase School. Zamboni was recertified as a Schools to Watch; all our middle schools are recognized with this distinction. Odyssey has its first graduating class and is scheduled to go through WASC Accreditation.

Our Career Technical Education (CTE) has added another pathway, Education, Child Development, and Family Services.

We were all hopeful that our school year would be relatively normal and a year of recovery and re-engagement academically for all our students. We believed we would carefully assess the learning gaps from the previous year and move our students forward in a growth continuum, but Covid has carried us along a survival and maintenance continuum instead. However, our outstanding staff, who give their all every day for our students' safety and success, continue to astonish us by providing innovative teaching practices that move our students forward with resilience and perseverance. Our Board of Education continues to stand firm to protect our students and staff by implementing safe and effective policies for our district. I am thankful for their efforts and amazed by our community that comes together to support our students each and every day.

## Pasadena Unified School District

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

# Inspiring the Joy of Learning



**Dr. Brian McDonald**  
Superintendent

At the Pasadena Unified School District, we're powering on with our work to prepare students for the future, inspiring the joy of learning in every child every day. The PUSD team is focused on preparing students for the occupations of tomorrow that require analytical and interpersonal skills, the ability to work as a team, to problem-solve, to communicate effectively, to adapt, and to take initiative.

Exciting things are happening in our classrooms and campuses.

Our schools are deepening learning and engaging our students in learning, guiding them to explore, learn, and build a better world. From core programs such as STEM, the arts, writing, and math, to innovative programs in world languages, high school academies, and international baccalaureate, PUSD is powering up every child's potential.

An integral part of our mission is "to promote a deep love for learning by embracing the cultural background of every student." In 2022-2023, we're expanding transitional kindergarten at more campuses to serve our youngest learners. We're also adding the district's first elementary Armenian world language program as a path to middle and high school studies. These are companions to dual language immersion programs in French, Mandarin, and Spanish.

Washington Middle School will now be called Octavia E Butler Magnet, renamed after the renowned science fiction author and PUSD graduate.

We welcome changes like these which will serve as an inspiration for future generations.



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## Pomona Unified School District

800 S. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA 91766 • 909/397-4800 • [www.pusd.org](http://www.pusd.org)

### Creating Excellence in Pomona USD



**Richard L. Martinez**  
Superintendent

The Pomona Unified School District (PUSD) is creating excellence while meeting today's challenges. Schools safely reopened to again provide in-class learning while continuing to offer independent study as an option. PUSD is optimizing student safety.

At the same time, the district reached out, creating educational services to support the more than 8,000 children entering our nation's borders as part of the "Unaccompanied Minor Program." These young children were temporarily housed at the Pomona Fairplex and became PUSD's students, as they transitioned from the Mexican border to homes across America.

The students were helped to learn English as a second language and were introduced to technology in preparation for the schools they would be entering when they left Pomona.

It was a massive effort to create these programs from scratch, order books and supplies, and mobilize and support our teaching staff so that these students' needs would be met. But Pomona recognized that it was also given a unique opportunity to show these children that even though they were without a family, they could look to our country and our teachers and be given a chance to learn and grow. PUSD not only met, but exceeded the challenge set by these children. PUSD has received numerous accolades for the excellence of its teachers and the programs it created, including praise from U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra.

In Pomona, we offer excellence because we know our students have the intelligence, daring, and ability to dazzle us with their ambition, hopes, and dreams. All they need is the opportunity, and that is what the Pomona Unified School District provides.

## Rosemead School District

3907 Rosemead Blvd., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/312-2900 • [www.rosemead.k12.ca.us](http://www.rosemead.k12.ca.us)

### Developing the Leaders of Tomorrow



**Alejandro Ruvalcaba**  
Superintendent

In 2017 the Rosemead School District schools received the prestigious recognition of being ranked as one of the top 4 school districts in the San Gabriel Valley. That distinction was affirmed with the recognition of Savannah Elementary School as a 2018 California Distinguished School and Mildred B. Janson Elementary School and Emma W. Shuey Elementary School as 2020 California Distinguished Schools. All five of our district schools were named 2019-2020 Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll schools for high achievement in student success rated at "star" category - the highest rating. In 2020-2021, Mildred B. Janson Elementary School was named a Leader In Me Legacy Lighthouse School. And recently, in 2021-2022, Mildred B. Janson Elementary School, Savannah Elementary School, Emma W. Shuey Elementary School, and Muscatel Middle School were named Best Schools by *U.S. News and World Reports*.

Along with outstanding academic achievement, our students are a part of nationally recognized leadership and character development schools. The Rosemead School District has adopted the 7-Habits® Leader in Me® (LIM) program. This process helps develop the essential life skills and characteristics students will need in order to thrive in the 21st-century workforce. During the past 13 years, our Leader in Me® program has been developed and integrated into our schools' core curriculum.

We are also proud that Encinita Elementary School launched a Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Mandarin program in the 2020-2021 school year. This program reflects our efforts to prepare students to thrive in a global society.

For more information about our amazing school district and/or signature programs, please visit us at [www.rosemead.k12.ca.us](http://www.rosemead.k12.ca.us).

## Redondo Beach Unified School District

1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/379-5449 • [www.rbusd.org](http://www.rbusd.org)

### The State-of-the-Art RBUSD



**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 approximately 9,800 K-12 students and despite declining enrollment trends throughout California, RBUSD has only experienced a slight decline in enrollment during the pandemic due to the synergy created between community and schools. We attribute this to: 1) hiring and supporting excellent staff members who are focused on students; 2) the passage of a transformative school construction bond that was completed

on time and on dime; and 3) the passage of a solar and technology bond aimed at providing modern instructional tools for each RBUSD student and staff member, while concurrently relieving the district's general fund. The focus on people, facilities, and instruction is why RBUSD is 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 thriving 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 RBUSD. 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! The culture of our district does not embrace the status quo, but rather reaches for what tomorrow's learning may bring to us all.

## Rowland Unified School District

1830 Nogales St., Rowland Heights, CA 91748 • 626/965-2541 • [www.rowlandschools.org](http://www.rowlandschools.org)

### Innovative Learning for All



**Dr. Julie Mitchell**  
Superintendent

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

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

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

## San Gabriel Unified School District

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

### The Portrait of a Graduate



**James "Jim" Symonds**  
Superintendent

Throughout the pandemic, the San Gabriel Unified's "Portrait of a Graduate" became our compass as we navigated through unknown and often times, turbulent waters. The Portrait of a Graduate has been our "North Star" for not only our students, but our organization as a whole. The competencies we identified with our stakeholders are characteristics we hope to instill in our graduates:

- Resilient
- Empathetic
- Global Citizens
- Creative Thinkers
- Collaborators
- Communicators

All of these competencies were put into action throughout the district as we had to quickly reimagine how to deliver instruction to our students during a pandemic. Our district rose to the challenge and the resilience and heroic effort by our teachers, staff, administrators, students and community at large was inspiring.

This year we have focused our attention on continuing to build our commitment to student voice and agency. We have created the Student Advisory Council to the Superintendent, which has become a forum for our students to share their ideas and help us shape the district vision from the student lens.

Our students now participate in the LCAP Development and Budget Development process as well. Their perspective and ideas have brought new light to the process. By giving our students a platform to communicate their ideas, our students have been empowered to bring their vision to the future for the San Gabriel Unified School District.

## San Marino Unified School District

1665 West Dr., San Marino, CA 91108 • 626/299-7000 • www.smusd.us

### Rising Together



**Dr. Linda de la Torre**  
Superintendent

The SMUSD ranks among the top ten school districts in the state of California. 2022 Niche School District Rankings report SMUSD ranks in the top 100 of the Best School Districts in America, which equates to SMUSD being in the top one percent of school districts in the country, state, and Los Angeles Area. Niche also found that SMUSD ranks in the top percentile for "Districts with the Best Teachers in America," "Best Places to Teach in America," and the "Safest School Districts in America." Huntington Middle School was also the only middle school in California, and one of 15 middle schools in the nation this year to receive the National Blue Ribbon award.

The District's theme for the 2021-2022 school year, RISE TOGETHER, "RISE" which is an acronym for "Respect, Inspire, Serve, and Elevate" reflects SMUSD's approach to overcoming adversity. SMUSD remains a leader in K-12 education due to the strong partnership that we have with our parents, educators, and community. Our PTAs, Schools Foundation, PTAffiliates, Chinese Club/School, Partnership for Awareness, Rotary, City Club, City of San Marino, and PCC have remained steadfast in their strong commitment to supporting a world-class education for each and every student enrolled. It is only because we are Rising Together that we are able to successfully continue to support our students' social-emotional well-being, provide access to innovative programs that serve to aid students in the discovery of their innate strengths and talents in order to prepare them to be highly successful, inquisitive, adaptive, responsible, and become collaborative and dynamic members of the global community.



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## Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

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

### Preparing Students for College and Career



**Dr. Ben Drati**  
Superintendent

Our district-wide pathway approach to career education starts in elementary school with exposure to career talks, project-based learning and teaching future ready skills. Then moves to middle school where opportunities are expanded and include leadership, career planning and counselor presentations. Ultimately, in high school, students gain valuable experience and have the opportunities for targeted studies, job shadowing, internships, mentoring and apprenticeships. This approach is critical to ensuring that all students succeed.

Our mission is to prepare students to graduate high school college and career-ready in the global marketplace by engaging in skill-driven, real-world learning experiences.

As part of the academy program, students will collaborate with community mentors to complete projects centered around a yearly theme and publicly present their projects through showcase events. The academy program builds on students' interests by offering hands-on, relevant, real-world experiences to produce college and career-ready graduates.

Our successful project-based learning pathway started with ninth grade in 2019, and continues to grow and thrive. It is an experiential, challenging, student-driven learning experience that creates authentic relationships between students, teachers and community mentors. It's a unique opportunity for creative and intellectual depth and future-relevant learning.

More on SMMUSD Career Technical Education and academies: [www.smmusd.org/CTE](http://www.smmusd.org/CTE) and more on PBL: [www.smmusd.org/PBL](http://www.smmusd.org/PBL).

## South Pasadena Unified School District

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

### Preparing Students for the Future



**Dr. Geoff Yantz**  
Superintendent

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

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

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

## Saugus Union School District

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

### Committed to Excellence



**Dr. Colleen Hawkins**  
Superintendent

Saugus Union School District (SUSD) is committed to Excellence in Elementary Education despite all of the challenges brought on by COVID. We remain true to our ABC's:

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

**Business** – We maintain consistent fiscal practices, ensuring SUSD provides outstanding instructional programs and facilities. Measure EE enables us to modernize our facilities, providing 21st Century technology, flexible instructional spaces, and secure campuses. We have replaced 515 AC Units, installed bipolar ionization technology, and increased outdoor airflow to support the demands of COVID-19 and any future airborne issues.

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

## South Whittier School District

11200 Telechron Ave., Whittier, CA 90605 • 562/944-6231 • www.swhittier.k12.ca.us

### An Optimal Educational Environment



**Dr. Gary Gonzales**  
Superintendent

South Whittier School District (SWSD) is comprised of 5 elementary schools (TK-6) and a middle school (7-8) located in the unincorporated area of Whittier and proudly serves approximately 2400 students. The District's motto is "Success for Every Student" and is evident through the focused actions and high expectations of our Trustees and the commitment and dedication of our classified and certificated staff members. Collaboratively, we work together to ensure that every child has access to a rigorous and appropriate education in a clean and supportive environment where they can grow and thrive. SWSD is committed to providing every student with a world-class education that includes opportunities such as AVID, Spanish

Dual Immersion, Medical Careers class, STEM, Mariachi and Folklorico. SWSD students develop skills and characteristics that prepare them to transition into high school, college and eventually the workforce. SWSD students are supported in an educational environment where they are engaged in conversation, projects, performances and presentations that utilize critical thinking skills so that they are prepared to compete in and contribute to a global society.

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

## Sulphur Springs Union School District

27000 Weyerhaeuser Wy., Santa Clarita, CA 91351 • 661/252-5131 • [www.sssd.k12.ca.us](http://www.sssd.k12.ca.us)

### Relationships are Key to Student Success



**Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi**  
Superintendent

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

Staff in SSUSD continue to recognize that no two students are alike, and each student has different interests and learning styles. During these past two years, staff have been able to meet students where they are academically, and accelerate them forward to meet their academic goals. In addition, staff meet with families every fall to discuss academic and social/emotional goals for their child so that together they can create opportunities for success.

When parents and staff enter Sulphur Springs Schools, they are inspired by the sense of “family” and how every child, parent, and staff member is embraced to be part of the community of learners. Knowing that relationships and connections are key to student success, staff is committed to strengthening partnerships between the home and school.

The Sulphur Springs Union School District could not achieve these successes without the dedication of our hard-working teachers, administrators, and support staff. As a proud Superintendent of an amazing District, the Board of Trustees, staff, and I will always strive to place Students First, and commit to strong healthy relationships with families, staff, and community.

## Temple City Unified School District

9700 Las Tunas Dr., Temple City, CA 91780 • 626/548-5000 • [www.tcusd.net](http://www.tcusd.net)

### An Educationally Centered District



**Dr. Kimberly Fricker**  
Superintendent

At Temple City Unified School District we believe students, parents, staff and community have a shared responsibility to provide a safe, welcoming and nurturing educational environment for all of our students in order to maximize the learning of each individual child. This begins through the establishment of a positive culture built upon dedication, honesty, integrity, pride, perseverance, collaboration, teamwork, mutual trust and respect. TCUSD is proud to support the diverse learning styles and individual needs of our students in order to ensure that all students meet high learning standards.

Throughout the recent COVID-19 Pandemic safety, strategic planning and effective communication has and continues to be a high priority. In order to do that we have developed an On-line Virtual Academy which hosts approximately 500 students. This academy provides students with access to on-line credentialed teachers in addition to both writing and mathematics tutoring support for students.

Mitigating Learning loss has also remained a top priority. Identifying student’s talents and goals through the building of strong relationships and connections is essential to building high levels of student engagement.

We are all proud to be a part of such a wonderful and educationally centered school district. This is exemplified by the extensive levels of volunteerism and community support that is a hallmark of TCUSD. I want to personally thank each and every individual who has gone above



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## Valle Lindo School District

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

### Innovation through Tradition



**Dr. Elizabeth Evans**  
Superintendent

Valle Lindo School District has deep roots and lasting traditions that have formed a strong foundation for educational excellence. Since 1863, Valle Lindo School District has maintained an unwavering commitment to educating students equipped with the skills required to become inclusive and empathic leaders in a world that is rapidly changing. By providing students with an education where tradition and innovation are intertwined, Valle Lindo School District recognizes the importance of celebrating each success, while still remaining focused on learning, adapting and creating the very brightest future.

Every individual in our learning community is valued and an integral part of our school district. With small class sizes and state of the art classrooms, our teachers and staff are able to partner with families to support every child. New Temple Elementary and Shively Middle School have earned Title I Academic Achievement Awards, and have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools and California Gold Ribbon Schools. Valle Lindo School District is also one of only six districts nationwide to receive the Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase District award.

Students benefit from student-centered instruction in all core content areas as well as enrichment experiences provided to all students. Valle Lindo School District recognizes that students learn best when they feel a sense of belonging. We are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion as our district continues to proactively engage with our community to learn and grow. Through technology integration, innovative instruction, a rigorous curriculum and strong social-emotional support, our students continue to not only achieve academic and personal success, but also transform every challenge into a once in a lifetime opportunity.

## West Covina Unified School District

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

### Opportunities Abound at WCUSD



**Dr. Emy Flores**  
Superintendent

The West Covina Unified School District is dedicated to safety, well-being, and uncompromising excellence in education and citizenship. Students at WCUSD have access to world-class opportunities, programs and experiences, including computer science, dance, music, arts enrichment at all TK-8th grade schools. We are proud to offer a diverse choice of programs, including Dual Language in Mandarin and Spanish, International Baccalaureate TK-12th grade, AVID, Career Technical Education with a multiyear pathway to postsecondary education and careers. We are also proud to offer students the opportunity to enroll in the Mt. SAC Early College Academy, a fully accredited high school where students can earn a high school diploma and up to two years of free, transferable college credit.

Students in WCUSD learn in safe and modern learning environments with state-of-the-art facilities made possible by Bond Measure ES funds. These facilities include updated classrooms, the Aquatic Center/Athletics Complex and Event Center/CTE building at Edgewood Schools, a CTE/Science building at West Covina High School, and a Performing Arts Center scheduled to open in 2023. After two years of ups and downs due to the pandemic, we look forward to seeing our talented students compete, learn and perform in these updated facilities, which will also provide opportunities for community use.

At WCUSD, we value partnership and collaboration, and that's why we work closely with teachers, support staff, parents, city, and community partners to maximize support and opportunities for our students. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, WCUSD has not only maximized safety and prioritized students' social and emotional well-being, we also added counselors, social workers, nurses and are in the process of adding additional wellness centers at our schools.

The future is bright at WCUSD, and we are excited about the opportunities ahead as our district continues to expand its opportunities for students and our community.

## Walnut Valley Unified School District

880 S. Lemon Ave., Walnut, CA 91789 • 909/595-1261 • www.wvusd.org

### Inspiring Students to be Their Best



**Dr. Robert P. Taylor**  
Superintendent

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

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

This year, WVUSD earned an A+ grade and top 2 percent ranking in the 2021 Niche report of Best School Districts in America.

Our high performing high schools score in the top 1 percent out of 19,000 public high schools in the nation.

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

Our schools have been distinguished with top honors, including National Blue Ribbon, California Distinguished School and Exemplary Arts Education Programs, CSBA Golden Bell, NAMM Best Community for Music Education, CIF State Champions, and more. WVUSD Teacher of the Year Sylvia Chen from Walnut Elementary is dedicated to making her dual-language immersion students' educational experience meaningful and relevant.

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

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

## Westside Union School District

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

### All Schools WASC Accredited



**Regina L. Rossall**  
Superintendent

Staff and students have been pleased to be back on our school sites and working in the classroom with their teachers and their peers. In addition to our regular on campus programs, many families elected to enroll their children in Independent Study programs which have an enrollment of about 400 students TK-8th.

As of this past June, all 12 of our schools are WASC accredited. Our initial schools who worked through the WASC process are now doing a full WASC visit. Throughout this process, we have engaged in professional communities to help assess our instructional programs, they measure the progress our students are making and identify areas for growth. The WASC process coupled with our LCAP process have helped us make adjustments to our various programs to make them more effective and meaningful to students.

We have implemented a new reading intervention program for the K-3rd grade students using CORE Reading. All site administrators and primary level teachers have been offered training in the program. Significant growth has been seen in the data received from our participating students.

The district is currently working to implement UTK programs for the 22-23 school year, welcoming to our campus younger learners.

**Be a student as long as you still have something to learn,  
and this will mean all your life.**

**– Henry L. Doherty**

## Whittier Union High School District

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

### Achieving and Maintaining Excellence



**Martin Plourde**  
Superintendent

At Whittier Union High School District, we focus on providing a comprehensive education for all students, ensuring they have access to an engaging, standards-based instructional program. Whittier Union is committed to doing Whatever It Takes to ensure our students have the tools and resources they need to be successful in their academic and personal pursuits.

Whittier Union students and staff returned for the 2021-22 school year with increased drive and motivation – emphasizing our District motto, “To Achieve and Maintain Excellence.”

Our success in transitioning back to in-person learning is due to the amazing leadership and tireless work of our certificated and classified staff; this work has continued into the spring semester as we remain focused on ensuring the health and safety of our District community.

The Whittier Union High School District remains steadfast in its commitment to provide students with a safe and engaging learning environment. This includes supporting students’ emotional and physical health through the District’s Student Well-being Program, which delivers comprehensive school-based mental health services.

Through our five award-winning comprehensive high schools, a model continuation school, independent study program, transition program and adult school, the District provides its students many different avenues for success. We are proud to offer 13 award-winning career academies, giving students hands-on experience through training and internship opportunities in professional settings.

Our Board of Trustees and strong team of administrators and educators are committed to supporting our students as they pursue their academic and professional goals – all while working to continue promoting a culture of success at Whittier Union.

## Wilsona School District

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

### Life-Long Learners



**Dr. Susan Andreas-Bervel**  
Superintendent

Wilsona School District is dedicated to “Building the Foundation of Life-Long Learning!” Wilsona is located in Lake Los Angeles in the Antelope Valley, serving approximately 1,200 students.

The district is made up of 2 schools, Vista San Gabriel Elementary School and Challenger Middle School. Our entire school community works together to ensure that our students receive the services and supports needed for continuity in their education and their lives. We are also proud of our expansion of electives, such as music and art. Our career-technical education lab ensures all middle school students have the opportunity to explore career pathways before high school, such as robotics, interior design, veterinary medicine, and culinary arts.

Our visionary Board of Trustees spearheaded Bond Measure WE in November 2018 to modernize our schools. We are very proud to have new roofing and HVAC systems at both schools, and are finalizing the plans to modernize classrooms. The District also is proud of the 3 new beautiful Kindergarten classrooms that have been constructed during 2021!

Wilsona has wonderful students, committed teachers, and caring support staff, who focus every day on serving the needs of our families. Each employee brings their own unique talents and qualities to the district, supporting our students to excel and reach their potential.

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

## William S. Hart Union High School District

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

### Named an Exemplary District



**Mike Kuhlman**  
Superintendent

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

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

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

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

## Wiseburn Unified School District

201 N. Douglas St., El Segundo, CA 90245 • 310/725-2101 • www.wiseburn.org

### All Means All



**Dr. Blake Silvers**  
Superintendent

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

## Parent To Parent



Jodie Lynn

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, often our kids were on their devices upwards of eight hours per day. What can parents do to keep them safe online and on their cell phones? It seems like more than ever, kids are getting spam emails, calls and texts from unknown sources. This is not acceptable, quite scary and exhausting to try to constantly monitor.

COVID-19 has isolated the majority of us and leaves us with levels of uncertainty, unusual scariness and frequent loneliness. Individuals are in a vulnerable place, especially our kids. This is the perfect time for sexual predators to approach them as it can come in many forms.

Give your kids a set of online safety rules that they will understand with explanations that they will believe and take to heart.

It's important for you to know which online games that your kids are playing. Many are multiplayer games where several online players can be together playing at once or just watching. These games have text and voice chat capabilities from around the world. This is highly dangerous because people can pretend to be someone else and of a certain age and can expose kids to unsuitable and unacceptable predatory language and content. These individuals can develop friendships with kids and eventually encourage them to meet in real life. It's important to recognize that each game has specific settings which you should check out and change for better online safety.

Remember not only to talk with your kids frequently about staying safe online, but also explain that anyone at any age can be cyberbullied. If a person or group want them to chime in about someone, tell them to ignore the request and don't return to that area and group. Explain why it's so important to think about what they are going to post at any given time or in any area before doing so, to keep their passwords safe, to always log off and not to click on links from people that they don't know. The right thing to do is to report the cyberbullying to an authoritative figure as well. They may just save a life.

You could also take their electronic devices away for a few hours each day, but for those hours that they're on them, rules and guidelines still need to be in place. Even if your kids seem to have level heads on their shoulders and you feel like you can trust them, they can still be sneaky.

It's easy to hide all kinds of online activities from parents with various apps:

Snapchat is a program where people can send images, videos, etc. to friends which will disappear within 10 to 30 seconds. It's pretty popular among teens. The hidden danger is that those "private" moments are not really deleted. They're hidden in files on most phones. Even more devastating and scary is that if someone takes a screen shot, the message, image or whatever can be posted anywhere.

Finsta is a fake Instagram account where anyone can create photos, conversations, etc., staying anonymous and keeping everything private through sharing with a few close friends and can be hidden on devices. But again, just like anything else, if a screen shot is taken, boom, it can show up anywhere online.

Be sure to read about popular apps and arm yourself with knowledge for options that you as the parent can do to help your kids be safe. Below you'll find a few but there's many others that you can find by doing an online search: Instagram, YouTube, Kik, Telegram, TikTok

There's also several phone apps offered to parents to help them monitor their kids' phone and online activities.

For unwanted calls or texts, it's simple to register landlines and cell phone numbers with the office of your state Attorney General's No-Call list for unwanted calls or texts. It's available online, free and will cut down on both. While it does take a few weeks to actually go into effect, it's best to get that done straight away. Do a little research and you'll also find several other government agencies where complaints can be made. Unfortunately, it's not going to totally eliminate them and that is even truer for robot calls. Learning some basic rules to share with your kids can also help.

For example: Don't answer any calls that are not in your contact list. If it's truly someone trying to reach you, they'll leave a message. If they don't, the number can quickly be blocked. The same goes for unwanted texts. The exception in this situation is going to be from "Unknown" or "Private" numbers, which are really hard to trace because no number shows up. However, there are phone apps to help with this. As far as spam email goes, if it's opened, don't click on any links. Look up how to set up filters and teach your kids how to recognize, delete and block it.

As you are well aware, this whole cyber safety situation is extremely exhausting. But, there's no way of getting around it if you're going to be proactive in protecting your children.

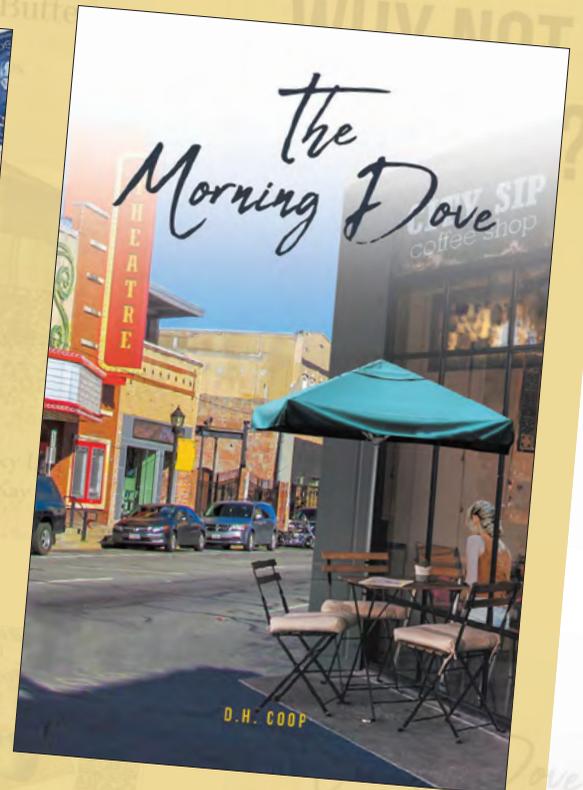
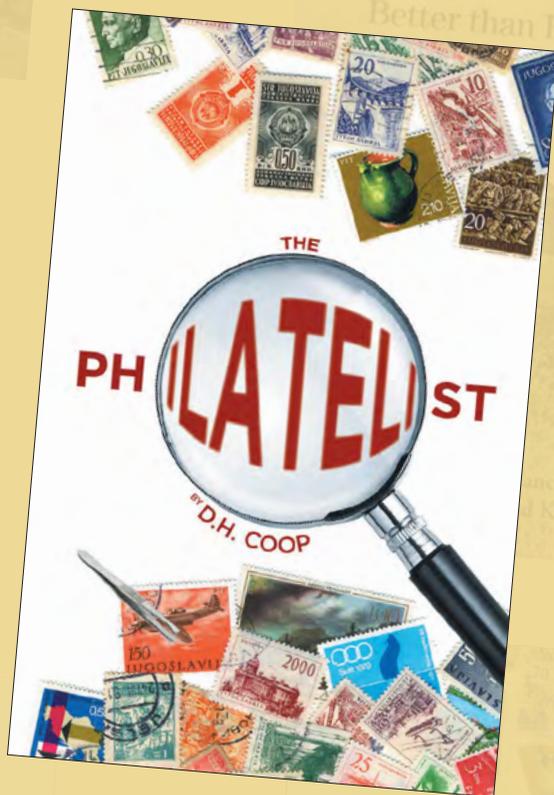
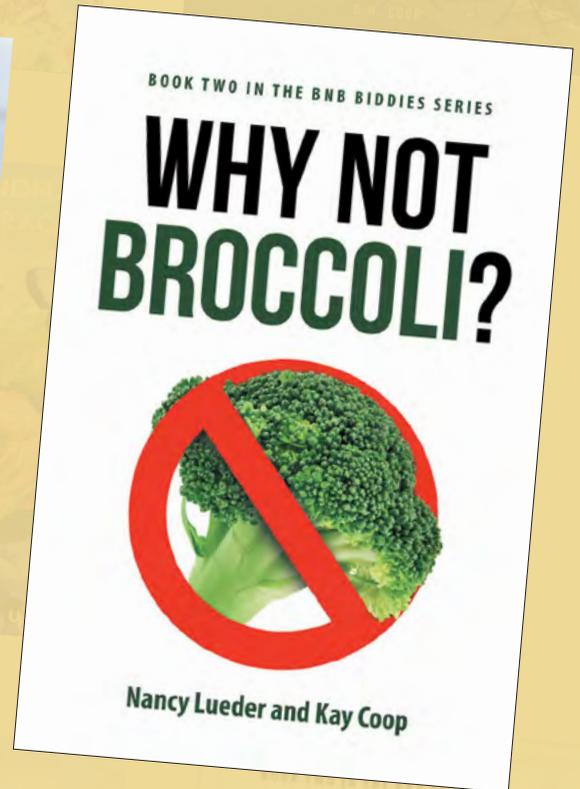
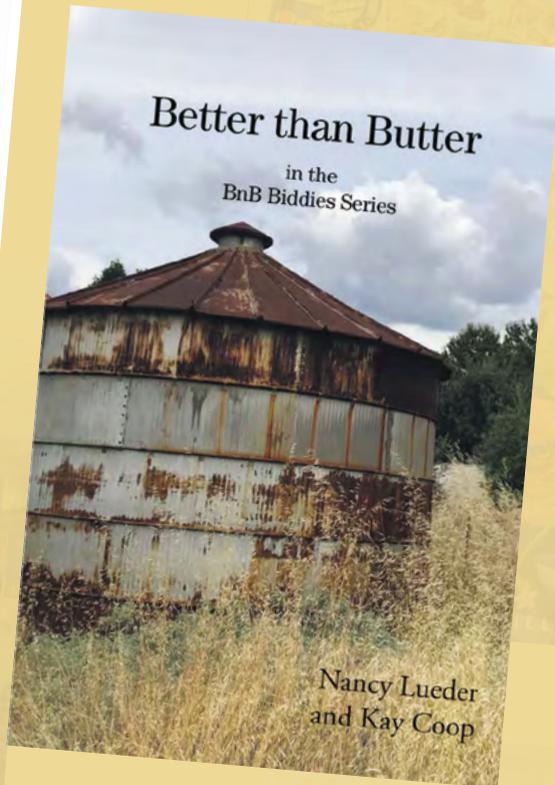
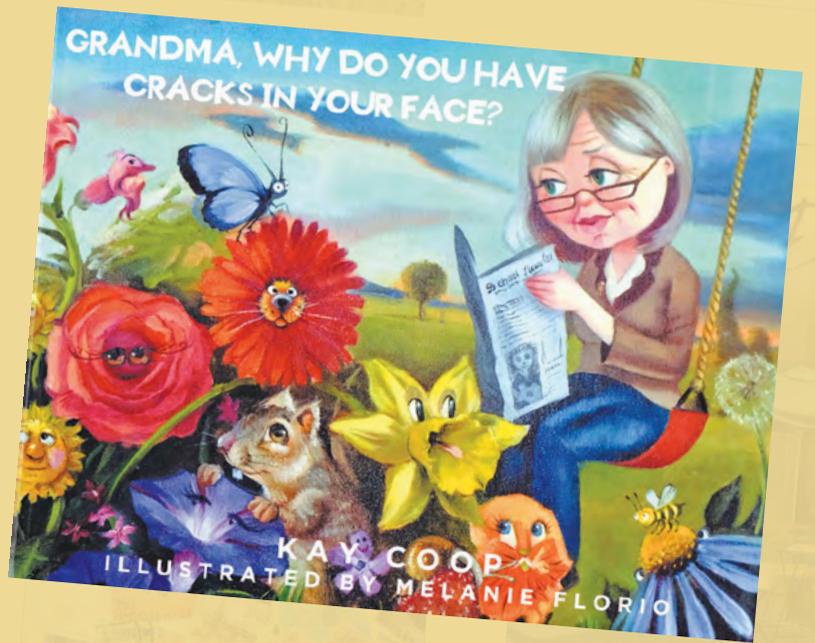
Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ ([www.ParentToParent.com](http://www.ParentToParent.com)) has been successful for more than 20 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites including *School News Roll Call* and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* [www.ParentToParent.com](http://www.ParentToParent.com)

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