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## County

### 2020 - 2021

K-12

Public Schools

# Superintendents

13th  
Edition

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# Los Angeles County Office of Education

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## Educational Excellence



**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



This is our 13th 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).



**Dr. Debra Duardo**  
Superintendent

I am delighted to welcome you to *School News Roll Call's* Los Angeles County Superintendents Issue for 2020-21.

In this special annual edition, you will find valuable information about your own school district, their achievements and efforts that support educational excellence in their schools. You will also learn about the rich diversity that characterizes Los Angeles County's public education system.

There are 80 school districts spread across 4,000 square miles of our county. The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) serves all those districts and the more than 2 million students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. As such we are the nation's largest regional public education agency.

As Superintendent of Los Angeles County schools, my priority is to ensure that young people of all backgrounds and abilities have equal opportunities for success in college, in the workplace and in civic life. We at LACOE are forging unprecedented partnerships with county agencies and other groups to bring additional resources to schools to improve the academic, emotional and physical well-being of students. We are harnessing the power of one Los Angeles County working together to create a bright future for at-promise youth.

LACOE is a key partner with districts in developing strategies that ensure all students are growing and

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

LACOE plays a vital role in ensuring the fiscal solvency of our 80 districts through budget oversight and delivery of cost-effective administrative and business services.

LACOE also provides direct classroom instruction to at-promise youth and operates Juvenile Court Schools, County Community Schools, as well as the award-winning Los Angeles County High School for the Arts and International Polytechnic High School.

We support the academic needs of youth in foster care and students experiencing homelessness, developing a groundbreaking countywide record-sharing system that benefits these students.

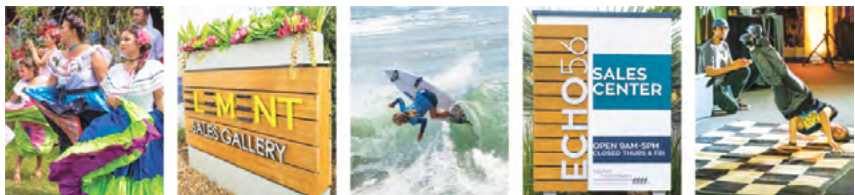
In addition, LACOE reaches out to students, families and communities with early childhood programs, parenting and literacy classes, as well as job development services. The centerpiece of our school-readiness efforts is our early learning program. As California's largest Head Start grantee as well as a provider of state programs, LACOE serves more than 11,000 children and their families each year.

As you browse the pages of this special edition of *School News Roll Call*, you will learn how our distinguished district superintendents are leading efforts to provide the best possible education for our students in Los Angeles County.

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### School News

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## Schools for 21st Century Learners



**Dr. Mary Sieu**  
*Superintendent*

ABC Unified School District is comprised of ten preschools, 30 schools and serves over 21,000 (K-12) ethnically diverse students in the cities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, and portions of Lakewood, Long Beach and Norwalk. Our Adult School serves an additional 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, eighteen 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.

## 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.

## The Gold Standard



**Lawrence M. King**  
*Superintendent*

Nearly 3 years ago we began listening to our students and staffs tell their stories of perseverance, triumph, failure, and success. The stories became known as Stay Gold Moments. At each Board meeting we highlight student and staff success. Our video production classes created videos highlighting these stories.

Our Board of Trustees began discussing the need for the development of a District strategic plan nearly two years ago. We established a strategic plan committee comprised of teachers, administrators, classified employees, parents, students, and our local community partners. We worked with an outside facilitator to establish overarching goals, objectives, and a vision statement. The Gold Standard name is derived from the concept of Stay Gold moments and the importance of having a growth mindset. The Gold Standard was adopted by our Board of Trustees in November, 2020.

Every decision we now make is tied to our Gold Standard. The implementation of the California Reading Literature Project (Gold Standard 1.0), participation in the Lake Arrowhead Rotary Club Polar Plunge (Gold Standard 3.0), our first annual Superintendent Stay Gold Senior Scholarship (Gold Standard 2.0, 3.0, and 5.0) and “Supper With the Sup,” a program that allows the District to hear firsthand opinions from students (Gold Standard 4.0).

The Gold Standard was a major accomplishment. This was a true demonstration of leadership and collaboration from all stakeholders. I am proud to continue as the servant leader for the Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District! Stay Gold AADUSD!

## Industry-Standard Composites Lab



**Dr. David J. Vierra**  
*Superintendent*

The Antelope Valley Union High School District is committed to offering all students opportunities to ensure they develop the necessary academic, technical and work-related skills of the 21st century, and that they are prepared to pursue college and any career to which they aspire.

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 August, William J. “Pete” Knight High School Digital Design and Engineering Academy, an Advance CTE Excellence in Action STEM Pathway Award winner, opened their new industry-standard composites lab.

Funded from the district’s California Department of Education’s Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) allocation, and further supported by the K12 Strong Workforce program, this lab will help to address the regional demand for workers who possess composites skill training in the aerospace and related industries, and provide students with training to pursue a certificate, two- or four-year degree, or enter directly into the workforce.

“This is just an outstanding program that we’re getting to start here, not only with the school district, but with industry as well,” Vierra said. The District has plans to open similar labs at two other campuses in the coming year.



# Arcadia Unified School District

150 South Third Avenue, Arcadia, CA 91006 • 626/821-8300 • [www.ausd.net](http://www.ausd.net)

## Better Together



**Dr. David Vannasdal**  
Superintendent

As we step into 2020, I am beaming with pride for the daily commitment that our Arcadia Unified teachers, staff, and community make to support our students and each other. It is the sum of our parts that shows what is possible in public education when people work tirelessly together with the common goal of putting students' evolving needs first.

We are grateful to begin the 2019-20 school year in the top 1% of the best school districts in the nation, as are we honored to be home to a U.S. Department of Education 2019 National Blue Ribbon School and a 2020 California Distinguished School. Such humbling recognition is impossible without our phenomenal educators. In 2019 alone, our teammates were recognized as one of only 16 Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year; Gilder Lehrman Institute's California History Teacher of the Year; and the winner of the GRAMMY Museum's Jane Ortnier Award. Our standout educators pave the way for our standout students.

Access to tools and programs that are crucial to bolstering teaching, learning, and behind-the-scenes efforts are exclusively possible through community support. Without our Arcadia Educational Foundation and its fundraising efforts, without generous donations from our families, friends, and the community, and without the backing of our city partners, our schools could neither survive nor thrive.

Our theme for this school year is "better together," and we truly are. We invite everyone to be better together with us at our free, day-long professional development conference, the 6th annual Arcadia Innovation Summit on June 26, 2020. Register to attend at [arcadiainnovationsummit.ausd.net](http://arcadiainnovationsummit.ausd.net).

# Azusa Unified School District

546 S. Citrus Avenue, Azusa, CA 91702 • 626/967-6211 • [www.azusa.org](http://www.azusa.org)

## Everything Students Need to Succeed



**Dr. Linda Kaminski**  
Superintendent

The Azusa Unified School District (AUSD) is made up of 17 schools proudly serving more than 8,000 students in the San Gabriel Valley from TK through adult education. At AUSD, we recognize that no two students are alike, and each student has different interests and learning styles.

AUSD programs include International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), career pathways and academies, including a K-12 STEM Pathway, Academy of Health Sciences, Academy of Automotive Design, Early College Program, California State Preschool, Dual-language Immersion, and computer coding. We are incredibly proud of our award-winning

K-12 Visual and Performing Arts, including Mariachi, orchestra, elementary band, and Powell Elementary School of the Arts. We have competitive athletics at the middle and high school levels, and so much more!

Providing students with a variety of options keeps them engaged in their education and encourages them to plan for their future, at a college or in the workforce. AUSD's graduation rate easily outpaces both the state and national averages, and our overall academic achievement for all students in both math and English language arts continues to grow at a rate that exceeds 5-year growth in the state. Our two comprehensive high schools have been recognized two years in on the *U.S. News and World Report's* "Best High Schools" in the nation list. 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. Our higher-education partners, Azusa Pacific University, Grand Canyon University, and the University of La Verne, provide guaranteed admission to AUSD graduates who qualify. Some even offer on the spot admission days to AUSD students!

Supporting AUSD's impressive academic and extracurricular opportunities is an intensive facilities-modernization program. Visit our website to learn more!

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# STEAM-Focused Instruction



**Dr. Froilan N. Mendoza**  
*Superintendent*

Baldwin Park Unified students this year are exploring the calculus of aerospace engineering, diving into the challenging details of computer construction with our Cisco Academy and sparking creativity in our greenroom equipped state-of-the-art digital media lab.

Those are just the latest refinements of a rigorous and robust instructional program that offers an effective blend of academics, leadership, athletics and enrichment designed to prepare students for futures as productive leaders and lifelong learners.

It is a combination that continues to reap rewards for the District, as BPUSD is home to several California Distinguished Schools and Los Angeles Top Schools.

In transitional kindergarten, students are introduced to the realm of academics, with lessons that focus on social, emotional and intellectual development. Kindergarten and elementary school expand these skills as students grow in understanding about good citizenship, and develop an abiding love for learning.

Baldwin Park Unified’s comprehensive science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics courses put students ahead of the learning curve for tech-based college studies and careers.

Thanks to generous funding and grants, the District is enhancing its visual and performing arts curriculum, so students can continue to grow their perspectives and communication skills through interactive mediums.

The District’s Adult and Community Education program also features courses for those who want a different path to higher education, with certifications in fields like automotive, cosmetology, HVAC and culinary arts.

Baldwin Park Unified’s mission is made possible by the support of local partners and businesses, and with the expertise of talented educators, administrators and staff, who encourage and guide our students toward their individual routes to success.

# We Build Futures!



**Tracy McSparren**  
*Superintendent*

Bellflower Unified School District’s focus is on increasing student engagement, achievement, and opportunities as “We Build Futures!” Our District serves a diverse student population in grades preK-12. We are focused on improving the instructional program for all students through the implementation of highly effective instructional strategies and the retention of high quality staff. To ensure students have a variety of options after graduation, we are expanding our CTE programs to allow great opportunities for students to explore future career opportunities including expanding STEAM opportunities at each of our elementary sites. We have started construction on a state of the art STEAM building on the Mayfair High School campus and renovating our culinary arts and automotive facilities at Bellflower High School.

Additionally, we are fortunate to have strong partnerships with our communities and local service organizations. These organizations support our students through services, leadership trainings, and scholarships. We are proud of our Caring Connections collaborative organization that includes 50 members from a variety of service providers, community service organizations, and other groups interested in providing resources and services in our community. Caring Connections handles approximately 4000 referrals each year and provides families and students with a variety of services and support ranging from food baskets, bus tokens, clothing, counseling services, and even participate in school events such as Career Fairs. We are proud of how our schools and the community work together to build futures for our students.

# A Well-Rounded Education



**Debra French**  
*Superintendent*

Bassett Unified School District provides our students with a well-rounded education that empowers them to make a positive impact in our community while gaining the skills and knowledge to graduate high school and pursue their higher education and career goals.

Thanks to our No Excuses University campuses, students begin to consider college and careers as early as kindergarten. High school pathway programs in business, engineering and health help Bassett Unified students discover their interests and prepare them for higher education. A partnership with Mt. San Antonio College allows students to take college-level classes and earn credits as part of regular class schedules.

We are thrilled to share that our graduation and state test scores are rising, and we are busily launching new partnerships, programs and facilities. These include our new Flanner Child Development Center, which features interactive classrooms, new playground equipment and developmental learning materials.

2018-19 also marked the launch of our Digital Learning Initiative, in which we will phase in a 1:1 student-to-technology device ratio over four years. This year, students in grades three, six and 10 received digital tools.

Our enrichment program also spans an array of educational fields and encompasses social and emotional health. This year, we partnered with Citrus College on rocket science, used drumming to boost classroom engagement, fielded a robotics team and created stress-relieving activities for high school students, including play with puppies.

These programs and services are the product of an incredible team of teachers, staff and faculty who have dedicated themselves to ensuring success as our students tackle each phase of their education.

# Education Re-Imagined!



**Dr. Michael Bregy**  
*Superintendent*

Many residents historically have been attracted to Beverly Hills because of their high regard for the school district’s educational program. Due to the strong cultural, artistic and educational backgrounds our parents and community expect an outstanding instructional program and are committed to excellence in education.

In August 2019, the Beverly Hills Unified School District will reconfigure the structure of education delivery to enhance and enrich its services to students. The new configuration provides more robust academic opportunities while simultaneously maintaining a more sheltered and nurturing environment for our elementary, middle, and high school students, who have more in common with each other and are at a different developmental stage than their older or younger peers. All grade levels will benefit from the educational enhancements afforded by the new structure through expanded extracurricular offerings, athletic offerings and an enhanced teaming approach that will allow for an even more effective educational experience.

The Beverly Hills Unified School District consists of two TK-5 elementary schools, one 6-8 middle school, one 9-12 high school and a TK-12 enrollment of 3900. The district for decades has been recognized both nationally and statewide as a leader in education. Students have consistently scored far above national and state averages on standardized achievement tests.

The BHUSD has an acclaimed commitment to providing rigorous and innovative educational opportunities through collaborative community partnerships for our students. As part of carrying out our responsibility to nurture every student to become an inspired learner, a well-rounded individual, and contributing member of a global community, BHUSD is committed to making sure that all students have authentic and real-world learning opportunities.



## Preparing Students to Live Their Purpose



**Carl J. Coles**  
*Superintendent*

At Bonita Unified School District, our purpose is to prepare every student to live their purpose.

Bonita Unified provides more than 10,000 students across 13 campuses with the opportunity to learn and grow through top-tier academic programs, exceptional athletics and enriching arts and activities. We fulfill this purpose through our core values of equity, mastery and a focus on results and with the help of strong community partnerships.

Our whole-child approach provides the social-emotional support required for students to shine.

One way that Bonita Unified prepares students to live their purpose is by ensuring that our incredible teachers, staff, classified members and administrators have opportunities to collaborate, learn and work in an environment that is inclusive, supportive and safe. Bonita Unified School District's commitment to family, community and inclusiveness has earned the organization recognition by the Inland News Group as one of 2019's Top 35 Workplaces in the Inland Empire.

Our outcomes testify to the effectiveness of our model. Bonita Unified students have scored among the highest in the state on recent standardized tests, boosting performance by as much as 33 percent over five years and placing the District among the top 10 percent of California's unified school districts.

Alongside our supportive parent community and engaged local partners, Bonita Unified School District will continue to innovative, inspire and motivate our students to live their purpose.

## Preparing Our Students for Lifelong Learning



**Dr. Matt Hill**  
*Superintendent*

At the Burbank Unified School District (BUSD) we focus on providing a quality education to more than 15,000 students via our infant program all the way through our Adult School. For many families, Horace Mann Child Development Center provides their first experience with BUSD. Children enrolled in the preschool program benefit from an educational experience provided by high-quality certificated teachers and classroom aides who are kind and caring. We recently modernized our facilities so that facilities now match the world-class teaching that is taking place inside the building.

Currently, over 98% of BUSD students graduate in five or more years; however, the community and employees of Burbank Unified will not be satisfied until we ensure 100% of our students graduate. A high school diploma is just the beginning for our students. That is why BUSD is working strategically with local, regional, and national partners to enhance, expand, and support educational programs that prepare students for a global, technical, creative, and innovative economy.

We have multiple career pathways that our students can explore. Career Technical Education (CTE) provides students with the opportunity to investigate their interests and learn more about possible careers in animation, broadcast journalism, sports medicine, and more. In addition, we just launched our second Hollywood Burbank Airport Academy for students attending Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena schools.

Finally, students and adults also have an opportunity to continue developing their skills at the Burbank Adult School (BAS). As you can see, Burbank Unified School District is a great place for students to realize their highest potential!

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## Eye on the Future for CUSD



**Steve Doyle**  
*Superintendent*

We have much to celebrate and be thankful for in Castaic Union School District. We are extremely proud of all of the academic accomplishments we have made this past year. We continue to strive to push our students academically with the incorporation of iReady in both Language Arts and Math. With high expectations, our students are clearly achieving great measures in their learning.

Over the next few months, we will provide opportunities for all of our stakeholder groups to provide input on the District Local Control Accountability Plan. This plan is a requirement for the Local Control Funding Formula money provided by the State.

We greatly value input from parents, students, staff members and community members on what is working in our schools. Additionally, we value your thoughts on how we can improve our schools in the coming years. We promise to continue to work together to serve our most important priority, your children!

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.

## Focus on Relationships



**Dr. Jeffrey D. Jordan**  
*Superintendent*

Charter Oak Unified School District is committed to fostering strong relationships between administrators, teachers, classified staff, and parents in order 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 important factors to everyone in Charter Oak. The areas of concentration will be on building strong relationships, teaching and learning, financial stabilization, and safety.

Charter Oak Unified continues to support the whole child and provides outstanding pathways in a variety of programs. Our schools provide 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 600 students who can receive experience and certification in a variety of areas.

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

## Ready for College, Career & Life



**Dr. Gregory O'Brien**  
*Superintendent*

The efforts and energies of every stakeholder within the Centinela Valley Union High School District are focused on ensuring all students have the opportunity to not only graduate, but to receive a world-class education that effectively prepares them for college, career and life.

As a high school district, our basic mission is clear: 100% of our students must graduate. However, the true measure of our success will take place after the diploma has been earned, and our students navigate the challenges and opportunities of the real world as adults. To ensure their success, we must first provide them with as many options for furthering their education after high school as possible.

Additionally, we must prepare our students for careers. They must have the knowledge and skills necessary to earn a living and succeed in the workplace. As a Linked Learning district, we are committed to connecting the learning that takes place in the classroom with the needs of business and industry in our global economy. Our schools offer opportunities for work-based learning through numerous academies, field trips, guest speakers, and internships.

Finally, our students must be prepared for life. We want them to be good people who care about others and are able to make sound decisions. We want them to value diversity, respect the views of others, and work collaboratively with individuals from multiple cultural backgrounds. We want them to be informed citizens as well as wise leaders. Centinela Valley has many lofty aspirations, and we are committed to ensuring all of our students are ready for college, career and life.

## A Destination District



**Dr. James Elsasser**  
*Superintendent*

Claremont Unified School District has a reputation as a Destination District. One of the primary reasons for that reputation is the wonderful people associated with CUSD, including students, teachers, support staff, administrators, families, and community partners. This past year we recognized several employees who continue to do amazing work on behalf of students.

Robin Echeverri was named CUSD's Teacher of the Year, for creating a student-centered atmosphere that engages all students and instills a passion for life-long learning. She continually promotes and encourages intellectual curiosity, creativity, and individuality for every one of her students.

Shalon Gonzalez is a paraprofessional extraordinaire serving the needs of students with special abilities; however, her support of students does not stop in the classroom. She works with the Best Buds program which hosts a prom for students with special abilities, and founded the Yes to the Dress program where students donate lightly used formalwear so that other students do not have to purchase expensive clothing for formal dances. She is fully committed to ensure barriers that might keep students from experiencing all that high school has to offer are eliminated.

Each year ACSA Region XV, recognizes the contributions of outstanding administrators throughout the largest region of California. CUSD's very own, Dr. Julie Olesniewicz, was named Curriculum and Instruction Administrator of the Year; Clarissa McNally was named Co-Administrator of the Year; and Dr. James Mitchell was recognized with our Charter Leadership Award.

Each of these dedicated and talented employees represents the very best in our profession, and we are honored to have them as part of our CUSD team.



# Multiple Accomplishments



**Darin Brawley**  
Superintendent

On behalf of the Compton Unified School District Board of Trustees, I am pleased to provide you with our 2019-2020 update. CUSD continues to elevate on behalf of its students and families, as math, ELA and graduation rates continue to rise year over year. Our most recent accomplishments include three of our schools receiving distinctions from the California Department of Education: both Anderson Elementary and Jefferson Elementary were named California Distinguished Schools, and McKinley Elementary received a California Exemplary Arts School designation. Additionally, our English Language Learner Journalism program as well as Compton Early College received Golden Bell Awards from the California School Board Association. Speaking of Compton Early College, the innovative dual enrollment model celebrated its first graduating class in June of 2019 with 100% of its senior class graduating and being accepted into four-year universities, many of whom with an Associate of Arts degree under their belt. We are also proud to share that we hosted our first ever eSports gaming tournament and career path exposure program across all four of our high schools. Students learned about careers in this billion-dollar industry, as well as experienced first-hand how gaming can not only be fun, but also build 21st century skills and be a career path. Finally, I am humbled to share that I was named Superintendent of the Year by the LA County Office of Education. This tremendous honor is truly one to held by the entirety of the Compton Unified School District Board, teachers, administrators, staff, families and students. I am grateful to be in service to the great vision of our Board and to our community and am looking forward to elevating in even greater ways.

# Equity in Arts Education



**Leslie Lockhart**  
Superintendent

The Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) Board of Education unanimously approved CCUSD as a CREATE CA “Equity in Arts Education” District. This declaration solidifies the work that CCUSD’s Community Arts Team did over the last several years with the planning and implementation of a five-year strategic arts plan. CREATE CA defines “equity in arts education” as the right of every student to engage in and succeed in powerful, high quality, standards-based arts learning from PreK-12th grade. The three primary goals of CCUSD’s Strategic Arts Plan are: 1) Expand Equity and Access to Arts Learning, 2) Implement and Sustain Quality Arts Learning, and 3) Communicate and Advocate for Sustainable Arts for All.

Through the last four years, CCUSD has made great strides in expanding its arts education programming. Most significant is the number of educators who teach arts. CCUSD now has seven visual arts teachers, five music teachers, three theatre teachers, three media arts teachers, and one dance teacher on staff. With program expansions, art teachers and their students need places in which to create. CCUSD is working steadily to fulfill need for facilities to support these innovative and imaginative programs.

CCUSD’s commitment to arts education is visible with the increases in staff and programs, declaring that equity in arts is more than a phrase but instead our operational norm and our collective philosophical understanding. Our students have thrived with these additions and we look forward to the addition of ceramic arts for all of our elementary students in the following year. The possibilities are infinite.

# Preparing Kids for Their Future!



**Dr. Richard M. Sheehan**  
Superintendent

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

Covina-Valley is a District of Choice that offers two dual immersion programs in Spanish and Mandarin, expanding our students’ abilities to be globally competitive. Additionally, we are a Computer Science Magnet District – the first of their kind in Los Angeles County! Students will be immersed in computer science and a technology-oriented environment. The district is expanding its emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics or STEM K-12. The district will continue to emerge as one of the leading districts in providing our students with the 21st Century skills they will need to be pioneers into the next decades to come.

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

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# Downey Unified School District

11627 Brookshire Avenue, CA 90241 • 562/469-6500 • [www.dusd.net](http://www.dusd.net)

## Our Students Deserve the Best...



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

Downey Unified is located outside of Downtown Los Angeles within driving distance to both the beaches and mountains. 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 know that Downey Unified will impress you with the prospects that are offered such as a safe, student-driven learning environment with top quality educators.

At the elementary level, we are proud to offer our students the ability to participate in a 1:1 21st Century iPad initiative and project-based learning modules through our STEAM Team. Robotics is offered at every school in our district which culminates yearly in a district-wide Robolympics event where students engage in friendly competition.

At the secondary level, our middle and high school students are provided access to state-of-the-art facilities, CIF champion sports and cheer, STEAM classes/programs, and Career Technical Education pathways such as engineering, culinary arts, robotics and animation. 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 Downey Unified, our teachers provide character education to fulfill the needs of the whole child. CHARACTER COUNTS! lives and breathes throughout the city!

On behalf of the Board of Education and every member of our DUSD family, I welcome you to visit the Downey Unified School District!

# East Whittier City School District

14535 E. Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90605 • 562/907-5900 • [www.ewcsd.org](http://www.ewcsd.org)

## Our Work in EWCS



**Marc Patterson**  
*Superintendent*

Ensuring that ALL 8600 of our students are prepared for success in high school and beyond is our ultimate goal in the East Whittier City School District. Our dedicated support staff, teachers, administrators and Board of Trustees work tirelessly day in and day out to achieve our vision of "Opening the Door to Every Child's Future." In order to make this commitment a reality we are focusing all we do on teaching our students the 21st Century Skills of Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, Communication and Community.

Our focus this year is centered around the idea of refinement. We will use this year as an opportunity to refine the amazing programs we already have in place and find even more ways to capitalize on the expertise of our teachers, classified staff and administrators to realize our goal of "Opening the Door to Every Child's Future." Additionally we want to encourage and embrace the creativity and innovation of our students, staff and community members.

We are so proud of the community of learners we have in East Whittier. There is so much to celebrate in our amazing District. Please check out our various social media links and hashtags to follow our team's phenomenal work to support ALL students as we engage our students, staff, parents and community to continue to ensure that EWCS stands out as a shining example for other districts.

#EWCSDPride#EWCSDCriticalThinking

#EWCSDCreativity#EWCSDCollaboration

#EWCSDCommunication#EWCSDCommunity

#WeAreEWCS

# Duarte Unified School District

1620 Huntington Drive, Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5000 • [www.duarteusd.org](http://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.

# Eastside Union School District

45006 30th Street East, Lancaster, CA 93535 • 661/952-1200 • [www.eastsideusd.org](http://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.



# One Community, Many Achievements



Dr. Maribel Garcia  
Superintendent

El Monte City School District inspires academic, creative and emotional growth in our students through superb programs and initiatives, including rigorous core academics and a slate of engaging enrichment programs that develops science-based skills, leadership and cultural connections.

The strengths of our program are clear, garnering 2020 California Distinguished School awards for five elementary schools – making El Monte City School District one of just nine districts across the state to achieve such sweeping recognition.

The honor – California’s top award for school district success – is based on excellence and growth in student performance.

We received all “green” ratings on the California School Dashboard for state math and English language arts test performance, as well as for strong attendance and positive school culture.

Our array of enrichment programs includes:

- ‘Leader in Me’ program teaches students leadership, mentorship and collaboration skills
- Our popular Mariachi music instruction program has added a second school to meet demand. We also offer music instruction at all schools
- Our successful Lego Robotics program is now offered districtwide and a partnership with Lego allows our students to be among the first in the nation to test new robot kits
- Our dual-language immersion program now offers Spanish and Mandarin

None of our success can happen without the incredible partnership we enjoy with our teachers, support staff, families and community partners. We thank our educators and staff for their limitless dedication and our community for its abiding trust and support as we pursue excellence for all our students.

# We AIM for Success!



Dr. Frances Esparza  
Superintendent

The El Rancho Unified School District is preparing students academically for the 21st and the 22nd century. We are microscopically monitoring our students’ strengths and needs by creating a Data Driven Culture with our newest platform known as the **Academic Improvement Meter (AIM)**. The AIM is a tool that has allowed access to view and understand our student achievement goals. Our *AIM for Success* is a partnership between all our employees, our students, our families and our community.

We have analyzed our data and taken on the methods of “Improvement Science” which is a continuous improvement method that is guided by a deep understanding of an educational organizational problem, the system that produces it, a shared working theory and method to improve it. This year we highlight our School Leaders are receiving the Improvement Science professional development and resources needed to allow them to identify their theory to improve their method of change.

We are constantly improving our practice to teach students how to attain these goals. ERUSD’s successes are grounded by talented educators that motivate our students in continuously having a passion for learning and the desire for constant improvement. This is all done in collaboration with our supportive parent community and our local Pico Rivera partners. ERUSD will continue to prepare students to **AIM for Success** and to know that as a community we will continue to excel academically, exceed graduation rates, and continue to be accomplished global citizens.

# Eliminating Barriers to Ensure Success



Dr. Edward A. Zuniga  
Superintendent

At El Monte Union High School District, we are proud to be a Community Committed to College and Career. We are a family of educators, students, parents and community partners who work together to eliminate barriers to learning and create a robust college-going culture for our scholars.

In 2019-20, we launched our Access for All digital learning initiative, providing every high school student with their own Chromebook laptop to gain instant access to technology to do homework, research, communicate and collaborate with peers.

Our expanded academic offerings include new college-level dual-enrollment and career technical education (CTE) programs – from computer coding and an Early College Academy to patient care and engineering. Our higher education and community partners provide students with college credit and internship opportunities.

As stewards of the environment, we have a long history of implementing green practices in our operations and fostering environmental sustainability in the classroom, earning recognition as a Green Ribbon School District and Energy Star leader by the state and U.S. Department of Education.

This year, El Monte Union was awarded a \$9.8 million state grant to promote zero-emission, enabling us to generate research, compelling education and community outreach in support of our efforts to be a healthy and sustainable district.

We continue to foster high-quality learning environments thanks to a \$190 million facilities bond approved by voters in November 2018. We’ve begun construction on a 15,000-square-foot multipurpose building and gymnasium and have a slew of projects in the pipeline.

It is a privilege to prepare El Monte Union students to achieve post-secondary success – in college, careers and life.

# Transforming Education



Dr. Melissa Moore  
Superintendent

The El Segundo Unified School District (ESUSD) embraces innovative practices for student growth and empowerment. Our District 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, implemented in 2019 to prepare students for jobs of the future. It outlines the cognitive, personal, and interpersonal competencies that ESUSD believes students should possess when they graduate from high school. This profile will guide and align our educational practices to help students achieve the profile competencies identified. It 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. ESUSD used current research on the job market of the future, as well as insights gleaned from business/civic leaders to develop our Graduate Profile.

As a member of the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools, we are honored to host representatives from 114 member school districts in the nation for the League’s annual spring convening in March 2020. ESUSD will welcome these educators into our classrooms to observe our practices in student-centered learning in blended learning classroom environments; innovation for college and career readiness through electives, partnerships, and pathway programs; and how we are cultivating global citizens through social-emotional learning, community impact projects, and STEAM education to help students develop global awareness and skills.

# Growing Future-Ready Global Leaders



Anita Chu  
Superintendent

Garvey School District serves a richly diverse community covering portions of Monterey Park, Rosemead, and San Gabriel. The District has nine elementary and two intermediate schools serving approximately 5,000 Preschool through Grade 8 students. Leadership development is the heart of the District’s vision. The staff is committed to nurturing and growing leaders who are academically competent and morally driven to advance the global society in the 21st century.

To realize this vision for all students, each uniquely gifted, the District devotes to building critical academic, social-emotional, technological, and multicultural pathways. The development of 21st century competencies through the Common Core Standards and whole-child education invigorates student learning in all disciplines. Cultivating the “Leader in Me” provides an asset-rich environment for leaders-in-training. The ever-expanding STEM initiative, including the districtwide computer science immersion programs, Maker Space, and the newly launched space program, is transforming all TK-8 schools into future-ready learning centers. The Dual Language+ Programs further promote multilingual and multicultural proficiency. Together, these pathways take our student leaders to reach their educational, career, and life goals.

The task is too important and too challenging to be taken alone. The District is creating impactful synergy by strengthening partnerships with parents and the community. Parent empowerment is fostered through a variety of engagement and education opportunities. Partnerships with business and community agencies bring in additional fiscal and personnel resources to connect classroom learning with real-world application. With a compelling shared vision, innovative programs, and extensive partnerships, Garvey continues to thrive as a future-ready learning academy, growing global leaders to lead today and to build tomorrow.

# Ready to Excel. Eager to Impact!



Dr. Robert Voors  
Superintendent

The Glendora Unified School District has been recognized as one of the premier school districts in the state of California for decades, and nurtures a culture of success in all areas of school life. 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. We had the highest ranking possible in, “Where Are the Nation’s Most Productive School Districts?” Our students routinely engage in project-based learning and solve real world problems. We are becoming the recognized leader in modern education. Students, staff and community are “Ready to Excel and Eager to Impact!”

As a District of California Distinguished Schools and California Gold Ribbon Schools, our staff, students, parents, and community work together to provide a caring learning environment for all our students. Volunteerism is alive and well, where additional support is delivered through our spirited PTA’s, the Glendora Education Foundation, and numerous active community service groups.

In addition to world class academics, we offer exceptional, well-rounded educational experiences for nearly 7,600 Pre-K-12 students that include CIF Championship athletic programs and award-winning bands, orchestras and choirs. Of all the quality programs Glendora offers, it is our people that make it one of the most exciting and rewarding school districts in Southern California! The District’s success is the result of our dedicated and talented teachers, support staff, administrators and school board. Please visit our website at: <https://www.glendora.k12.ca.us> to see how you can become part of the Glendora family!

# 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. This year, our Foreign Language Academies of Glendale (FLAG) program received the California School Boards Association Golden Bell Award in the “English Language Acquisition” category, which includes programs that assist students in developing fluency in English and proficiency in academic subjects and programs to promote multilingualism. The Glendale Unified FLAG program offers dual immersion in seven languages, Armenian, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish. Glendale Unified also offers six magnet schools focused on technology, foreign language, and visual and performing arts, and 22 Career and Technical Education pathways beginning in middle school. This year, our district partnered with Glendale Community College to launch our Early College Academy, an innovative way for students to complete two years of college, for free, before they graduate from high school. In Glendale Unified School District, we aim to maximize student achievement, encourage our students’ social and emotional growth, and create a vibrant, inclusive environment where children can learn and thrive. We are excelling together to provide our students with endless pathways for success.

# Effective Teaching and Learning



Johannis Andrews  
Superintendent

The Gorman Joint School District is located at the southern tip of the beautiful Tehachapi Mountains, 60 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. The Gorman Joint School District has one TK-8 school with 80 students and four teachers. The small size of Gorman Elementary School makes it possible to have an individualized nurturing environment in each classroom where the average class size is 24 students. The Gorman Joint School District is a District of Choice where any parent can chose to enroll their children during an enrollment period. Gorman remains committed to effective teaching and learning while providing children with a rigorous education. The forefront of our work for 2019/20 school year is our dedication in providing visual and performing arts, STEAM and PBIS programs for our students.

One of our greatest resources is a staff that has dedicated themselves to helping students achieve great success at school and home through personal learning lessons. We consistently strive to provide our students with a high quality education that appropriately meets their academic needs, but acknowledges that a quality experience must go beyond just the classroom. With the goal of preparing students to succeed in the 21st century, Gorman provides educational lessons that are engaging, collaborative, creative, and standards-based in all academic areas while providing enrichment and intervention support throughout the day.

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



## Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

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

### Partners in Your Child’s Future



**Annie Bui**  
Interim  
Superintendent

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District maximizes the talents, interests and abilities of every student through cutting-edge instruction and innovative learning environments that promote a positive culture of creative collaboration.

We invest deeply in state-of-the-art classrooms and facilities, support for homeless and foster youth, and high caliber academic and co-curricular programs to serve nearly 34,000 students in preschool through adult education.

Students in transitional kindergarten to 12th grade enjoy a 1:1 student-to-device ratio in all classrooms. Our STEAM offerings feature Code to the Future immersive computer science instruction at 12 elementary schools, competitive robotics and Science Olympiad teams at middle and high schools, and outstanding visual and performing arts programs.

As our soaring 93.6% graduation rate and California School Dashboard ratings attest, Hacienda La Puente prepares students for any challenge they may face in college and career.

Our success has drawn numerous accolades: two National Blue Ribbon schools, two 2020 California Distinguished Schools, nine schools on the 2018-19 CBEE Honor Roll, a 2019 Golden Bell for serving foster youth and a 2018 Golden Bell for dual-language immersion programs in Mandarin, Korean and Spanish.

Our District is committed to educational equity, offering free college admissions testing, a breakfast-to-supper meals program, home internet access and open enrollment to advanced courses.

We are proud of the expanding opportunities we offer our community. This would not be possible without the hard work of our students, teachers, administrators and support staff. There is much in store for 2020, and we look forward to working with our community, our teachers and staff, students and families to continue to achieve excellence.

## Hermosa Beach City School District

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

### Vision of Excellence – “THRIVE K-Life”



**Patricia W. Escalante**  
Superintendent

The high level of excellence in learning that the Hermosa Beach City School District (HBCSD) offers, is a reflection of our collective leadership. The “one voice, one focus” commitment of our community to the academic success of all students is stronger than ever and families are moving to Hermosa Beach to be a part of a very special educational experience. Based on the state funding formula, HBCSD is the lowest funded district in Los Angeles County, and depends on the hundreds of Hermosa Beach Education Foundation and Parent Teacher Organization volunteers who work tirelessly fundraising to offset the lack of funding from the state to support student programs.

The outstanding work of our students, teachers, parents, and administrators is reflected in the California State Dashboard data, which reports on the academic achievement of all students, engagement levels, and conditions and climate of our small district. Equally outstanding are the district’s signature practices that focus on emotional and physical wellness and the belief that the best education is one that focuses on the development of the whole child. In the heart of Hermosa Beach we are reminded that “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Excellent schools are a reflection of an excellent community. Join us in the support of our vision of excellence where all students are empowered to achieve and thrive.

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

## Hawthorne School District

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

### A Team Approach to Success



**Dr. Helen E. Morgan**  
Superintendent

The Hawthorne School District is nestled in the heart of the South Bay. We proudly serve the families of over 8,000 students through our three preschool programs, seven elementary schools, three middle schools, and one high school. I am proud to work with a staff and a school board who place students at the heart of all we do.

We understand the importance of working as a community to ensure every student receives the quality education they deserve. Now, more than ever, it is critical that each and every stakeholder maintain a laser focus on positive outcomes for our students.

The staff, students, families, and community all provide essential elements of meaningful experiences for our students to have a robust educational program in the Hawthorne School District. Classroom teachers and paraprofessionals are engaging students in rich discussion and exposing them to meaningful relevant instruction. Parent art docents are learning lessons and then presenting them to students. Community partners like SpaceX, Boeing, USC, and Mattel share real world experiences with our students and allow them the opportunities to see, firsthand, what careers may entail in their future. Our classified staff maintain safe, clean, friendly campuses and positively engage with students and families on a daily basis. Our administrators are truly instructional leaders who participate in professional and collaborative discussion with staff to ensure all students are receiving what they need to succeed.

In the Hawthorne School District we pride ourselves on our focus on community and understanding that it takes all of us, working together, to provide everything our students need to succeed.

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## Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District

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

# Celebrating 70th Anniversary



**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 180 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. This year, 2020, we will celebrate our 70th anniversary. 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. We offer small class sizes with a dedicated group of teachers and staff. A few of our enrichment opportunities for students include arts in education, competitive athletic program, and a competitive robotics team. Teachers and staff collaborate to improve their practice so that we may continue to improve to serve our students. Parents and community members are an important part of our school culture. 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 Street East, P.O. Box 186, Pearlblossom, CA 93553 • 661/944-2155 • www.keppel.k12.ca.us

# Personalized Learning



**Dr. Ruben Zepeda II**  
*Superintendent*

Keppel Union is the hidden gem in the Antelope Valley. As a smaller school district, we provide a personalized learning experience and a high quality education to students from diverse backgrounds.

Our District’s mission for educating all students is to seek education, strive for excellence, and aspire to greatness. Our classified, certificated and administrative staff creates and ensures a positive learning environment where student safety, academic success, and social and emotional needs are our highest priorities.

We promote inspired learning focused on creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, effective communication, collaboration and other 21st Century skills. Students are taught

by skilled teachers who use researched based instructional strategies supported with academically rigorous standards based curricula. All teachers regularly engage in discussions centered on data analysis with the goal of continuous improvement. Ultimately we prepare students to be successful learners, college and career ready and for life as productive contributing citizens.

Keppel Union engages parents as partners through a variety of venues including surveys, family activities and special events so that we can better serve our families. Our Local Control Accountability Plan reflects the priorities of our families and community while addressing state accountability expectations. We celebrate each of our schools’ successes including two California Distinguished Schools and other award winning programs. Students thrive in our schools where their personal interest in music, STEAM, the arts, AVID, media production and other specialized programs challenge and motivate them. Our parents know that successful, personalized learning is the key to a better and brighter future for their children and help us maintain a commitment to excellence for all of our students.

I am proud to say that in the Keppel Union School District, our values, commitments and priorities help us achieve the absolute best outcomes for the children in our care.

## Inglewood Unified School District

401 South Inglewood Avenue, Inglewood, CA 90301 • 310/419-2700 • www.myiusd.net

# Inglewood Unified is Thriving



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

In Inglewood Unified we have many accomplishments to be proud of. Student achievement and graduation rates are increasing. Our school community is unique in the strength and commitment of the parents, teachers, and school staff who support educational excellence. We share a belief in the power of the community to improve student learning, and this has helped our schools focus on what is really important – building a strong academic foundation to prepare students for the world of today and tomorrow!

Our Board of Education recently adopted a new District vision, which is “to provide transformational leadership so that Inglewood Unified School District thrives.” Our Board’s vision statement clearly communicates the direction in which Inglewood Unified is headed.

The Inglewood community has also made a significant investment in improving school facilities and transforming classrooms into modern, state-of-the-art learning environments. We are receiving more than \$30 million from the Los Angeles World Airports to soundproof and add air conditioning to several schools along the airport’s flight plan, and have implemented improvements at schools throughout Inglewood.

Inglewood Unified succeeds with the help of all our community and our partners. We acknowledge the ongoing support of the Inglewood Unified staff, students, parents, and labor partners, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, the California Department of Education, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Department of Finance, the California Collaborative of Educational Excellence and the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team. We thank them for partnering with us to ensure our students continue to receive the very best.

## La Cañada Unified School District

4490 Cornishon Avenue, 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 4150. 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. The high school (2015) and one elementary school (2013) have been named National Blue Ribbon schools. La Cañada High School 7/8 was named a National Forum “School to Watch” school in 2014, 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 Road, Calabasas, CA 91302 • 818/880-4000 • [www.lvusd.org](http://www.lvusd.org)

## A Wide Variety of Options



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

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.

In the Las Virgenes Unified School District, we strongly invest in the social and emotional well-being of our students through our Student 360 initiative and our counseling staff. We have one of the lowest student-to-counselor ratios in the region. Please visit our website at [www.lvusd.org](http://www.lvusd.org) to learn more about our district.

# Lawndale Elementary School District

4161 W. 147th Street, Lawndale, CA 90260 • 310/973-1300 • [www.lawndalesd.net](http://www.lawndalesd.net)

## Equitable Resource Allocation



**Dr. Betsy Hamilton**  
*Superintendent*

Lawndale Elementary School District (LESD) puts students at the center of every decision. As “Champions for Equity and Access for All” we are committed to equitable resource allocation.

A report issued by the USC Sol Price Center for Social Innovation and Rossier School of Education recognized half of LESD schools as “Top Los Angeles Public Schools.” Lawndale is closing achievement gaps for students!

We challenge our students with rigorous academics and provide 21st Century learning environments. Our earliest learners are off to a great start through high quality Preschool, TK and Kindergarten programs. Our elementary schools have STEM Makerspaces and our middle schools have state-of-the art Library Media Centers and 1:1 computer programs. Lawndale invests in instructional coaches at each school, providing expert support to improve classroom instruction and student outcomes.

Beyond academics, LESD recognizes the importance of social-emotional learning. We foster safe and positive school environments where everyone is welcome and students thrive socially and emotionally supported by social workers at each school site. Our extended day program, Realizing Amazing Potential (RAP), supports extracurricular development and offers STEAM-focused learning that includes coding, “tinkering”, robotics, literature, folklorico, marching band and arts programming.

Our Family University program provides parents the tools to join us as equal partners in their students’ education. Through FamilyU parents participate in workshops, volunteer activities, school committees, develop the skills to support learning at home and become successful advocates for their students’ education.

At LESD we strive to ensure access and equity for all, offer quality education, and provide safe, positive and nurturing learning environments to prepare and propel our students to become tomorrow’s leaders!

# Lancaster School District

44711 Cedar Avenue, Lancaster, CA 93534 • 661/948-4661 • [www.lanclsd.org](http://www.lanclsd.org)

## Excellence in Educational Opportunities



**Dr. Michele Bowers**  
*Superintendent*

Lancaster School District is located in the high desert about 60 miles northeast of Los Angeles and serves students in preschool through eighth grade. Educating Antelope Valley youth since 1881, we continually strive to ensure options and excellence in educational opportunities for the more than 15,000 students that we serve each and every day.

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 1000 students in our preschool program. Focused on 21st century skills, college and career readiness, and

acquisition of core knowledge, Lancaster School District is a district that is making GREAT things happen for every child – every day!

Educational programs emphasize foundational skills through engaging, standards-based lessons in core content areas. In addition to our core classes, students 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 invite and value the support and participation of all of our stakeholders and are extremely pleased to see growing levels of involvement.

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

# Lennox School District

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

## A 21st Century School District



**Dr. Scott Price**  
*Superintendent*

Situated east of Los Angeles International airport, the Lennox School District offers a wealth of opportunities for students, families, and the Lennox community. In Lennox, we strive to prepare students to be life long learners with the problem-solving skills and knowledge to understand their ever-changing world. As a school district, we take great pride in our work around project-based learning and student inquiry, which are at the heart of our Lennox Schools of Engineering. Within our state-of-the-art labs, actual engineers collaborate with classroom teachers to guide students through scientific concepts and utilize the engineering design process. We are equally proud of our Lennox Dual Language Schools, which continue to expand opportunities for students to develop literacy in two languages.

In 2019, our district was named a 21st Century Exemplar District by Battelle for Kids/P21 for providing children with the necessary skills and knowledge for success in college, career, and life. The hard work of our teachers, administrators and staff also came to fruition when three elementary schools were named 2019 L.A. Top Public Schools for underserved students; Dolores Huerta, Moffett, and Buford Elementary. In addition, Moffett Elementary has been designated as a 2020 California Distinguished School. These schools were honored for surpassing statewide averages for low-income students in one or more areas including math and reading scores, while maintaining low suspension rates. Last, but not least, we are proud of the collaboration that occurs with our community stakeholders in Lennox Parent Centers. Extensive workshops, and adult learning classes take place daily. Together, we look forward to another inspiring year in the Lennox School District.

# Little Lake City School District

10515 S. Pioneer Blvd., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • 562/868-8241 • [www.littlelake.k12.ca.us](http://www.littlelake.k12.ca.us)

## Whatever It Takes – Results Matter



**Dr. William Crean**  
Superintendent

The Little Lake City School District serves the communities of Santa Fe Springs, northern Norwalk and a segment of Downey. The district educates approximately 4,200 students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade at seven elementary and two middle schools.

Occasionally, I am asked by people I meet, “Where exactly is Little Lake?” and “Is there really a lake there?” In an effort to better describe Little Lake, I would like to share five reasons that make us a District on the Move!

**Reason #1:** Little Lake teachers and staff are Fantastic! Little Lake teachers and staff truly exemplify our district beliefs: Students First! Results Matter! Whatever It Takes!

**Reason #2:** Little Lake schools are personalized and promote close relationships among students, parents, and staff members.

**Reason #3:** Little Lake Schools are led by a cohesive and focused governance team as well as a highly qualified and dedicated team of administrators.

**Reason #4:** Little Lake schools are safe and secure. Close relationships with our parents and community members, effective school-to-home communication, and a shared responsibility to maintain safe campuses provide a team approach to school safety.

**Reason #5:** Little Lake schools are high achieving. All schools have been named California Gold Ribbon and California Title I Academic Achievement Award Schools. Both middle schools are State and National Schools to Watch. The Little Lake City School District is also a recognized National Schools to Watch District.

By continuing to focus on our students’ needs, the Little Lake City School District is committed to maintaining the educational quality that makes us the Gold Ribbon district that we have become.

# Long Beach Unified School District

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

## Proudly Serving Every Student, Every Day



**Christopher J. Steinhäuser**  
Superintendent

The Long Beach Unified School District is a dynamic organization proudly serving more than 71,000 students. We’ve earned a reputation as a well-run, innovative school system that enjoys enviable community support and is respected nationally and even internationally.

We take pride in the progress that our students are making toward the goals in our Local Control and Accountability Plan. Students continue to show improvement in reading and math at various grade levels and across our many diverse subgroups. Eight high schools have reached their graduation rate goal of at least 90 percent, and we’re seeing an encouraging trend of more students completing the A-G college entrance requirements.

Our partnerships with higher education, city governments and local businesses are stronger than ever. Corporate citizenship is alive and well and helping to support programs from the pre-K level through high school, including dozens of college and career pathways.

We’re building on our districtwide effort to provide safer, more comfortable and secure schools that support teaching and learning. Many schools already have benefitted from voter-approved school bond funds for health and safety-related repairs. Each fall, more of our schools begin classes with new air conditioning. Funds also are being used to retrofit schools for earthquake safety and handicap accessibility, and to upgrade athletic facilities, campus security and communications systems.

We offer more opportunities than ever to get involved and keep apprised of what’s happening in our schools. Find more information, including our social media channels, at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

# Los Angeles Unified School District

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

## Increasing Student Supports



**Austin Beutner**  
Superintendent

We are working to increase transparency in all that we do, and that includes providing more information to educators and families at schools throughout Los Angeles Unified.

The Whole Child platform allows a teacher to access all the information about a student in one simple and easy-to-use platform. Previously, teachers had to search for the information in as many as 80 different databases. The Whole Child platform allows educators to spend more time with students.

A second platform, School Information+, complements the California School Dashboard with additional information on a number of areas including academic growth, career education programs and support for English learners. School Information+ is available to educators at schools, as well as the families and communities we serve.

Sharing more information about our work in schools will help all stakeholders support our efforts to make sure all students have the opportunity to succeed in school and in life.



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**Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.  
Involve me and I learn. — Benjamin Franklin**



# Los Nietos School District

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

## Building Our Community Through Education



**Jonathan Vasquez**  
*Superintendent*

All Los Nietos School District employees work collaboratively with the sole purpose of “Building Our Community Through Education.” Our District’s initiatives inspire students, challenge them academically, and engage them and our community in meaningful ways. Los Nietos classrooms offer a nurturing environment conducive to learning and excelling in the attainment of the California State Standards. Staff has been trained in the Safe and Civil Schools program, which is a Positive Behavior Support (PBS) system that uses systematic techniques to help foster respectful and responsible behavior.

For the fourth straight year, the Los Nietos School District experienced continued growth in ELA and Math as measured by the CAASPP assessments; higher growth than County and State averages in both ELA and Math in 2019. Through the implementation of a school-wide intervention program, students in Los Nietos are provided additional support in order to help develop their mastery in reading and math.

All students in the 2nd - 8th grades have access to their own laptops to use in their classrooms, while Kindergarten and 1st graders have access to iPads. Our Los Nietos Middle School S.T.E.A.M. Academy utilizes Project Lead the Way curriculum, which includes Computer Science, Robotics, and Coding electives. Our students compete and win against other LA County schools in regional MESA competitions, and this year we were extremely proud of our middle school “CyberPatriot” teams as they placed in the top 25% of the Airforce Association’s National Cyber Security competition that also included students from Canada and Australia. We are proud that on a daily basis the use of technology can be seen augmenting instruction and student learning in all of our classrooms district wide.

# Lynwood Unified School District

11321 Bullis Road, Lynwood, CA 90262 • 310/886-1600 • [www.mylusd.org](http://www.mylusd.org)

## Championing Student Success



**Dr. Gudiel R. Crosthwaite**  
*Superintendent*

At Lynwood Unified School District, we champion students’ discovery of their life passions as they pursue their college and career aspirations.

Lynwood Unified serves over 15,000 students across 12 elementary schools, three middle schools, three high schools, a preschool, and adult and independent study programs.

Our programs give students the opportunity to delve deeply into the topics that interest them most while completing the requirements for promotion, graduation and admittance into some of the nation’s top colleges and universities.

The rewards of this rigorous instruction can be seen in our soaring graduation rates and number of college-going graduates.

In January, nearly 400 students won instant acceptance and \$5.8 million in scholarships to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Our students have been accepted at such elite universities as Stanford, UC Berkeley and Yale.

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. Recently, we received a \$225,000 grant to construct a new STEM lab at Firebaugh High School, allowing us to double enrollment in biomedicine, nursing, manufacturing and engineering courses.

The District’s emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects also has expanded 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 relies upon strong partnerships and collaboration with our parents, staff, teachers and community, who have provided us with stalwart support and trust.

# Lowell Joint School District

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

## Destination District



**Jim Coombs**  
*Superintendent*

The Lowell Joint School District strives to be among the leading districts throughout the State of California as we hold 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 success is evident in the fact that the students of Lowell, at all grade levels, exceed the scores of Los Angeles and Orange County as well as the State of California. We are honored to serve the families from the communities of La Habra, La Habra Heights, and Whittier. Each of our schools are a Gold Ribbon, Distinguished, and California Business Excellence School. Rancho-Starbuck

Intermediate School is recognized as a “Schools to Watch” and CSBA Golden Bell award winner. The importance of education, family, and traditional American values are the bedrock to the Lowell Joint School District 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: vocal music, instrumental music, fine-art, dance 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 on to post-secondary education. Lowell continues to focus on 21st Century learning, while assuring we keep our attention on the whole child. This ensures that our students have the foundation to be globally competitive and grounded in their traditional American values. Together, it is the people of Lowell Joint that make Lowell a Destination District for our community.

# Manhattan Beach Unified School District

325 S. Peck Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 • 310/318-7345 • [www.mbusd.org](http://www.mbusd.org)

## For Us It’s Personal



**Dr. Michael D. Matthews**  
*Superintendent*

Manhattan Beach Unified School District 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.

Manhattan Beach USD serves approximately 6,500 students TK-12 with five elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. In the last four years, Mira Costa High School, Grand View Elementary School, Pennekamp Elementary School, Pacific Elementary School and Robinson Elementary School have been named as California Gold Ribbon Schools. Last year, Pennekamp Elementary School was named as a California Distinguished School. In 2016, MBUSD was named as a National Green Ribbon District.

In 2015, 2016, and 2019, an MBUSD teacher was named as a California Teacher of the Year. In 2014, the music program in MBUSD received a GRAMMY Award for excellence. District focuses over the last few years continue in the areas of improving math instruction, improving personalized learning, supporting the social emotional wellness of our students, improving the use of data in guiding instruction, and improving the utilization of technology as a teaching and learning tool.

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.

# Delivering a World-Class Education



**Dr. Katherine Thorossian**  
Superintendent

At Monrovia Unified, we focus on our mission to provide World-Class Schools for World-Class Students. Our students are challenged to be productive members and leaders of our community as they pursue their academic and personal goals. To achieve this, Monrovia Unified continually works to create opportunities that develop our students' potential, individual talents, dignity, and self-esteem. This mission is supported through programs such as computer programming, Dual-Language Immersion in Mandarin and Spanish, the arts, robotics, music and so much more. These programs offer our students creative outlets and intellectual incentives for achievement that translate into a stronger performance in core subjects.

Our coding and robotics programs prepare our students for technology-oriented education and career paths. Our students learn how to build personal websites, code video games, and program and drive robots. Our Dual-Language Immersion program, offered at Plymouth Elementary, Monroe Elementary, and Wild Rose School of Creative Arts, enhances critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. At the high school level, our college-going culture is emphasized through special academies and the Early College Program (ECP), which was recently recognized with a Golden Bell Award by the California Schools Boards Association. The ECP is a four-year commitment taught by college instructors and Monrovia High School teachers and is offered at no cost to our students. I am proud to say that our students are excelling in their academics and continue to impress us with their achievements. With a strong team of dedicated educators, all of our students are given the opportunities they need to be successful and achieve their goals.

# Inspiring Each Student to Succeed Every Day



**Lillian Maldonado French**  
Superintendent

Mountain View School District strives to create experiences that engage, empower and inspire all learners in every classroom, every day. In MVSD we believe in our students and through a spirit of high expectations, teamwork, respect and care each member of our team is dedicated to providing the highest quality instruction and programs for our students and families. We are committed to the development of the whole child and providing not only instructional support to ensure students are learning, but also social/emotional support to ensure they are ready to learn. MVSD is proud to have school counselors, mental health interns and counseling interns at every school site supporting students and families. MVSD prepares students to be competitive in a diverse 21st Century global society by offering a variety of programs including 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-bound culture, nationally recognized nutrition and health education, nationally recognized family engagement program and a Golden Bell award-winning Parent Leadership Academy. MVSD proudly serves 6,500 TK-8 students, as well as the educational needs of approximately 560 infant through preschool children and families through our highly engaging Head Start State Preschool and Children's Center programs. MVSD is comprised of an excellent team of educators and support staff who believe in each student's ability to achieve. Working in partnership, our employees, parents, families and community members actively participate in the educational development of our students, providing them with a solid foundation of skills that inspires lifelong learning and prepares them for the next level.

# Empowering and Investing In Our Students



**Dr. Anthony J. Martinez**  
Superintendent

Montebello Unified School District (MUSD) serves the city of Montebello, portions of the cities of Bell Gardens, Commerce, Monterey Park, Pico Rivera, and a part of the unincorporated community of East Los Angeles, as well as the unincorporated community of South San Gabriel. The vision statement of the Board of Education is "Empowering Students to Achieve Academic Excellence as Model Citizens." It takes great pride in providing a variety of educational programs including Pregnant and Parenting Program, Infant/Toddler Program, Head Start, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Advanced Placement (AP), Career Technical Education (CTE), Dual Enrollment (in partnership with East Los Angeles College), and Adult Education. Its most recent project provides students with the opportunity to graduate from high school with a high school diploma and an Associate Degree. Recently, the district distributed 19,000 laptop devices to students. Meanwhile, continuing to work on a cabling project that will provide reliable Internet access, telephones, digital clocks, public announcement system, as well as surveillance cameras throughout the district. Furthermore, the district has invested in adopting English, Mathematics, World Languages, and is currently reviewing Science materials. Montebello USD is looking forward to the development of a few mixed-use city projects that are currently underway. Leadership efforts focus on forward thinking and providing students with a learning environment that fosters and respects their sense of identity. Dr. Anthony J. Martinez, Superintendent of Schools, continues to lead the district alongside the Montebello USD employees. Their collaborative approach is obtaining great results, providing students with a quality education and an unforgettable positive schooling experience.

# Blue Abounds in NSD



**Jeff Pelzel**  
Superintendent

Newhall School District has three National Blue Ribbon Schools for the 2019-2020 school year. NSD was the only District in the state to have more than two schools selected. The three schools chosen this year for high academic performance were Oak Hills Elementary, Pico Canyon Elementary, and Stevenson Ranch Elementary. Pico Canyon principal Tammi Rainville shared, "At the heart of this Blue Ribbon School is a community of adults that work to create a student-centered environment from the moment a child steps onto our campus!" The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content. Oak Hills and Pico Canyon received this highly sought-after award for the first time in school history. Stevenson Ranch was previously recognized in 2001 and 2012. Principal Chad Rose shared "I am grateful for the support and teamwork of staff, parents, and students that allows for the accomplishments of our students earning us this award." Now in its 37th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed recognition on more than 9,000 schools. Previously, McGrath Elementary (2011), Meadows Elementary (1994), Newhall Elementary (1994), and Wiley Canyon Elementary (2007) were recipients of the National Blue Ribbon award in the Newhall School District. As a first time recipient, Oak Hills principal Wendy Maxwell shared "I'm ecstatic for the hard working Oak Hills Elementary School community of teachers, students, and parents. This recognition for their continued efforts to provide the highest levels of learning and achievement is greatly deserved."



# Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

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

## Every Student. Every Day. The Promise Continues.



**Dr. Hasmik Danielian**  
Superintendent

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District is dedicated to giving students every opportunity to be successful. We encourage our students to engage in academic discourse that cultivates a community of critical thinkers in every class...every day. This appropriately speaks to our district wide campaign “NLM T.A.L.K.S.”

**Career Readiness:** NLM participated in the ALL IN Career Pledge in November of 2019. This pledge reaffirms our dedication to career readiness by connecting students and community to employers and government agencies.

**Professional Development:** Our 2019 Blended Learning Summit last summer was an opportunity for our teachers to select their own learning paths focusing on technology integration in the classroom. For our efforts, NLMUSD was selected for California’s leading educational honor, the Golden Bell Award.

**College Bound:** We are pleased to partner with Cal State Long Beach on including the students of Norwalk-La Mirada in their local admission area. This partnership will create more opportunities for our students to attend college.

**District Makeover:** The Measure G initiative has resulted in the building of state of the art athletic fields and stadiums at Norwalk High School and La Mirada High School, as well as facility upgrades at many other schools. These upgrades will foster pride and excellence.

**District Showcase:** The second annual Future Ready Expo showcased every school and program offered within NLMUSD from Pre-K to Adult School. Over 700 guests were able to meet and speak to staff and students about our outstanding programs.

Preparing our students for the future is the primary focus of NLMUSD and we are fully committed to staying true to our motto. Every Student. Future Ready. Our Promise!

# Palmdale School District

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

## Poised for Transformational Changes



**Raul Maldonado**  
Superintendent

The Palmdale PROMISE has many assets upon which to build its future successes. With a Leadership Team committed to the high achievement of all students and the nurturing of a respectful and collaborative district culture, the District is poised to experience transformational changes. Already, staff and community have consistently expressed a noticeable shift for the good in relationships and expectations. Staff and community both express their appreciation for the openness and transparency with which the Leadership Team operates.

Also notable is the focus on students. This includes support for robust instructional programs, professional development, and parent education. Issues of alignment are being discussed as a way of strengthening results. There is palpable energy and enthusiasm about what is possible. Students themselves are taking up a much more visible role in determining their own futures and in voicing their perspectives. Teachers, administrators, and support staff are thinking deeply about their roles and responsibilities in this new era. The idea of what constitutes powerful education is being re-envisioned, and multilingual learning opportunities, the arts, technology, and much more are now being surfaced as essential to a well-rounded education for global competitiveness.

Community relationships and partnerships are growing, and the city infrastructure is working 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 taking place about what it would take to make that a reality. Making Palmdale Schools the BEST in the world is our passion.



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## 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’s theme “Putting Kids First” represents who we are as a community and what we value. We wish to inspire our students with a passion for learning, to engage our parent and community members, and to empower our teachers and support staff. The world of education has dramatically changed in recent years. We are preparing students for jobs that do not yet exist, using technologies not yet invented. In order to prepare them for the future, PVPUSD must be flexible, forward thinking, and innovative. In addition to our continued focus on the mental wellness of our students, we are striving to incorporate life skills more into the daily instruction to ensure our students’ future employment success.

We are continually looking at ways to create “safer spaces” for our students both physically and mentally. We integrated Raptor Technologies, installed more cameras and safety equipment, and hired two School Resource Officers who are a welcome addition to our campuses. Digital citizenship is emphasized at all grade levels. Our Board approved an official “Cell Phone Policy” and we encourage opportunities to unplug from the all-consuming digital world. Our Mental Health Coordinator developed a series of lessons to strengthen the social-emotional learning of our students. We started our “Community Connections Speaker Series” to support our students’ mental health, with topics such as the dangers of vaping and the impact of social media on teens.

I am grateful for the strong support of our community here on the peninsula. Together, we are committed to the development of our kids and their future success in whatever path they may take.

## Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91109 • 626/396-3600 • [www.pusd.us](http://www.pusd.us)

### Remarkable Opportunities



**Dr. Brian McDonald**  
*Superintendent*

With strong academics and community support, the Pasadena Unified School District is preparing graduates academically to excel in college and the workplace. The preK-12 schools of Pasadena Unified are igniting curiosity for learning in the sciences, arts, and global languages. Our location in Southern California’s center for science, exploration, and the arts links our students with remarkable opportunities to deepen their knowledge and explore innovative ideas.

PUSD schools are places where children learn and thrive and where our communities come together. In the last year, PUSD has taken action to optimize our schools so that every student has access to a caring, engaging, and challenging educational experience. We are committed to actualizing our mission to provide a caring, engaging, and challenging educational experience for every student, in every classroom.

To actualize our mission, our work is guided by the PUSD Graduate Profile. In order to graduate, in addition to earning course credits and completing community service or work-based learning hours, every Pasadena Unified School District senior must present their portfolios before a panel of industry experts, educators, and community leaders. The portfolio presentations are a powerful platform for students to reflect on their learning and put their experience in context with broader community and global issues.

Our work is guided by a mindset focused on continuous improvement in academics and operations, collective impact through an organized array of social-emotional support programs, increasing socio-economic integration, and planning and budgeting for long-term sustainability.

## Paramount Unified School District

15110 California Avenue, Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-6000 • [www.paramount.k12.ca.us](http://www.paramount.k12.ca.us)

### High-Quality Education for All Students



**Dr. Ruth Pérez**  
*Superintendent*

Paramount Unified School District provides a personal and innovative approach to education across its 18 campuses – from elementary to high school – with students reaching new heights in the areas of academics, athletics and the arts.

At Paramount Unified, we remove barriers to success by offering learning opportunities that engage students and inspires a culture of excellence. It is our mission to ensure equity in access and resources so all students are able to pursue their dreams.

From an early age, we prepare students for a globally connected future through enhanced offerings in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM).

Since Paramount Unified unveiled the Odyssey STEM Academy in 2018, students have engaged in rigorous, hands-on learning that is pertinent to our changing world.

The tremendous success of Odyssey STEM Academy was recognized by Forbes magazine, which praised its science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) curriculum, and its environmental sustainability program centered on student enrichment.

We continue to nurture a culture of high expectations that allows students to grow academically and as individuals. Through a variety of career pathways, students develop skills for higher education and the workforce – designing a pipeline for graduates to succeed in all sectors of our diverse and demanding job market.

Paramount Unified’s success is made possible by the talented educators and administrators who guide our students toward their individual paths to greatness. In partnership with dedicated community partners and stakeholders, PUSD ensures a high-quality educational experience that creates lifelong learners who make a positive impact on the world.

## Pomona Unified School District

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

### Award-Winning School District



**Richard L. Martinez**  
*Superintendent*

The Pomona Unified School District’s (PUSD) award-winning schools are committed to providing the highest quality education for every student, in every classroom, every day. “All Means All” means reaching out to every student at their own level, and PUSD is succeeding through its award-winning programs.

An app-based literacy program for children from pre-school through 3rd grade, garnered the 2019 “MAGNA Award” from the National School Boards Association, as well as the 2019 “Golden Bell Award” from the California School Boards Association, and is providing children with a jump-start on educational success.

The creativity and innovation of its summer programs won the 2018 “District of Distinction Award,” while partnerships with Cal Poly Pomona and the University of La Verne guaranteeing college admission to every qualified PUSD graduate won the “District of Distinction’s” 2019 award.

All 9 PUSD high schools were listed in *U.S. News & World Report’s* “Best High Schools in the Nation.” We provide excellence at all levels of the educational spectrum, from Palomares Academy, a “Model Distinguished” National Academy Foundation School, to Diamond Point Elementary, named one of the “Top Los Angeles Public Schools for Underserved Students.”

PUSD’s students have achieved perfect CAASPP Scores in both English and Math. We offer dual-language programs in Spanish and Mandarin, and we are a *Future-Ready* school district with cutting-edge technology and programs that have been celebrated by the White House.

PUSD’s award-winning schools are providing all of its students with the academic options and innovative support to prepare students for success in the 21st Century.



# Transformative District



**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 10,000 K-12 students and despite declining enrollment trends throughout California, RBUSD continues to grow as a result of the synergy created between community and schools. We attribute the enrollment increase to: 1) 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 RBSUD.

Redondo Beach USD is just that, unified. Students, parents, and staff model schooling and learning that is collaborative, rigorous, and transformational—this is what makes RBUSD great! The culture of our district does not embrace the status quo, but rather reaches for what tomorrow's learning may bring to us all.

# Innovative Learning for All



**Dr. Julie Mitchell**  
*Superintendent*

It is an exciting time in the Rowland Unified School District. As Superintendent, I am proud of our commitment to provide innovative learning for all, which includes our students, staff, parents and community. We continue to expand technology resources to both students and families, and our instructional support teams guide engaging, rigorous and relevant instruction in our classrooms. We are proud of our Music for All program, where EVERY elementary student in grades 1-6 receives music classes each week during school. Our historic college partnerships with Azusa Pacific University, University of La Verne and Grand Canyon University guarantees college admission for our graduates with up to \$10,000 per year in annual scholarships for RUSD students.

The awards keep coming and this year our schools have been honored as: 2020 California Distinguished Schools: Blandford Elementary, Killian Elementary and Ybarra Academy of Arts and Technology. Alvarado Intermediate has been named for the sixth time as a "School to Watch" National Model Middle School, and Hurley Elementary is one of only three schools in the state to receive the "Seal of Excellence Award" for its outstanding educational opportunities to serve the needs of English Learners.

Additional signature programs include:

- International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools
- Spanish and Mandarin Dual Immersion Programs starting in Kindergarten
- National No Excuses University College Culture and AVID Schools
- Transitional Kindergarten (TK) across the District
- Advanced Placement, Honors and GATE classes, athletics, music, enrichment opportunities and support services for students to succeed.

Our graduates attend the nation's leading universities and ivy league colleges and last year earned more than \$7 million in scholarships and grants.

# 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 recently 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.

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 10 years, our Leader in Me® program has been developed and integrated into our schools' core curriculum.

The 7-Habits of Highly Effective People, our Leader in Me® students are learning:

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

We are also proud to announce that Encinita Elementary School will launch a Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Mandarin program starting 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).

School News

Celebrating

20

YEARS

Promoting the excellence  
from classrooms since 2000

# Preparing Students for the 21st Century



**Jim Symonds**  
*Acting  
Superintendent*

It is an exciting time to be in the San Gabriel Unified School District. This year we are committed as a District to complete our Portrait of a Graduate and build our partnership with Ed Leader 21.

Our stakeholder group is in the process of identifying our key competencies that we would like to see in our graduates here in the San Gabriel Unified School District. Our District has been recognized at the State and National level for our Music Immersion Experience Program at Roosevelt Elementary. Our MIE Program received the CSBA Golden Bell Award and the Districts of Distinction “Honoree of the Year Award.” Some of the exciting offerings that are happening around our District include:

- Mandarin Dual Immersion- Wilson Elementary School
- Spanish Dual Immersion- McKinley Elementary School
- STEM Lab- McKinley Elementary School
- Music Immersion Experience-Roosevelt Elementary School
- Leader in Me- Coolidge Elementary School
- Coding and Robotics-Washington Elementary School
- Speech and Debate- Gabrielino High School
- Peer Mentorship- Jefferson Middle School

Our focus on 21st Century Learning is rapidly expanding with cohorts of teachers being trained in both Design Based Learning and Project Based Learning. We also have made a big push in the area of Social Emotional Learning with mental health awareness days at both Jefferson Middle School and Gabrielino High School. It is our goal to support our student’s Social Emotional Health and to prepare our students for the 21st Century!

# Family Engagement Framework



**Dr. Ben Drati**  
*Superintendent*

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has long enjoyed a compelling history of engaging in meaningful partnerships with parents and the broader community in support of the success of the students we serve. Our commitment to being an organization that attracts, unifies and works, with our diverse stakeholders in ways that truly make a difference in the lives of children precedes many of the state and federal mandates designed to accomplish that very goal.

SMMUSD embraces the belief that ALL families want their children to be successful in school and all have a role regardless of the socio-economic status, racial and ethnic background, or education levels. Therefore, it is our responsibility to develop quality family, school/district and community partnerships.

The development of the SMMUSD Family Engagement Framework is aligned with several shifts in the school district’s approach to improving student achievement and grounded in our Excellence Through Equity philosophy. Under the direction of the superintendent, there is an emphasis placed on shared leadership that includes engaging all stakeholders in a systemic approach to addressing student needs -- this includes family and community members.

SMMUSD is committed to: building the schools’ and families’ capacity for strong parental engagement; ensuring effective involvement of parents; supporting partnerships among district schools, parents, and the community; and improving student academic achievement through district/school-wide activities and programs.

The SMMUSD framework goals and indicators provide guidance to our schools and district in developing and implementing effective family engagement practices that yield higher levels of student academic success and college and career readiness.

# Capitalizing on Connectedness



**Dr. Jeff Wilson**  
*Superintendent*

In San Marino Unified schools, connectivity is the key to our students’ success and is why we remain Niche’s #1 Best School District in Los Angeles, #3 Best School District in California, and top 25 Best School District in the nation. Not only do we connect our students to the classroom through innovative educational programs, tools, and opportunities, but we connect them with important mental health and wellness resources. We proudly recognize that social and emotional well-being is the ultimate key to success and do all we can to make our students feel safe and supported at school.

Our students’ connection to class is bolstered by the fact that we have the best educators around. We remain steadfast in connecting teachers with training related to student-centered instructional shifts, such as Universal Design for Learning, to help them grow the tools in their toolbox that will allow them to reach and connect with each of their students in robust, meaningful ways.

Maintaining the level of excellence that our district has become known for would be impossible without our community connection. In spite of being one of the lowest funded school districts in one of the lowest funded states for public education, San Marino Unified remains a leader in K-12 education. Simply put, we could neither survive nor thrive without our community’s consistent financial support.

Throughout 2020 and beyond, we will continue to lean forward into capitalizing on our connectedness, ensuring our students have access to making their own important connections to their talents, strengths, and passions today that will serve them the rest of their lives.

# Together, We Achieve More



**Dr. Colleen Hawkins**  
*Superintendent*

The Saugus Union School District (SUSD) continues its commitment to Excellence in Elementary Education for the Santa Clarita Valley. This is achieved through the ABC’s of the district’s award-winning schools:

**Academics** – We provide rigorous, innovative programs with differentiated instruction, enabling students to achieve their full potential. Our articulated curriculum and assessment plan serves as the foundation for core subject areas while giving students tools to explore beyond the basics. Each school provides unique and specific programs to meet community needs and interests. In August, SUSD launched the first “90/10”

Dual Language Immersion program in the Santa Clarita Valley, at Highlands Elementary School. This new program will join the ESTEEM and Pathway to the Arts programs in SUSD, providing students unique 21st Century learning options. We are very proud of our award winning schools including our 2020 California Distinguished Schools winners – Rio Vista Elementary and West Creek Academy.

**Business** – We maintain consistent fiscal practices, ensuring SUSD continues providing outstanding instructional programs and facilities. Measure EE enables us to continue our facilities modernization, providing 21st Century technology, flexible instructional spaces, and safe, secure campuses.

**Culture and Communication** – We believe a supportive and positive school culture is critical to student success. Our ideals of respect, integrity, teamwork, learning, and enthusiasm create an environment where students can reach their full potential. 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!**



# Challenging Academic Programs



**Dr. Geoff Yantz**  
*Superintendent*

Established in 1886, the South Pasadena Unified School District serves approximately 4,800 students within five schools including three elementary schools, one middle school and one comprehensive high school. Nestled in the West San Gabriel Valley, SPUSD has earned a reputation for providing high quality public education, attracting families who value challenging academic programs and outstanding teachers. Consistently recognized for superior performance, SPUSD students earn honors at the local, state and national level. The District draws vital support from parents and community members through the South Pasadena Educational Foundation, local PTAs and booster clubs. Recently, community members overwhelmingly approved a \$98 million bond measure ensuring that South Pasadena schools will be modernized and improved matching the high-caliber academic programs and excellent instruction for which we are well-known.

Continually evolving to prepare for the future, SPUSD is focusing on four strategic goals as outlined by the School Board and administration. These goals embody urgent and important ideas and guide planning and decision making for the District and include:

- Enabling greater achievement for all students
- Offering state-of-the-art curriculum and instruction
- Achieving financial strength and sustainability
- Providing facilities that support educational excellence

Our students reach their individual potential by developing intellectual abilities, emotional maturity, unique talents, love of learning and responsibility for their own learning. They confidently participate in the complex, global environment. Through unending community support and strong leadership, the future looks bright for the children of South Pasadena.

# Students First



**Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi**  
*Superintendent*

The Sulphur Springs Union School District, located in Canyon Country within the Santa Clarita Valley, has continued to ensure that all students remain the number one priority. When parents and staff enter the nine 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. Our school staff is dedicated to supporting the whole child, academically and socially. Knowing that relationships and connections are key to student success, the District is committed to continuing and strengthening these bonds and partnerships among students, parents, community members and staff.

Our educators are dedicated to ensuring that all students are empowered and supported to have a personalized education. The students in the Sulphur Springs Union School District are afforded daily opportunities to be innovative and critical learners. Students are able to thrive academically, since the District is focused on making sure that students have state-of-the-art resources and learning tools to further enhance their educational program. The District’s educators work in collaboration with colleagues to ensure that there is a strategic focus on the core curriculum, enrichment, and intervention support as needed.

The District is also very proud of the community partnerships that have been created to assist our students and families. These community members have embraced our families to be part of their family. With the support of the community, as well as, the District’s CLASS Education Foundation, we know that we will continue to deliver extraordinary learning experiences for our students.

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.

# Success for Every Student



**Dr. Gary Gonzales**  
*Superintendent*

South Whittier School District (SWSD) is comprised of 6 Elementary Schools and a Middle School located in the unincorporated area of Whittier and proudly serves approximately 2600 students. The District’s motto is “Success for Every Student” and is evident through the focused actions of our Board of Education, the commitment from our dedicated classified and certificated staff members and engaged parents. Collaboratively, we will ensure that every child has access to a rigorous and appropriate education so that they are prepared to compete in a global society. SWSD is committed to providing every student with a world-class education and opportunities such as Spanish Dual Immersion, Medical Careers class, STEM, Mariachi, Folklorico and Journalism programs, where 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.

As Superintendent, I am honored to serve this District and together, with Board members, teachers, classified and administration, we give students & families our best. 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.

# Preparing the Leaders of Tomorrow



**Dr. Kimberly Fricker**  
*Superintendent*

Temple City Unified School District is a diverse District and community that is centralized around a sense of family. It is a place where families have made generational homesteads and own and operate many of our local businesses. Education has remained the cornerstone of our community and we have a great appreciative of the tremendous involvement of our parent and community-based support. Maintaining the integrity and quality of our programs is paramount to our District in order to Ensure that our students have access to a rich and nurturing educational environment with which to thrive. It is our mission to provide opportunities for our students to achieve the academic, career, and post-secondary career goals.

Temple City Unified School District firmly believes that academic achievement begins with a high-quality teaching staff and parents to provide an environment that is central to the individual needs of every student. We believe that student success is defined as each student having access to the programs, services and instruction that permits the escalation of skill development to their highest potential. There is no question that strong school and strong communities go hand in hand and they only exist where many individuals come together united by a common mission and goal to achieve the maximum potential of those they serve. Temple City Unified School District is an inclusive, friendly, and dedicated educational agency focused on preparing success for all students and preparing the leaders of tomorrow.

## Torrance Unified School District

2335 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/972-6500 • [www.tusd.org](http://www.tusd.org)

# Community Matters



**Dr. George Mannon**  
*Superintendent*

As the largest school district in the South Bay, TUSD is all about community, with a school in every neighborhood. Often when I meet parents I am happy to learn that our students are part of families whose parents, and sometimes grandparents, were also part of the TUSD family. Our parents are Torrance teachers, police officers, fire men and women, nurses, doctors, engineers, local entrepreneurs and business owners. These same parents and grandparents find time to volunteer, organize events, and plan fundraisers to benefit our schools.

Our schools thrive because our parents and community members work together collaboratively and comprehensively to positively impact students. Partners like our PTAs and the Torrance Education Foundation support our goals of preparing students for college, career, by offering additional opportunities and enrichment.

Our PTAs are an invaluable resource. They offer student scholarships, they host and organize the District College Fair, offer parenting courses, which provide additional supports for our more vulnerable students and their families.

The Torrance Education Foundation has been a District partner in enhancing our science program. The Foundation provides teachers grants to fund educational projects in their classrooms, such as “Hour of Code,” and funds enrichment clubs such as robotics clubs, CyberPatriots, Math Counts, and the Science Olympiad. TEF is also committed to funding the essential tools and supplies needed for the new elementary science labs.

In Torrance, community matters. Everyone works together with the common goal to provide a robust 21st-century education to all our students. We are thankful to our parents and community organizations for consistently adding value to the educational experiences of our students.

## Valle Lindo School District

1431 N. Central Avenue, South El Monte, CA 91733 • 626/580-0610 • [www.vallelindo.k12.ca.us](http://www.vallelindo.k12.ca.us)

# Commitment to Excellence



**Lynn Bulgin**  
*Superintendent*

Established in 1863, the Valle Lindo School District is rich in history and accomplishment. Comprised of two schools, Valle Lindo serves the community of South El Monte. Both New Temple Elementary School and Dean L. Shively Middle School have earned Title I Academic Achievement Awards, and have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools and California Gold Ribbon Schools. New Temple Elementary School was honored once again in 2020 as a California Distinguished School, and both schools have been recognized as Capturing Kids’ Hearts National Showcase Schools.

Instruction and exploration in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) provides multiple avenues for developing 21st century skills, preparing students for both college and career. A comprehensive K-8 computer science curriculum and our fully-equipped MakersSpaces afford students many opportunities to explore and to create.

Social-emotional wellness is a priority. All staff have been trained in Capturing Kids’ Hearts (Flippen Group) methodology and process. With a focus on building positive relationships and showing our students their actions and words matter, we have seen a significant reduction in office referrals, defiance and altercations. The addition of a school-based social worker is providing specialized student support and early identification of mental health challenges.

Through technology integration, innovative instruction, a rigorous curriculum and social-emotional supports, our students are achieving academic success today while preparing for a future we cannot currently imagine. The Valle Lindo School District remains steadfast in our commitment to excellence. We strive to cultivate student leaders, problem solvers, good communicators and effective collaborators, for the future lies in the hands and hearts of our students.

## Walnut Valley Unified School District

880 S. Lemon Avenue, Walnut, CA 91789 • 909/595-1261 • [www.wvusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.wvusd.k12.ca.us)

# Inspiring Students to Be Their Best



**Dr. Robert P. Taylor**  
*Superintendent*

Walnut Valley Unified School District is a premier school district committed to “KIDS FIRST - Every Student, Every Day.” Our wonderful teachers and staff are dedicated 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 2020 Niche report of Best School Districts in America.

Our high performing high schools score in the top 1% 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 Rich Langham was named a 2019 Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year semifinalist.

Our students, schools, and community will benefit 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.

## West Covina Unified School District

1717 W. Merced Avenue, West Covina, CA 91790 • 626/939-4600 • [www.wcusd.org](http://www.wcusd.org)

# An Innovative Approach to Education



**Dr. Charles D. Hinman**  
*Superintendent*

West Covina Unified School District is committed to providing an innovative, comprehensive educational experience that enriches students’ lives and prepares them for lifelong success.

With that goal in mind, we have sought to expand flagship programs and introduce new learning opportunities in 2019-20.

We are proud to have established the International World Schools of West Covina, home to California’s only TK-12 International Baccalaureate Continuum. The continuum provides students with a rigorous, globally focused education. Our IB students graduate well-prepared for college and career; all IB Diploma candidates have been accepted to four-year colleges and universities.

Embedded in the continuum is the opportunity to develop bilingualism and biliteracy, cross-cultural awareness and increased cognitive abilities through Dual Language Immersion programs. Students can learn Mandarin beginning in kindergarten and Spanish in transitional kindergarten.

This year, Mt. SAC Early College Academy welcomed its second freshman class, which has embraced the rigor of our flagship dual-enrollment high school. Students can earn up to two years of transferable college credit as they pursue their high school diplomas.

In West Covina Unified, the arts are a vital component of a well-rounded education. We are thrilled to launch the next premier high school performing arts academy at West Covina High School, opening in fall 2020. The Academy will empower artists to develop their craft, learn from professionals and prepare for careers.

2019-20 has been a year of excellence in West Covina Unified. We look forward to working with our outstanding educators, staff, Board of Education and community to make a difference in the lives of our students.



# Westside Union School District

41914 50th Street West, Quartz Hill, CA 93536 • 661/722-0716 • [www.westside.k12.ca.us](http://www.westside.k12.ca.us)

## Pointing the Way, Providing the Path



**Regina L. Rossall**  
*Superintendent*

During this past year, additional schools in the Westside Union School District have received their WASC Accreditation including Quartz Hill Elementary School, Rancho Vista School, The IDEA Academy at Cottonwood, and Hillview Middle School. 8 of the 12 schools in the district have achieved this accreditation and it is expected that by the end of the 20-21 school year, all schools will be accredited, meeting a goal that was set just a few years ago.

The IDEA Academy at Cottonwood School recently was the host to an AVID Showcase event for the Antelope Valley. It was great to see so many of our colleagues stop in for a day of learning on how one of our schools implements the AVID Program on a school wide basis.

During the past year, a partnership has been created between the District, Antelope Valley College and Supervisor Barger's Office to offer a strings after school program to the students of the District and surrounding schools. The program has been quite successful with students performing at several music festivals in the area. We are appreciative of the joint efforts to keep music in our schools.

The partnership between Antelope Valley College and the District has resulted in a choral program for our students as well. They have performed with the AVC Master Chorale and learned much about vocal music. We are so proud of the efforts to help all of our students have access to music.

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

# Whittier Union High School District

9401 S. Painter Avenue, Whittier, CA 90605 • 562/698-8121 • [www.wuhsd.org](http://www.wuhsd.org)

## Connecting with Students to Ensure Success



**Martin Plourde**  
*Superintendent*

Whittier Union High School District entered the 2019-20 school year committed as ever to supporting our 11,000-plus students in their endeavors and doing Whatever It Takes to ensure their success in the classroom and beyond our campus walls.

Just like our 1,200 teachers, staff and administrators, every student has a story. It is our job to understand who our students are, what motivates them and what obstacles stand in their way. As we learn their stories, our educators constantly draw on their personal life experiences and teaching skills to guide students along a path toward success.

Whittier Union provides students a widespread system of support that has resulted in a 97% graduation rate among our five award-winning comprehensive high schools. Our District – which includes a model continuation school, independent study program, transition program and Adult School – is proud of the connections we've made with our students to ensure they have every tool and opportunity to flourish.

It is through the collective efforts of our Board of Trustees, students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators that Whittier Union remains among the top school districts in the state to attain and sustain academic progress and achievement, earning recognition in a Stanford study for excelling at supporting the learning of all students.

It is a true testament to our culture of collaboration and belief that Demographics Do Not Determine Destiny for our students at Whittier Union – where we are dedicated to preparing our students to pursue their dreams and achieve success in college and careers.

We look forward to continuing this journey of impacting the lives of our students and influencing each other in the process.

# Whittier City School District

7211 S. Whittier Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602 • 562/789-3000 • [www.whittiercity.net](http://www.whittiercity.net)

## Create. Cultivate. Celebrate.



**Dr. Maria Martinez-Poulin**  
*Superintendent*

In Whittier City School District we are committed to providing students with opportunities to excel in creating dynamic learning environments. Whittier City School District offers several different themed academies to support developing interests and talents in students:

- Mill School Technology Academy, a 2020 California Distinguished School
- Daniel Phelan Language Academy, a 2017 CABA Seal of Excellence Spanish dual language immersion school and 2020 California Distinguished School
- Hoover Fine Arts Academy, Sorensen Science Academy
- Lydia Jackson College Preparatory Academy, an AVID Showcase school and 2020 Golden Bell award recipient
- Edwards Middle School STEM and Dual Immersion Academy.

In 2017, the Whittier City School District implemented a robust 1:1 iPad program for all students in TK - 8th grade. Technology is meaningfully integrated into the instructional program and students use iPads to research, collaborate, communicate and display work. Students in Whittier City are engaged in the development of critical thinking and the application of 21st century skills. Our student learning is centered around collaboration, greater levels of perseverance, and problem solving. We are highly committed to the explicit teaching of writing in every classroom and across content areas. Furthermore, we value the arts in education, we offer music and arts in all of our schools during the day as a means of developing the whole child. This past year, we choreographed a successful musical where middle school students from across the district came together to show their talents.

Together with board members, certificated, classified and management staff, we dedicate our work to cultivating an environment that is conducive to learning and creativity and developing relationships. I am honored to serve the Whittier City community and to celebrate the District's success.

# William S. Hart Union High School District

21380 Centre Pointe Parkway, Santa Clarita, CA 91350 • 661/259-0033 • [www.hartdistrict.org](http://www.hartdistrict.org)

## Focus on College and Career Readiness



**Vicki Engbrecht**  
*Superintendent*

Serving students in grades 7-12, the William S. Hart Union High School District, is located in the Santa Clarita Valley. Known for its strong focus on college and career readiness, the Hart District sends more than 90% of its graduates on to four-year colleges or universities, community colleges, or career technical programs.

Academically, the District consistently ranks in the top tier of districts of its size in California, and was named an Exemplary District by the State of California in 2019 (one of only 18 districts statewide). Outstanding extra-curricular programs, including athletics and performing arts, are available on all campuses, and are regionally, state, and nationally recognized for their excellence.

A variety of educational options are available. Nearly 23,000 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 almost every campus in the District.

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 College and Career Readiness Program, students attending any of the District's schools can begin their career paths as early as junior high. The Hart District offers 76 career paths and enrollment in career education courses has increased by 24% since 2015.

# Foundation of Life-Long Learning



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 1,250 students.

The district is made up of 2 schools, Challenger Middle School and Vista San Gabriel Elementary School. In addition, the District has the Wilsona Achievement Academy, a community day school program. We have a focus on 21st century learning, and all students have access to individual technology in class every day.

We are very proud that we went out for our first bond in November 2018, Measure WE, which passed at almost 70% voter approval. We are very appreciative of our community who supported this bond effort. New roofing and HVAC systems will be replaced during the summer of 2020, with classroom modernization to follow.

Our district encompasses about 100 square miles, and we transport 98% of our students to and from school every day. Our Board of Trustees is forward thinking, and approved the purchase of two electric buses, the first in the Antelope Valley.

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 reach their potential and have options for their future.

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

# 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.

# Milestones and Firsts Word Search Contest

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

Entries must be received by December 15, 2020  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

- |             |            |               |
|-------------|------------|---------------|
| BIRTH       | MARRIAGE   | AIRPLANE RIDE |
| HIGH SCHOOL | CHILDREN   | BALLOON RIDE  |
| GRADUATION  | HOUSE      | BOAT          |
| COLLEGE     | RECITAL    | CRUISE        |
| DATE        | CAR        | FIRST TOOTH   |
| LOVE        | DISNEYLAND | KISS          |
| ENGAGEMENT  | TRAVEL     |               |

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





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**JULIE V.**  
Superintendent  
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