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10th Annual Edition

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

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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



Netragrednik



This is our 10th Edition highlighting each of the district superintendents in the Los Angeles County K-12 public schools. Our mission is to introduce each superintendent with their brief message to encourage you to visit their individual web sites for indepth information.

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

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

Los Angeles County Office of Education

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Rich Diversity



Dr. Debra Duardo
Superintendent

I am pleased to welcome you to *School News Roll Call's* Los Angeles County Superintendents Issue for 2017-18.

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

There are 80 K-12 school districts spread across 4,000 square miles of our county. The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) serves all those districts and their more than 1.5 million students. We do this in many ways.

As mandated by the state legislature, LACOE certifies the financial health of individual districts and works with them to correct any budgetary problems. LACOE plays a key role in reviewing each district's budget to ensure fiscal solvency, and to approve the related Local Control and Accountability Plans.

We also help districts save, and safeguard, their money through the cost-effective delivery of essential administrative and business services.

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

In addition, LACOE reaches out to students, families and communities with early childhood programs, parenting and literacy classes, as well as job development services. The centerpiece of our school-readiness efforts is the state's largest Head Start-State Preschool program, serving more than 13,000 children and their families.

See **LACOE** • Page 3



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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 Gold Ribbon Schools, fifteen Golden Bell Awards from CSBA, Seal of Excellence Award from CAFE, 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.

Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District

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

Promise of Educational Excellence



Dr. Brent Woodard
Superintendent

Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District is one of the first school districts in California, established in 1881. We currently serve 1100 students across three campuses over a 200 mile radius.

Our district is dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing learning environment through which all students are challenged to achieve their individual maximum growth academically, socially, physically, and intellectually. The staff, parents, and community members work together to help students meet and exceed high standards, and assist students to become productive members of our society.

Our district schools are recipients of many state accolades, including Meadowlark Elementary recognition as a California Distinguished School, High Desert Middle School's repeated designation as a School to Watch, and Vasquez High School's six year WASC accreditations.

Our accomplishments have been monumental; we will continue our focus on teaching and learning so that our students graduate college and career ready. This year we have focused on addressing targeted Math implementation and individual school initiatives. We also plan to enhance staff support and development in core content areas, augment individual and small group student support with additional programs in the elementary schools. We hope to provide a robust school program with a STEAM focus for our middle school / elementary students as well as expanding the Career Technical Education for Vasquez High School. I know that we can meet all of our initiatives because we have a faculty, staff and community that believe in the promise of educational excellence for our students.

Commitment to Excellence



Dr. Laura
Tellez-Gagliano
Superintendent

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

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

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

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

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

A Rigorous Curriculum



Dr. David J.
Vierra
Superintendent


The Antelope Valley Union High School District (AVUHSD) is made up of eight traditional and three continuation high schools, the Academies of the Antelope Valley which include seventh and eighth grades, as well as the Antelope Valley Adult School. The district serves more than 23,000 students in the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster, and the surrounding area.

Our high schools offer a variety of programs to prepare students for college and careers. Our career academies and pathways, which focus students' coursework toward a specific field of interest, include industries such as agriculture, digital design, engineering, environmental science, health care, law and government, and the arts.


Our mission is to provide a safe and secure learning environment that promotes a rigorous curriculum and enables our students to develop the necessary academic, technical, and work-related skills of the 21st century. We do this by ensuring that our faculty and staff are provided opportunities to further their development in areas such as innovative classroom teaching strategies and the use of technology in the classroom. We envision that every student who graduates will be prepared to pursue college and any career to which he or she aspires.

AVUHSD Fun Facts:

- Set in the Antelope Valley, home to some of the most innovative aerospace developments this century, our students have unique opportunities to learn from professionals including NASA engineers and Air Force test flight pilots!
- Two students from Knight High School in Palmdale were the first U.S. students to win the UAV Challenge in Queensland, Australia!
- AVUHSD covers the largest area of any district in Los Angeles County!



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Los Angeles County Schools and California Credit Union share a rich tradition of collaboration and support of educators and their passion to empower through education. Our heritage continues to grow strong with 88,000 members and a volunteer board whose roots started in education and built out of necessity to have a banking alternative. At California Credit Union, products designed solely for educators continue to be our focus as well as programs that support schools and students.

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Since 2005, CCU has donated more than \$370,000 in corporate support for this program that recognizes outstanding public school teachers, boosts morale and encourages young students to pursue careers in education.

CCU Teacher Grant Program

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CCU commits more than 90% of its sponsorship and advertising dollars to supporting educator associations, events, galas, union and association publications, and vehicle advertising. In the last three years, CCU has contributed over \$800,000 to offset expenses and assist in fundraising.

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

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Arcadia Unified School District

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Honored and Inspired by Our Students



David Vannasdal
Superintendent

I've had the distinct pleasure of working for Arcadia Unified School District since 2005, and I'm still amazed at what our students and staff are accomplishing year after year. I was one of the many spectators lining Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena ringing in the New Year and was brought to chills as I saw the nearly 400 Arcadia High School Marching Band students marching stride for stride in the prestigious Rose Parade. It was the 16th time that our marching band and color guard represented us with such grace and dignity in the historic New Year's tradition. Over the years, our band has played a part in several historic moments, including two Presidential Inaugural parades —1957 for Dwight Eisenhower and 2005 for George W. Bush. The band also performed at the very first Super Bowl in 1967 and in the 1981 World Series. Additionally, the band has played at the Gator and Alamo Bowls, and was even featured in an NFL Super Bowl commercial last year, all while winning countless field show competitions.

This year we also have Arcadia High School graduates attending every Ivy League School in the country. Our 2016 graduating class had at least one student accepted into at least one of the Ivy League Schools. Over \$3 million in college scholarships were earned by our students last year, and our graduation rate was north of 99 percent. This past week, we learned that 25 Arcadia High School seniors have been named National Merit Scholarship finalists.

After a decade in Arcadia Unified, I am still honored, in awe, and inspired by our students and staff each and every day.

Azusa Unified School District

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

Award-Winning Education



Dr. Linda Kaminski
Superintendent

Azusa Unified School District prides itself on providing an award-winning education to more than 9,000 K-12 students across 19 District campuses located in East San Gabriel Valley. Our students are immersed in an engaging curriculum that equips them with the knowledge and skills to become the leaders of tomorrow. Our class of 2016 graduates are attending twice the number of colleges and universities from the previous year – a clear indicator of our success. Through rigorous college and career preparatory programs, Azusa Unified provides early experience and education in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines to adequately prepare students for careers in these competitive fields. Through experiences like our Dual Immersion Program, which focuses on bilingualism and biliteracy in Spanish and English, students are offered an education that fosters an appreciation and understanding of diverse cultures. We are grateful to our strong and growing partnerships with community businesses and colleges, which provide key support for STEM electives, including robotics, space and flight, and computer programming. The Early College Program at Gladstone High School provides students the opportunity to complete a year of college coursework at Citrus College. Students also have the option of enrolling in the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at Azusa High School, where they can gain college and university credits and become more competitive on university applications worldwide. Our sights are set on the bright future ahead. Every teacher, administrator, and parent has a vested interest in the success of our children. We share a vision of fostering an environment of student excellence by setting the bar higher and higher every year.



Kim Lu Lawe, Ed.D. '16
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Innovation and Inclusion



Froilan N. Mendoza
Interim Superintendent

Baldwin Park Unified School District launched a new mission statement in 2016-17, with district leaders dedicating their efforts to “ensure high achievement for ALL learners.” The statement – simple and inclusive of all our incredibly diverse student population – puts into words the philosophy that has long driven our efforts. We know the focus has had a positive impact: BPUSD earned 14 California Gold Ribbons in the last two years, received recognition by Education Trust-West in 2013 as California’s No. 1 District in closing the achievement gap among students of color, three Gates Millennium Scholars in the last two years, and was honored with the prestigious Multiple Pathways to Bilingual Award from Californians Together in 2015-16.

Our programs are anchored in rigorous academics, including a model program for Dual Immersion, our growing culture of science, technology, engineering, arts and math instruction (STEAM), and an innovative plan for integrating new classroom technology. This year will see expansions in each of these arenas, as well as a recommitment to our highly regarded AVID program and other initiatives targeting college readiness. Of special note are prototype multi-lingual classrooms where we are melding the latest in classroom technology with cutting-edge approaches to instruction in multiple languages. I am privileged to help lead these efforts alongside some of the most talented and dedicated teachers, and classified and administrative staff. These efforts would not be possible without the support of our Board, dedicated parents and community. As a long-time Baldwin Park Unified educator, I am thrilled to see the spirit of innovation and inclusion, that has so long been a signature feature of our work together, continue as a hallmark during this transformative time.

Sustaining Excellence!



Dr. Brian Jacobs
Superintendent

Beginning year six as Superintendent brings with it a great deal of energy knowing that BUSD is ready and well positioned to sustain the “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less.” The promises to unite people, programs, and resources in new ways, from the California Standards, RTI (Response to Intervention), and Positive Behavior Interventions Systems, make BUSD more than ready to assist our students to maximize academic achievements and celebrate those accomplishments. As a parent, community partner, or employee, you are integral to ensuring that our schools are highly effective centers of learning. BUSD works diligently to align our annual budget to ensure that all students are given a quality teacher, in a well maintained classroom, and a safe and secure learning environment.

Because of the efforts from all of our employees of BUSD, we were recognized as a Gold Ribbon School District. With strong commitments from all stakeholders to strengthen instructional practices, the students level of classroom engagement, and reinforcing the rigor of excellence, students have demonstrated consistent measurable improvement. Increased student engagement and greater student motivation, has also led to higher student achievement marks on all assessments along with higher graduation rates across the district. 2016-17 will be a fantastic year for our students. With the support of our Governing Board, and advance thanks to all BUSD employees, we are ready for the challenge to achieve our academic goals! It is because of that readiness that our families can expect and deserve nothing but the “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less.”

On the Move!



Dr. Alex Rojas
Superintendent

Bassett Unified School District continues to raise the bar of success for every student, building a strong foundation of knowledge and hands-on experience, while employing a state-of-the-art learning environment that inspires a college-going culture. All Bassett Unified classrooms are equipped with new 80-inch interactive smartboards and a surround sound audio system that improves our instructional practices. We are proud of our Bassett Innovation Center, a hub of teacher collaboration that promotes the integration of technology and project-based learning throughout our curriculum.

Bassett Unified aims to provide students with a rigorous and relevant curriculum that gives them the opportunity to gain early experience in their desired profession. The District is establishing Career Technical Education Pathways in demanding fields, including Medicine and Digital Media, so that our graduates are more competitive on applications and resumes. By immersing students in hands-on, engaging coursework relevant to their future career, they will be that much closer in achieving their goals. Through our film pathway, students work with professionals from the Latino Film Institute’s Youth Cinema Project to write and produce their own movies, which allows them to utilize concepts that they have learned through our STEM coursework. Beginning at the elementary level, students are taking their first steps toward careers in science and technology by participating in virtual reality labs, creating algorithms and writing code. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our administrators, teachers, counselors, staff and parents, our community continues to work together toward the common goal of our students’ success. Bassett Unified is on the move!

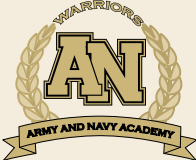
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Future Ready!



Dr. Michael Bregy
Superintendent

The Beverly Hills Unified School District 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, Beverly Hills Unified School District is committed to making sure that all students have authentic and real-world learning opportunities.

The Beverly Hills Unified School District consists of four K-8 elementary schools, one 9-12 high school and a K-12 enrollment of 4100. 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. Each elementary school consists of a primary school (K-3), an intermediate school (4-5), and a middle school (6-8). Beverly Hills High School is organized around three houses, each one headed by an assistant principal who is assisted by two counselors and overseen by the Principal. 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.

To this end, students in Beverly Hills Unified School District actively participate in a world-class education that enhances their quality of life while maximizing the attributes of future ready students.

Is Reaching 100% Possible?



Matt Hill
Superintendent

Over the past year I have been asked, “Do you truly believe 100% of Burbank Unified School District (BUSD) students can graduate?” My answer is a simple, “Yes!”

All of us at the Burbank Unified School District (BUSD) are focused on supporting our students to help them graduate. As BUSD employees we realize that we have a unique role in guiding each student through his or her educational journey. Our focus is to help each student graduate high school in four years, but we realize that some students may need longer to finish the requirements necessary to receive a diploma or certificate of completion.

Our collective charge is to listen to our students to better understand their personal stories so that we can support them. Graduation is not a focus for just our seniors; we are focused from pre-school throughout their entire time with us at BUSD. That is why we have invested in additional supports to help our teachers and counselors. Over the past two years, BUSD has invested in full-time intervention specialists in our elementary schools, added counselors to our secondary schools, enhanced our summer school programs, and have added additional personnel to support the social and emotional well-being of our students. These individuals work closely with our school teams to create a team of support and encouragement for every student.

It will not be easy, but by working together, I am confident we can reach our goal of 100% of our students graduating.

A Culture of Personalized Learning



Dr. Christina Goennier
Superintendent

Why Personalized Learning

Bonita Unified School District recognizes the necessity of equitable access to technology resources for ALL students to ensure every student has the opportunity to reach their dreams. Technology allows students to have choices about how and where they learn at their own pace. Teachers are encouraged to adapt instruction to different learning styles for accessing information, collaborating with others and demonstrating mastery of their learning.

What is Personalized Learning

Bonita Unified has defined personalized learning as instruction that offers pedagogy, curriculum, and learning environments to meet the individual needs of students. Experiences are tailored to learning preferences and specific interests of different learners. Students, staff, families and the community work together to create a culture that encourages their use of appropriate tools to enhance everyone’s individual learning experience.

How we use Personalized Learning

The instructional tools our teachers and administrators use to communicate, such as, electronic grade books, one-way texting, online video lessons, and online calendars, have created new and stronger connections with our Bonita families. Teachers are facilitating personalized learning through students creating their own videos and showcasing them, students’ contagious growth and competition to learn through online curriculum in our elementary schools, and students customizing their senior projects through multimedia digital portfolios that replace traditional notebooks. Students develop a greater level of ownership for their learning in school and beyond when technology is integrated into daily instruction. These actions are wrapped around the foundation of students becoming responsible digital citizens.

Empowering the Learners of Today



Steve Doyle
Superintendent

Castaic Union School District maintains its vision for all students in our “Commitment to Excellence.” We have embodied the direction of empowering the learners of today for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

We believe that Castaic Union School District, in partnership with the community, provides children with a creative and collaborative learning environment supported by a safe and nurturing atmosphere that creates life-long learners and empowers them to be critical thinkers in a global community.

Our core values promote:

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

We are confident in the vision that has been established by our Board of Trustees to ensure that every child is successful by providing the highest quality instruction every day for every child. Our financial situation has stabilized and we continue our efforts to provide support to our students in the VAPA, drone technology, and innovative classroom space to name a few. Great things are abound in Castaic!

Thank you for reading *School News!*

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 is focused on ensuring all students have the opportunity to not only graduate, but to receive a world-class education that effectively prepares them for college, career and life.

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 Strong Foundation



Dr. Mike Hendricks
Superintendent

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS 10TH EDITION

2017—2018 9

Create, Not Consume



Dr. James Elsasser
Superintendent

In the northeast corner of Los Angeles County, Claremont Unified School District (CUSD) stands as a leader in educational technology. As part of the district's 1:1 iPad initiative, students strive to become creators of technology, not just consumers. To build a culture of coding, tinkering, and iterating, the district has embraced the Hour of Code, a global initiative aimed at getting everyone, regardless of age or experience, exploring computer science.

Our district began growing Hour of Code three years ago, first in a handful of classrooms then expanding to over 4,000 of the district's 7,000 students. This year, students took charge; high school students from computer science courses, Girls Who Code, and Pro.Gram club led Hour of Code at elementary and middle schools. Armed with iPads, the student leaders selected and delivered Hour of Code lessons on commands, sequences, functions, and loops using Swift Playgrounds, Scratch Jr., and code.org.

As the coding culture grows, teachers embrace robotics and maker spaces across grade levels and content areas. For instance, teachers code a Sphero robot along an ELA story arc, programming the robot's speed, heading, and color to represent the story's mood, tone, and events. In a high school English class, students develop a widget to compress Shakespearean text.

As students enthusiastically share their coding experiences with parents, excitement in the community grows. The local educational foundation is sponsoring Family Coding Night to encourage parents of elementary school children to code alongside their students and explore intersections among science and engineering practices, mathematical practices, and California standards.

Preparing Kids for Their Future!



Dr. Richard M. Sheehan
Superintendent

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

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

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

Education is not the learning of facts,
but the training of the mind to think.

Turnaround in Student Performance



Darin Brawley
Superintendent

Darin Brawley, Compton Unified School District's (CUSD) Superintendent has been with the District since 2012. He has led the turnaround in student performance in the Compton School District which has seen both test scores and graduation rates increase.

Mr. Brawley is currently pursuing his doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of Southern California. He has a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from California State University, San Bernardino, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Redlands.

He has served as a superintendent for the past eight years. His experience in education includes serving as a high school teacher, middle school assistant principal, elementary principal, middle school principal, director of human resources, executive director of human resources, deputy superintendent of student learning, and superintendent.

Prior to his appointment as superintendent in Compton, Mr. Brawley served as a superintendent in the Adelanto Elementary School District for three years. In addition to this, he served as deputy superintendent of student learning for three years prior to his role as a superintendent.

Mr. Brawley has been instrumental in shepherding several schools out of Program Improvement status. Under his leadership two schools have been awarded National Blue Ribbon status. Several schools have received Title I Performing Schools recognition, as well as California Distinguished School Awards. He is committed to continuous improvement in relation to the core mission of education.

#CULVERPRIDE



Joshua Arnold
Superintendent

You can't see it. Or smell it. Or hear it. Or even taste it. But you can definitely feel what's going on in Culver City Unified these days.

We call it #CULVERPRIDE, and it's the manifestation of a schooling experience connected to students, families, teachers, staff, and alumni who believe that a spirit of excellence lives in all of us.

Whether it be national-caliber academics, CIF-championship athletics, world-renowned Arts programs, or equity-based cultural affairs, #CULVERPRIDE lies at the forefront of our vision and steers our progress on the way to sustained success.

And it doesn't stop there. This year, we've asked our community to help tell the story of Culver City Schools by way of their social media channels. Over the past few months, we've taking ownership of the #CULVERPRIDE hashtag, bolstered our online content, and are writing a community-driven narrative about our schools from the very perspective of those we serve — full of Instagram videos, Tweets, YouTube snippets, and Facebook posts.

The best part about this effort is the potential for our schools' story to live forever. With digital archiving tools, we look forward to the enthusiasm and engagement we've captured to live long on the cell phone screens and laptop monitors of students generations and generations from now.

That's what #CULVERPRIDE is all about in our school district: it's the past, present, and future of our students. And we couldn't be more proud :)

– Albert Einstein

Downey Unified School District

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

Our Students Deserve the Best...



Dr. John A. Garcia, Jr.
Superintendent

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

For decades, our schools have enjoyed the reputation of an outstanding school system. Downey Unified has been recognized with distinguished State honors for its high performance. Our Academic Performance Index (API) scores can be found at www.cde.ca.gov. You are also welcome to schedule a visit to any Downey Unified school. We know you will be impressed with the safe, learning-centered environment and top quality instruction you will encounter.

In September, Downey Unified was nationally recognized by P21 (The Partnership for 21st Century Learning) to be officially designated as an Exemplar School District for 2016-17. One of only four school districts in the nation to receive this designation, Downey Unified received this honor for exemplary 21st Century learning practices in preparing students for success in college, career and life.

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

All of our schools have been renovated in recent years to include state-of-the-art technology as well as first-rate athletic facilities. We provide a full range of programs for students with individual needs including GATE, AVID and Title I.

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

Duarte Unified School District

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

Producing 21st Century Students



Dr. Allan Mucerino
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 Orange County School of the Performing Arts, City of Hope National Medical Center, and Early College Collaborative with industry leaders and institutions of higher learning.

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East Whittier City School District

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

Opening the Door to Each Child’s Future



Mary Branca
Superintendent

The East Whittier City School District community has always rallied behind our students, supporting us in our mission to develop future leaders.

With the input of community, teachers, staff, students and parents, our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) has prioritized expansion of our early learning programs, including our full-day transitional kindergarten program at Evergreen Elementary School, and intervention specialists to better prepare students for long-term success.

Our LCAP has also allowed us to increase funding for visual and performing arts programs. Elementary school students now have access to high-quality piano instruction that lays the foundation for continued achievement in middle school.

Our community is also providing critical funding to revitalize and repair our facilities through support of bond measures R and Z. This funding will ensure students continue to access safe and secure learning environments conducive to academic success.

I have great pride in our District and all that we have achieved together. After a 30-year career as an educator here, including the last five as superintendent, I will retire at the close of the 2016-17 school year. It was a difficult decision. Not only have I enjoyed serving the families of this community, this is where I raised my own children, and the place where I will enjoy seeing my five grandchildren thrive in East Whittier schools.

I want to thank the District’s Board of Education, staff, teachers, administrators, parents and community for the many wonderful memories. In the end, it is our students who truly benefit from everyone’s dedication.

Eastside Union School District

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

Moving In the Right Direction



Dr. Mark Marshall
Superintendent

Recent California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Results for students in the Eastside Union School District (EUSD) showed increases in both English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. Over the past few years, we have implemented several strategies to ensure that our students receive effective instructional practices.

One example is our extensive use of Extended Learning Opportunities or ELOs. ELOs are nationally recognized as a vehicle to close the achievement gap by expanding student access to core instruction. For the past two years, Tierra Bonita Elementary has designed and implemented a series of “Academic Boot-Camps” during breaks and intersessions in the school year.

Based on a comparison of recent CAASPP results, students who participated in Tierra Bonita’s offerings had significantly higher rates of student achievement than those who didn’t participate in the activities. Subsequently, many of our schools are designing ELOs this year to improve student achievement. Research has indicated that expanding access to extended learning programs can provide our students with a better foundation for success.

Moving forward, the goal is to continue our improvement in English Language Arts and place even more of an emphasis on math to continue to meet the goals that we have set in our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). We are very confident that our renewed and targeted efforts, along with additional instructional support provided in our LCAP, will continue to pay huge dividends for our students.

El Monte City School District

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

Seamless Pathway to College



Dr. Maribel Garcia
Superintendent

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

As a District, we continue to focus on parent engagement; we have added Community Liaisons at each of our sites to provide communication and cooperation that facilitates a close working relationship between our parents and schools. We are also dedicated to providing a well rounded program, including a focus on visual and performing arts, STEAM and coding. We have a music teacher for each site; we are an Arts for All District and will be adding a Musical Theatre Camp to our Summer STEAM program. This spring we will be enrolling the inaugural class of a Dual Language program – we hope to add additional language programs that reflect & celebrate the diversity of our District. Lastly, we are very proud of our family center. The Jeff Seymour Family Center provides a variety of needed services to our families.

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

El Monte Union High School District

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

Building a College and Career Culture



Edward A. Zuniga
Superintendent

El Monte Union High School District strives to build a college and career culture through a rigorous academic program which provides options and opportunities for students throughout the District. By embedding 21st-century skills and working collaboratively with community education partners, students are better prepared to enter college and the workforce.

Our District is dedicated to supporting students with resources that remove the roadblocks which affect learning opportunities and preparation for post-secondary education. The District’s LCAP provides for additional resources, including fee waivers for PSAT, SAT and AP exams. In addition, students receive free SAT preparation courses throughout the school year prior to taking the exam. Additional support staff, including college and career counselors have been added at each comprehensive high school to ensure that all students are exposed to college and career options.

EMUHSD believes in a collaborative partnership with all stakeholders, most importantly, our parents. Each school features a parent center where parents have the opportunity to come onto each campus and feel part of the total school learning environment. Parents are provided with parenting classes, workshops, and community resources which promote college and career awareness. We are proud partners with the Hispanic National Fund, who selected EMUHSD as a host district for their College 101 parent and student workshops this school year. In addition, a school community liaison is placed at every school site to support and coordinate parent engagement.

It is with the assistance of our entire district family and support of our Board of Trustees that our students will continue to grow and succeed. It is my distinct pleasure to serve as Superintendent of the El Monte Union High School District.

Transforming Teaching and Learning



Dr. Roxane Fuentes
Interim Superintendent

El Rancho Unified School District is well on its way to being transformed to “Second to None!”

Congratulations to Rivera Elementary for being a 2016 Gold Ribbon School, and to El Rancho High School for earning a silver in *US News and World Report* as well as being a 2015 Gold Ribbon and Title I Achieving school. Salazar High School also earned the 2016 Model Continuation School award for the third time! These schools join the ranks with Rio Vista Elementary, our National Blue Ribbon school.

ERUSD continues to offer families full-day transitional kinder and kindergarten programs, project-based learning opportunities, and a variety of learning experiences at several specialized academies, such as South Ranchito Dual Language Academy, Birney Tech Academy, Magee Academy of Arts and Sciences, Valencia Academy of the Arts, North Park Academy of the Arts, and STEAM Academy @ Burke.

This fall, we also opened the doors to our new magnet high school, Ellen Ochoa Prep Academy which will be expanding to tenth grade this coming school year.

The generous support of our school community has also brought about significantly improved facilities for teaching and learning. Innovation Labs for exploratory learning with the most advanced technology are available in each of our elementary schools. We are also creating 21st century science labs at all middle schools and Salazar High School. Our most exciting and highly anticipated facilities project will be the \$200,000,000 Measure ER bond project targeted at the complete transformation of El Rancho High School!

Keep an eye on ERUSD, and take advantage of what our schools can offer your child!

Growing 21st Century Leaders



Anita Chu
Superintendent

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

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

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

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

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

A Century of Educational Excellence



Dr. Melissa Moore
Superintendent

Established in 1912—five years ahead of the city’s incorporation—the El Segundo Unified School District (ESUSD) thrives at the forefront of cutting edge education. Now recognized as a member of the prestigious National Network of Innovative School Districts, its elementary and middle schools are also acclaimed with gold ribbon status by the California Department of Education, its high school is an Apple Distinguished School and its students regularly win national and state awards honoring their work in robotics, engineering and technology to writing and band and choral competitions.

Comprised of award-winning educators dedicated to providing students and the community with an optimal learning environment, the district’s team prepares educated, productive, compassionate citizens to meet the challenges of a global society in the 21st century. ESUSD currently has an enrollment of 3,400 students at six schools.

ESUSD believes it must evolve as an educational system to prepare its students to be successful contributors in a dynamic global society. Our new membership in the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools will positively impact ESUSD’s vision for student learning. The national league is an independent, bipartisan nonprofit organization authorized by Congress to accelerate innovation in education.

Parents are encouraged to take an active role in ensuring the success of the ESUSD and its students. We thank the El Segundo Education Foundation, business and community partners for their continued support, and welcome additional partnerships that support the education of our children. ESUSD is confident that together we can succeed in preparing our students to be 21st century learners, workers and citizens.

Well-Rounded Education



Winfred B. Roberson
Superintendent

Glendale Unified School District offers a well-rounded education to our diverse student population by fostering a culture of caring, trust, and inquiry. Our goal is to maximize academic outcomes while focusing on the social and emotional needs of our students. GUSD remains the ideal choice for parents seeking an exceptional, accomplished school district that is accountable for student progress. Realtors and local businesses report that the positive reputation of Glendale schools is often a motivating factor when choosing to move to Glendale.

Nine GUSD schools have earned the U.S. Office of Education’s highest designation for a public school, the National Blue Ribbon. All GUSD secondary schools (four middle and four high schools) and ten of our district’s elementary schools have received the California Department of Education’s highest designation, the Gold Ribbon School Award. Additionally, 25 GUSD 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.

Our Foreign Language Academy of Glendale (FLAG) offers dual language immersion programs, beginning in kindergarten, in Spanish, Korean, Armenian, German, Italian, Japanese, and French. GUSD was one of two school districts to receive the Californians Together Multiple Pathways to Biliteracy District Recognition Award. Additionally, our district offers extensive career and technical education (CTE) programs, including automotive, building construction, cosmetology, culinary arts, cinematography, public safety, robotics engineering, and biotechnology, at all of our high schools.

Glendale public schools are committed to offering the highest quality instructional and support programs on campuses that are safe and secure. At GUSD, we prepare our students for their future.

Glendora Unified School District

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

Enthusiasm for Excellence!



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 schools 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 now will offer the prestigious AP Capstone program, and 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.

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

In addition to world class academics, we offer exceptional, well-rounded educational experiences for nearly 7,800 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. The Glendora experience is one of commitment to, enthusiasm for, and pride in excellence!

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

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

Partners in Your Child’s Future



Cynthia Parulan-Colfer
Superintendent

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

HLPUSD serves over 19,000 Pre-K through Grade 12 students, and over 17,000 adults through the Adult Education program. HLPUSD offers full-time Transitional Kindergarten. Schools have been acknowledged with a National Blue Ribbon School, 15 Gold Ribbon Schools, several California Distinguished Schools, and garnered state and national accolades for engineering and the arts. The District offers AA Degree in Vocational Nursing through Adult Education. Schools provide STEAM experiences to prepare students for college and career; after-school programs are available at 22 school sites free of charge. All 32 schools have had facility upgrades, and the new Bond will bring 21st Century classrooms to all schools. The multicultural diversity of our community is reflected in programs and activities such as STEAM, the arts, sports, environmental science and dual language immersion programs in Spanish, Mandarin, and Korean. HLPUSD is committed to providing educational programs that inspire lifelong learning.

Gorman Joint School District

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

Providing A Rigorous Education



Johannis Andrews
Superintendent

The Gorman Joint School District is located at the southern tip of the beautiful Tehachapi Mountains, 60 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Gorman Joint School District has one K-8 school with 95 students and five teachers. The small size of Gorman Elementary School makes it possible to have an individualized nurturing environment in each classroom where the average class size is 24 students. Gorman Joint School District is a District of Choice where any parent can chose to enroll their children during an enrollment period. Gorman remains committed to effective teaching and learning while providing children with a rigorous education. The forefront of our work for 2017 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. We consistently strive to provide our students with a high quality education that appropriately meets their academic needs, but acknowledge that a quality experience must go beyond just the classroom. With the goal of preparing students to succeed in the 21st century, Gorman provides educational lessons that are engaging, collaborating, creative, and standards-based in all 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.

Hawthorne School District

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

Student-Centered for Student 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 nearly 9,000 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.

Through the development and refinement of our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) we continue to identify and implement strategies and programs that will provide supports and enrichment to better prepare our students for their journey ahead. As we meet with stakeholders including parents, bargaining units, and staff it is evident that we all agree; providing additional supports for students is paramount for all involved. We have been able to implement additional technology, additional security measures, extended learning opportunities in both enrichment and remediation, community outreach personnel, deans, increased professional development, counselors, additional health personnel, many extracurricular opportunities for all students, and improved facilities to name a few.

It is because of our commitment to students and their success that we will continue to place the diverse needs of each in the forefront of all we do and provide them with a stellar educational experience! We continue to live by our vision of, “A diverse community of lifelong learners who excel and positively contribute to an advancing global society.”

Hermosa Beach City School District

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

“Thrive K-Life”



Patricia Escalante
Superintendent

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

The outstanding work of our students, teachers, parents, and administrators is evidenced by the 2016 state recognition of View school as California Golden Ribbon Award. The district also received national recognition as one of 24 Districts of Distinction. The selection of our signature practices emotional and physical wellness is a reflection of the belief that the best education is one that focuses on the development of the whole child.

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

This year, the Board participated in an extensive process to examine the vision and mission of the district. In the heart of Hermosa Beach we are reminded that “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Excellent schools are a reflection of an excellent community. Join us in the support of our vision of excellence for all students.

Inglewood Unified School District

401 South Inglewood Avenue, Inglewood, CA 90301 • 310/419-2700 • <http://iusd.net>

Inspiring and Preparing for Success



Dr. Vincent Matthews
State Administrator

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

Inglewood Unified is home to 12 elementary and six secondary schools.

Six of our primary schools have been designated as California Distinguished Schools and one has earned the national Blue Ribbon School distinction. Our focus on instructional excellence continues in our secondary sites as students continuously lead the way in statewide MESA competitions and are strong in STEM performance. Our high schools have established strong pathways such as Information Technology, Engineering Design and Business Management. Each of our high schools consistently delivers high achieving graduates attending colleges such as UCLA, UC Berkeley and USC.

As a recovering district, we are consistently working to build capacity and have that growth reflected in the FCMAT standards we use to measure progress. Our full recovery plan has identified key observations and opportunities including a series of recommendations to reform and make steady progress for capacity building throughout the district. We look forward to building upon the current and historical success of our schools.

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District

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

A County School by the Lakes



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 200 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.

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes is “Family-Centered” and fosters every child and stakeholder to be part of a community of learners in the District. We offer small class sizes with a dedicated group of teachers and staff.

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes also serve students from neighboring communities in the Antelope Valley. We are a District of Choice where any parent in Los Angeles and Kern Counties can choose to enroll their children during open enrollment. We offer in-school intervention to support our core instructional program. Teachers and staff collaborate to improve their practice so that we may continue to improve to serve our students. Parents and community members are an important part of our school culture and community. We have an active P.T.A. and dedicated volunteers who support our students and school. Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes is a wonderful school to learn, work, and grow. County Living, 21st Century Education.

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, Pearblossom, CA 93553 • 661/944-2155 • www.keppel.k12.ca.us

Commitment to Educating the Whole Child



Dr. Ruben Zepeda II
Superintendent

The Keppel Union School 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 teaching 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 curriculum. 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.

We engage parents as partners through a variety of venues including surveys and frequent community forums so that we can respond to our students and parents in a timely manner. 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. Each school has a uniquely concentrated focus on music, STEAM, the arts, AVID, media production and the GATE icons. Our parents know that successful 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, we educate the whole child and place our efforts and valuable resources towards achieving the absolute best outcomes for the children in our care.

Our Success is Intentional



Wendy Sinnette
Superintendent

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

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

La Cañada Unified School District encompasses the residential community of La Cañada Flintridge, situated in the foothills about thirteen miles north of downtown Los Angeles. La Cañada Flintridge is home of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Descanso Gardens. The professional residents of La Cañada are attracted to the city because of its excellent schools and its strong community spirit. Parent participation and involvement in the schools are extensive as evidenced by a robust La Cañada Educational Foundation which contributes over 2 million dollars annually to the district and the active volunteerism and program support by the PTA at each school site and the Spartan Boosters at LCHS 7-12.

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

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

Wide Variety of Options for Students



Dr. Daniel D. Stepenosky
Superintendent

Las Virgenes Unified School District consists of eight elementary schools, one K-8 school, three middle schools, two high schools, one continuation high school, one blended learning academy and a district wide preschool program. The District serves more than 11,500 students in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village.

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

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

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

Committed to Options and Excellence



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 700 students in our preschool program. Focused on 21st century skills, college and career readiness, and acquisition of core knowledge, Lancaster School District is a district that is making GREAT things happen for every child – every day!

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

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

College and Career Ready Students



Dr. Ellen Dougherty
Superintendent

The Lawndale Elementary School District’s primary focus is our students—we are deeply committed to raising the bar and closing the learning gaps for all students.

Our teachers and support staff focus their daily work and resources on achieving the District’s goals: increasing academic achievement, ensuring access and equity, improving parent and student engagement, and providing 21st Century learning environments. We have a clear and coherent focus on creating learning environments that will prepare all of our students to be college and career ready.

Parent engagement is extremely important to us. We invite parents to volunteer throughout our schools. Encouraging student learning at home is also essential. All of our schools host family nights and parent education events to strengthen our home-to-school relationships.

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

As we move forward with passion, purpose, and commitment, we are grateful for the help and support our numerous community partners provide. We are fortunate to have created incredible partnerships that allow us to focus on the whole child, benefitting our students’ social, emotional, and physical wellness. These partners play an important role as we pool our resources together to ensure our students’ success. As Helen Keller said, “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”

On the Flight Path to Success



Kent Taylor
Superintendent

The Lennox School District is located in a 1.3 square mile unincorporated area of Lennox, which is directly east of the Los Angeles International Airport. It serves approximately 5,000 students and consists of five elementary schools and one middle school. Our staff is hardworking, dedicated and passionate with a vested interest in providing the best education possible to our students.

The Lennox School District proudly opened three School of Engineering Programs across the district in August 2016. Felton and Buford Elementary Schools and Lennox Middle School are the home of our engineering programs.

To enhance the rigor and real world application of the program, full-time engineers have been hired at each school. Our engineers work collaboratively with teachers to create engineering design lessons that meet California State standards and Next Generation Science Standards. Teachers provide students with a rigorous curriculum that prepares them to be socially responsible, globally aware and locally engaged. During lab time, engineers and teachers guide students through the principles of engineering to invent, research, and improve structures, systems, and processes that are relevant to their lives.

Students across the district learn in 21st century classrooms that are equipped with learning tools such as i-pads and computers that support academic growth.

The organized collaboration of administrators, teachers, staff, community members, parents and students is providing the path for our students to perform at the highest level and become global leaders.

Lennox School District is fortunate to have much community support and involvement. Our voters overwhelmingly passed a \$25 million bond in November 2016. We look forward to using Measure Q funds to modernize our district classroom, labs and improve our technology infrastructure.

International Recognition



Christopher J. Steinhäuser
Superintendent

One of the world’s preeminent education experts has published a study on the Long Beach Unified School District describing the key conditions and strategies that have led to improved student achievement here while providing exemplary support to teachers for more than two decades.

Michael Fullan, a professor emeritus and former dean at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto, advises policymakers and other leaders around the world. He holds honorary doctorates from several universities, he’s a best-selling author whose books have been published in multiple languages, and he’s apparently a fan of Long Beach.

The case study is one of five in a series called “California’s Golden Opportunity – District Case Studies in Professional Capital.” Professor Fullan published all the reports on Jan. 20 at michaelfullan.com.

Fullan states that professional capital, consisting of human, social and decisional capital – is the key asset that has to be invested, accumulated and circulated to yield continuous growth and strong return in student and adult learning in an education system.

“The Long Beach Unified School District exemplifies high levels of professional capital in action,” wrote Fullan. “The district has been remarkably successful at articulating and operationalizing a vision that all students can achieve at high standards.”

Professor Fullan also states, “LBUSD is a highly attractive place to work for teachers and administrators because of its high quality professional development, competitive salaries, recognition as a high performing district, and its vibrant culture of collaboration, support and continuous improvement.”

Students First!



Dr. William Crean
Superintendent

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

Little Lake is proud of our achievements. All nine schools have recently been named California Gold Ribbon Schools and California Title I Academic Achievement Award Schools. Both middle schools have also been recently recognized as national “Schools to Watch.” Student proficiency rates continue to increase and our instructional program consistently offers rich and innovative opportunities in academics, the arts, physical education, and an array of co-curricular experiences for students. The personal, emotional and social development of our students are supported through counseling services at all sites, implementation of a districtwide program to address bullying and Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS).

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

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

Our focus on learning, collaboration, and results drives our daily work as a Professional Learning Community. By continuing to focus on our students’ needs, the Little Lake City School District is committed to maintaining the educational quality that makes our schools “distinguished.”

LACOE • From Page 17

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

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

And, with that, let me yield to our distinguished district superintendents to tell their own stories.

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS 10TH EDITION

2017—2018 17

A District On the Move



Michelle King
Superintendent

L.A. Unified is committed to providing a dynamic and inspiring learning experience that provides each of our more than 550,000 students with opportunities to succeed. Our students, parents, employees and community partners contribute unique talents, strengths and skills, propelling us closer toward our goal of 100 percent graduation.

We are building on our academic achievements as we prepare our students to thrive in the rapidly changing global community. Our new strategic plan, A District on the Move, serves as a guide for creating an organizational culture that engages, inspires and supports our students, families and employees.

Our newly developed objectives and initiatives provide students with a dynamic, personalized and high-quality learning experience that embraces the diversity of the nation’s second-largest school district. These include new educational pathways, broader access to arts education, increased parent engagement and stronger social-emotional supports.

By requiring all students to pass the rigorous A-G curriculum and providing them with access to the latest technology, L.A. Unified ensures that our graduates are empowered with the knowledge and skills to pursue their aspirations and lead fulfilling lives.

We are strengthening our partnerships with post-secondary institutions, including California State University and the Los Angeles Community College District, which are guaranteeing priority admission for our qualifying graduates.

We are motivated by our unwavering belief that L.A. Unified will be a progressive global leader in education, providing a dynamic and inspiring learning experience for students at all levels – from early education through high school.

District of Destination



Jim Coombs
Superintendent

The Lowell Joint School District strives to be among the leading schools throughout the state of California as we also honor our traditions. Our students receive a quality education from outstanding teachers whose top priority is the success of their students.

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

Lowell serves the educational needs of students in Transitional Kindergarten through eighth grade at five K-6 elementary schools and one intermediate school. All six schools have received the California Distinguished School Award and California Gold Ribbon Award. The importance of education, the family, and traditional American values are bedrock to the Lowell culture as well as our emphasis on higher education, personal integrity, social responsibility, Character Education, and an appreciation of our national heritage.

Specialized academic programs provided at the schools include art and vocal music (TK-6) and instrumental music (6-8). Our intermediate school provides a full array of visual and performing arts classes including beginning and advanced band, percussion, drumline, vocal music and drama. Fine art classes are offered in drawing, painting, 3-D design and advanced art. An extensive STEM engineering program is also offered with classes in Design and Modeling, Robotics, Audio Engineering, Green Architecture and Energy and the Environment. After-school sports and after-school enrichment opportunities, such as Science Olympiad, are offered at the junior high school.

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

Building Community through Education



Jonathan Vasquez
Superintendent

The Los Nietos School District is dedicated to “Building Our Community Through Education.” Our District’s initiatives inspire students, challenge them academically, and engage them and our community in meaningful ways. Prior to the start of this school year, all of our educators and staff invested in professional development to insure we were ready to inspire our students. We also made a three-year commitment to Safe and Civil Schools Training so teachers and staff from all four District schools are trained uniformly in the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) system, a program that uses systematic techniques to help us foster respectful and responsible behavior.

In addition to infusing our schools with two new textbook adoptions this year, we continue to augment the Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Academy at the Los Nietos Middle School. Through our Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program, students build STEAM-related projects, compete, and routinely place against other middle schools at regional competitions in Riverside County.

But our growth opportunities throughout this community are not just for our students. Through our partnership with Rio Hondo College, we also offer free introduction to Computer Literacy classes and English as a Second Language classes.

We have also progressed on the construction of the new Los Nietos LA County Library to be housed on the campus of the Los Nietos Middle School.

A joint use agreement between Los Nietos and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors made it possible for a new \$7 million library to become a reality for the Los Nietos community.

We will continue to lay the groundwork to make Los Nietos the best District it can be to create an environment in which the goals of our children are always achieved.

Equity and Access for All



Paul Gothold
Superintendent

At Lynwood Unified, our mission is to inspire a culture of high expectations, to create forward-thinking individuals who are driven to go beyond their daily lessons and think critically about their roles as leaders of the 21st century. Every single day, LUSD teachers and students work diligently to implement programs and policies that ensure students are prepared to succeed in college and beyond.

This hard work and dedication has been recognized by the College Board, which has not only named Lynwood Unified as an AP Honor Roll district, but has named our District one of three 2017 National Advanced Placement Districts of the Year.

This is a tremendous honor, acknowledging the District’s efforts to significantly increase the number of students taking AP exams, while simultaneously increasing pass rates. From 2010 to 2016, Lynwood Unified elevated AP participation by 157 percent and pass rates by more than 5 percent.

By doing away with prerequisites and tracking, every student can enroll in advanced coursework, including AP honors and International Baccalaureate programs. Teacher training, summer camps, online tutorials and District funds allocated to cover the cost of student exams have all played pivotal roles in the substantial growth of our academic programs.

This achievement shows we are on the right track to ensuring students leave our campuses ready to excel in any path they choose to pursue. Our programs at Lynwood Unified focus on equity and access for all students, equipping all scholars with the tools required to thrive in college, careers and life.

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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

Building for the Future



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. In planning for the future, we addressed the reality that some of our school facilities, primarily at the elementary level, needed substantial upgrades. This was detailed in a comprehensive Facilities Master Plan adopted in 2015. In November 2016, Manhattan Beach voters overwhelmingly passed two key bonds: a \$114 million bond devoted primarily to our elementary schools and classrooms, and a \$39 million bond to replace our 65-year-old high school gymnasium. By the end of this year, we will have hired architects and will be well on our way to finalizing detailed plans for this exciting work.

In addition to addressing facilities, we are working on the issues closest to our students' hearts and minds. Helping our students to become healthy, balanced, and resilient adults is a topic that the MBUSD Board of Trustees takes seriously. Our high school Social Emotional Wellness Committee has been working for over a year now on addressing the stresses that students in high performing high schools experience. This work is now moving to our elementary and middle schools. Teachers, counselors, parents, and students are working together to develop strategies to keep our students healthy and balanced while striving for excellence. It is very important work that we look forward to continuing.

Montebello Unified School District

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

Preparing for 21st Century Economy



Dr. Anthony J. Martinez
Interim Superintendent

The Board of Education recently approved a resolution declaring the District a "Safe Zone" and/or "Sanctuary District." In the resolution, the District assures its students, families and school employees that it will remain a safe zone for undocumented children and other vulnerable communities including, but not limited to, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) community, women, political minorities, etc.

Last February, the MUSD also took action to require that Ethnic Studies serve not only as a high school graduation requirement, but that it be implemented at all schools, Pre K-12, within four years.

In the last two years, MUSD has invested a great amount of time to the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and has fostered a collaborative approach ensuring that students, parents, teachers, administrators, classified staff, and other stakeholders have multiple opportunities to provide input as actions/services are determined.

The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Gifted and Talented Education (GATE), Advanced Placement program, Career Technical Education, Motivational/Empowering opportunities, and many other programs have benefitted from LACP involvement.

We recently hosted another successful annual Global Learning Conference where students, parents, teachers, and staff were able to learn more about a variety of topics, including but not limited to, multiculturalism and diversity.

In addition, the MUSD is strengthening its working relationship with institutions of higher education. Concurrent/dual enrollment and outreach services are helping District students. This includes representatives visiting our schools and providing relevant information to our students, as well as coordinating visits to the college and/or university.

Monrovia Unified School District

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

Inspiring Meaningful Learning



Dr. Katherine Thorossian
Superintendent

In the Monrovia Unified School District, we believe that every student should be engaged in meaningful learning: make meaning of what they learn, then apply it beyond the school walls. Our job is to provide opportunities for them to try out their knowledge and skill. Beyond the basic facts, we challenge our students to question, investigate, and evaluate. We know that once they walk across the graduation stage, they will be walking into a rapidly changing world. We also know that they will be prepared to make their own positive changes because they have the opportunity to gain expertise in multiple arenas.

Through our language immersion programs, students will be fluent in Mandarin, Spanish, and the newest of all languages, coding. Our Computer Science Immersion programs are among the first in the nation teaching students to code starting in kindergarten, continuing through middle school, and finally leading to the Information Technology Pathway at Monrovia High School where students can gain certification according to industry standards. In addition, our elementary schools, as well as our after school programs, incorporate arts education within the curriculum: dance, drama, vocal and instrumental music, and the visual arts. Finally, through our strong partnership with Citrus College, our high school students have the potential of completing x college units while also meeting their high school graduation requirements. Indeed, through our Early College Program, students have the potential of graduating high school with an Associate of Arts degree. In MUSD, our mission is to inspire meaningful learning.

Mountain View School District

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

Inspiring Each Student to Succeed



Lillian Maldonado French
Superintendent

Inspiring each student to succeed every day and attain academic success is the mission of the Mountain View School District, a K-8 District located in El Monte. In MVSD we believe in our students and each member of our team is dedicated to providing the highest quality instruction and programs for our students and families.

Our highly qualified and caring administrators, teachers and support staff provide our students with a well-balanced quality education through effective instructional leadership, rigorous academic programs, extracurricular enrichment, outstanding parent and family engagement programs, a college and career bound culture, Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Full Day

Kindergarten, character education, nationally recognized nutrition and health education, and comprehensive summer school enrichment.

Encouraging our students to be future collegiate scholars is part of our college-bound culture which is promoted among all students and families through college visitations, the El Monte Promise Foundation's Scholars Savings Program, the AVID program, Partnership Scholars Program, College and Career Day Events, and the GEAR UP program.

Along with our core academics, programs like STEM, Project Lead the Way, AVID, Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL), Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and our elementary counseling program we are equipping our students with 21st century skills and preparing them to be tomorrow's leaders and positive contributors to their community.

In addition to our 7,200 K-8 students, MVSD serves 554 preschool students through our highly engaging Head Start State Preschool and Children's Center programs.

In MVSD we are committed to working together to educate each student at the highest level, as we strive to make a positive difference in the life of each student entrusted to us.

Aspiring to Go Higher



Paul Cordeiro
Superintendent

In an era of unprecedented change in California education, districts are under extreme pressure to adapt quickly. Local Control Accountability Plans, Common Core State Standards (CCSS), the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress and now the California School Dashboard have levered intensive efforts implement initiatives that bring all of the aforementioned elements into a coherent whole. Explaining it all to our stakeholders is no easy task. Aligning internal accountability systems (e.g., Single Plans for Student Achievement, employee performance evaluations, budgeting that is responsive to the Local Control Funding Formula) is equally challenging.

In Newhall, we understand that the changes in education focus on achievement of those students who have, historically, been on the bottom end of the achievement gap. Beyond our comprehensive efforts to raise math achievement under the CCSS, implement a science program under the Next Generation Science Standards and, this year, introduce a new English Language arts program, we are implementing a strategic plan to accelerate English Learner progress toward reclassification. The plan focuses on providing “designated” and “integrated supports” that maximize vocabulary acquisition and application. Companion to the EL plan is the refinement of our Response to Intervention program to ensure the additional learning opportunities are timely, data-informed, research-based, and closely monitored. Newhall’s phenomenal achievement success can be seen in the latest CAASPP results. We are doing the right things for students. To go higher, we are pushing hard to close the achievement gap.

The Palmdale Promise



Raul Maldonado
Superintendent

One of the goals in our multi-year strategic plan, known as the Palmdale Promise, is to provide students opportunities that will enhance their education and prepare an optimal workforce for the 21st Century.

Our students live in a valley that thrives on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Each day we look outside our backyard and see well recognized aerospace companies, which will recruit our 21st Century ready students.

As part of our Palmdale Promise, our district transformed all our middle schools into STEAM Academies, with a unique emphasis at each site. We currently have the following academies:

- Medical, Health & Technology
- Law & Government
- Fine Arts, Science & Technology
- English-Spanish Dual Immersion Program
- International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme
- Academy of Engineering & Design

We are excited to introduce our new Space Aeronautical Gateway to Exploration (SAGE) Academy. SAGE will feature programs such as a Federal Aviation Administration Air Traffic Control program, Rocketry and a Civil Air Patrol program.

Our district is thrilled to provide students educational programs that highlight the strengths of our valley. We are confident the Palmdale Promise is providing the road map for students to be ready for success in high school and beyond.

We understand that preparing our future leaders is essential for our workforce. I am proud of the hard work and dedication from each member of our district. Together we are providing Palmdale Families the best educational experience.

High-Quality Academic Opportunities



Dr. Hasmik Danielian
Superintendent

At Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, our team of educators and staff is committed to providing high-quality, forward-thinking academic opportunities that help our students achieve their goals in college and careers.

This school year, NLMUSD rolled out the first phase of its 2020 Learning Initiative, equipping our classrooms with iPads, Chromebooks, iMacs and wireless access points for the District’s 2nd-, 4th- and 9th-grade students. The 2020 Learning Initiative is a five-year technology integration plan that will provide our students with the highest level of academic instruction with the most effective technological tools relevant to their education and careers. Each year up to 2020, additional grade levels will receive technology upgrades, ensuring a seamless transition from year to year.

We could not develop forward-looking initiatives and implement such rigorous, engaging curriculum without the strong leadership and support of our Board of Education, which has worked diligently to establish District-wide goals that align with our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) objectives:

- Engaging and Responsive Climate and Culture
- College and Career Ready Graduates
- Exemplary Staff
- Parent and Community Engagement
- Access to Rigorous Instruction and Support
- Operational Excellence

Over the last year, we’ve had much to celebrate in Norwalk-La Mirada, including rising graduation rates, facility and infrastructure improvements, valuable community partnerships and, best of all, the joy of seeing our ambitious and resourceful students turn their dreams into reality.

Developing the Whole Child



Dr. Donald Austin
Superintendent

The Legend of Bagger Vance is one of my favorite movies. The story is layered with messages and parables that cover a variety of topics in life. One of my favorite messages is a moment when Bagger Vance teaches a young boy about finding his authentic swing. While golf is the setting, the message is more about finding who you are at your core.

We have been thinking a great deal about what matters most in our work. Our District is a place that figuratively drips tradition and a history of student success. While that is indisputably true, we need to continue developing the whole child. It can be argued that finding ‘voice’ far exceeds the importance of finding the right answer. While an answer to a discrete question may someday fade from memory, core values and an authentic voice may remain intact forever.

We live, study, and work in a system with rules and norms. Within that system, there is still room for individual opinions, perspectives, hopes, aspirations, needs, wants, and dreams. The PVPUSD is making an effort to ask more questions, develop the strengths and talents of our people, and help everyone to discover their unique way of taking on the world. Additionally, we are creating spaces for people to articulate their views on important matters and develop respectful relationships with others. Schools should teach more than math...although we do a pretty good job at that also!

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

Ensuring Learning & Success for Students



Dr. Ruth Pérez
Superintendent

We have been steadily working within Paramount Unified School District to strengthen academic opportunities for our students and open doors to partnerships with organizations across the District. Paramount Unified is a Kindergarten through 12th grade School District serving the communities of Paramount, Bellflower, Lakewood, Long Beach, and South Gate. We serve 16,000 students.

The success of our District is largely driven by the passion and support we enjoy from our community. Our voters resoundingly passed Measure I, the \$106 million bond that will fund updates, repairs and modernization of all campuses across the District.

Additionally, we have garnered affirmation of our quality programs as Alondra and Leona Jackson middle schools were re-designated as Schools to Watch and recognized for their excellence in responding to scholastic challenges and commitment to improving their trajectory for success. The schools join Frank G. Zamboni Middle School, which received re-designation status in 2016.

We continue to cultivate a college-going culture by offering free PSATs to high school students and eighth-graders - nearly 5,000 students – as we prepare them for future success.

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

Excellence for Students, Family, Community



Richard L. Martinez
Superintendent

The Pomona Unified School District (PUSD) values excellence for its students, family, and community. Three times, PUSD’s achievements have been recognized at the White House and the school district has again been honored with the 2016 “Golden Bell Award” by the California School Boards Association. This is the premiere educational award for school districts in California. Of the almost 300 entries submitted by districts across the state, PUSD has been recognized for its collaboration and partnerships with the community through “Pomona’s Promise.”

Using a collaborative model that brings together PUSD, parents, the City of Pomona, community businesses, medical organizations, and universities, PUSD is shaping the culture of a community. Serving as a hub for community-wide intervention, PUSD hosts health and dental clinics at school sites, pre-natal training, parent workshops, referrals to community resources, and award-winning academic programs in technology, robotics, and career pathways.

“Pomona’s Promise” is a pre-natal-to-college support system, linking health, community resources, and academic excellence. Pre-schoolers learn via technology, elementary students absorb a college-going culture, and partnerships with universities offer career pathways in medicine, law, engineering, film, and computer science. Cal Poly Pomona guarantees college admission to every qualified PUSD graduate, and organizations such as “Bright Prospects” find college scholarships to USC, UCLA, and the Ivy League.

Whatever students want to be, they can become here in our schools. We want each child to achieve to his or her highest level and every student to succeed and fulfill their dreams.

Unique Learning Opportunities



Dr. Brian McDonald
Superintendent

To prepare graduates who are academically prepared to thrive on a global scale, the Pasadena Unified School District is delivering unique learning opportunities that connect Pre-K-12 students with the scientific, arts, and cultural institutions of the greater Pasadena area.

Teaching and learning are accelerated through partnerships with the California Institute of Technology, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and local mathematicians. In the new Math Academy, middle school students are learning calculus, calculating differential equations by the seventh grade. STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning is augmented by thriving visual and performing arts education programs.

Dual language immersion programs are available in Spanish and Mandarin in elementary and middle school, with a French program for K-1 students added in 2017-2018. International Baccalaureate programs are developing authentic learners with the intellectual, emotional, and social skills to live, learn, and work in today’s world.

New athletic facilities benefit children and the community through joint-use agreements, bringing first class athletic amenities to PUSD students and creating recreational opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles.

Strong academics, attractive educational options, and partnerships are defining Pasadena Unified today.

Our work reflects a collective mindset of continuous improvement. The district’s five year Educational Master Plan identifies three focus areas: system-wide improvement through the development of processes; collective impact through an organized array of social-emotional support programs that nurture the whole child; and strong classroom instruction for all students, with improved equity and access for at-risk students.

Pasadena Unified is the first choice in education for more and more area families.

The State-of-the-Art



Dr. Steven E. Keller
Superintendent

The state-of-the-art RBUSD consists of eight elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, one continuation school, one community day school, one adult school, and a district-wide child development center. The truly transformative district serves more than 9,500 K-12 students and despite declining enrollment trends throughout California, RBUSD continues to grow as a result of the synergy created between community and schools. We attribute the enrollment increase to: 1) great teaching and student engagement; and 2) the passages of a \$145 million construction bond in 2008 and a solar and technology bond in 2012 aimed at providing modern instructional tools for each RBUSD student and staff member, while concurrently relieving the district’s general fund. The support of the Redondo Beach community have made RBUSD the finest school district in the South Bay!

Continued forward progress has been the ongoing focal point for the Board of Education, the administration, and the staff. Establishing data-driven educational programs, examining utilization of resources, and enhancing community and city relationships have secured a stronger commitment to better serve the total needs of all our students in our fine schools. RBUSD has also created community-focused health programs and movements. Too, our new and greatly modernized facilities are likely to continue this partnership into our city and wider community. The whole child’s needs—socially, academically, emotionally, and physically—are the centerpiece for RBSUD.

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

Preparing Future Global Leaders



Dr. Amy Enomoto-Perez
Superintendent

The Rosemead School District has adopted the 7-Habits® Leader in Me® (LIM) program at each of its schools. This process helps develop the essential life skills and characteristics students will need in order to thrive in the 21st century workforce. Along with outstanding academic state test scores, our students are part of nationally recognized leadership and character development schools.

Dr. Steven R. Covey’s principle-based leadership skills are well known by adults and the business community. During the past 8 years, our Leader in Me program has been developed and integrated into our school’s core curriculum. Our parents are very happy with the results they see in their children and we invite the public to tour our schools.

- 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

Our Lighthouse Leadership teams invite you to come and see how the 7-Habits® and 21st century skills are being integrated and implemented in our elementary classrooms of Encinita, Janson, Savannah and Shuey Lighthouse Schools.

For more information, please visit our website at www.rosemead.k12.ca.us.

An Honored History



Dr. John Pappalardo
Superintendent

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

Gabrielino High: Nationally ranked top 10 Speech and Debate team (No. 1 Nationally in 2015-16); AP Program: courses offered in all STEM areas, English, and Social Science/History; VAPA Program-Art classes, band, orchestra, choir and drama; Athletics-particularly Girls’ Volleyball, Girls’ Soccer, Boys’ Basketball

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

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

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

McKinley Elementary: Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program; STEM Lab and Instruction; ALEKS Technology Based Math Intervention Program; English Language Arts- Response to Intervention Program

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

Washington Elementary: ARTFest; VEX Robotics; Coding Enrichment; Robust music and arts program

Wilson Elementary: Schoolwide implementation of Conscious Discipline; Variety and Instrumental Performances; K & 4, 1st-3rd Reading Buddies

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 have provided new resources that expand access to technology to both students and families, and have established instructional support teams to guide engaging, rigorous and relevant instruction in our classrooms. This year we launched our Music for All program, where EVERY elementary student in grades 1-6 receives music classes each week during the school day. Students can choose strings, band or general music. Music for All expands our long-time commitment to arts education in the Rowland Unified School District.

We are proud that seven of our elementary schools were named 2016 California Gold Ribbon Schools. Additionally, Alvarado Intermediate School was designated for the fifth time as a 2017 Schools to Watch Model Middle School.

- Additional signature programs include:
- International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools
 - 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 last year earned more than \$3 million in scholarships and grants. Thanks to the support of our community, bond funds have provided state-of-the-art science labs, new classrooms and buildings, and the technology infrastructure needed for our students to perform at the highest levels.

Leading With Experience



Dr. Alex Cherniss
Superintendent

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

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

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

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

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

Meeting the Needs of All Students



Dr. Ben Drati
Superintendent

As the newly appointed Superintendent for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, as of January 1, I have been spending time at our 16 school sites with administrators, teachers and parents, and in the communities we serve, in order to better understand our strengths and uncover areas needing improvement, to best serve all students.

Our full seven-member Board of Education has committed to an Excellence through Equity initiative leading to my first order of business: Work on implementation of systems and strategies to ensure our school system works to meet the needs of all students, instead of forcing students to fit into our system.

To accomplish this, we are embarking on building the leadership capacity of our principals and teacher leaders and strengthening Professional Learning Communities, through the idea of learning together as an organization. We are using the LCAP process to engage and invite all stakeholders to work together to foster internal accountability and shared responsibility to meet the needs of all students. Our Excellence through Equity plan is synonymous with our LCAP.

Each school site, along with district leadership, will be working on establishing coherence protocols and defining how to move forward with a focused direction and collaborative culture to deepen student learning and foster internal accountability.

Implementing a systems leadership framework is our first step toward accomplishing the goal of the district: Excellence through Equity for ALL students.

South Pasadena Unified School District

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

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.

Saugus Union School District

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

More Than A Century of Excellence



Dr. Joan Lucid
Superintendent

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

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

Our District Goals articulate our commitment to excellence:

Increase Student Achievement: Continued state testing growth with 65% in ELA and 52% in Mathematics achieving Met or Exceeded Standard; Systematic ELD strategies with 30 minutes of daily instruction resulting in reclassified students achieving Met or Exceeded Standard of 89% in ELA and 73% in Mathematics; High quality professional development that increases expertise and skills in the Arts.

Increase Meaningful and Purposeful Student Engagement: Junior Toastmasters, Math Field Day and Festival of the Arts showcase student learning, talents and abilities; Communication through Facebook, online newsletters, email and traditional meetings and conferences.

Provide Appropriate Basic Conditions of Learning: Voter approved Measure EE, \$148 million dollar bond that addresses the district’s facilities needs in building 21st century classrooms; Installation of state of art interactive flat panels in all classrooms and professional development to ensure sustainability.

Saugus Union School District, in partnership with the home and community, is committed to excellence in elementary education. Our Governing Board encourages our efforts, supports our endeavors and takes great pride in our accomplishments.

South Whittier School District

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

Tremendous Progress



Gail Baxter
Superintendent

As I prepare to retire after 27 years in the district I reflect over the past three years and I am proud of the tremendous progress we have made towards preparing our students and families for success in the 21st Century. We are one of the twelve districts statewide, that has been involved in the ACSA Leadership Collaborative which has resulted in every site implementing a continuous improvement plan for student achievement that is aligned to the LCAP, and we are seeing results. Working directly with Michael Fullan and his team, using his Coherence Model as a guide, we have focused our training in the area of literacy for all, reworked our master schedules allowing for teacher collaboration during the work day, and increased our parent participation over four-fold. This along with passing a \$29,000,000 bond to address facilities needs and entering into a long term land lease that will provide a new ongoing revenue stream for our district are just some of the highlights I will always remember, but the tremendously brilliant and creative staff that I have been blessed with is something I will never forget.

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

Number One Priority – Students



Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi
Superintendent

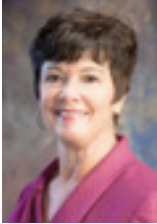
The Sulphur Springs Union School District, which encompasses nine award-winning schools, is comprised of amazing and talented teachers, support staff, and administration that are committed to making sure that students are a number one priority. Our District’s mission is to ensure student success. The outstanding staff in the District continues to work together as a family to do whatever it takes to enhance the learning environment for our students.

The Board of Trustees and staff are dedicated to making sure that our students are educated in an environment that promotes innovation, creativity, and critical thinking. The District believes that all children, no matter what their needs are, should be provided equal opportunities to thrive and develop their skills to be successful leaders as they continue through the elementary, middle, high school, and university levels.

Our District places a high value on parent and community engagement. Our staff knows that each and every family member is a critical part of our children’s lives. We embrace our families to be partners with us as we work together to strengthen their child’s educational program.

To further enhance the learning opportunities for our students, the District has continued to ensure that all students are afforded enrichment opportunities as well as the ability to continue to strengthen their learning with the integration of technology at every school. With our students at the forefront, the Sulphur Springs Union School District is dedicated to striving for excellence for our school community.

Learning Today...Leading Tomorrow



Kathryn E. Perini
Superintendent

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

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

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

Focus On Student Success



Dr. George Mannon
Superintendent

The Torrance Unified School District is nestled in the heart of the South Bay, minutes from the expansive Pacific Ocean coastline. Our mission is to maximize individual potential in students in order to develop lifelong learners who will become contributing members in a global society. The District’s 32 schools educate over 24,000 students who speak over 80 different languages.

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

Over the past year, a few of our notable achievements include 12 of our elementary schools being recognized as the 2016 Gold Ribbon Schools; our continuation high school, Shery High, was given the distinction of Model Continuation High School; fourth grade teacher, Carol Grossi was recognized by the California Council for Social Studies as one of their Elementary Teachers of the Year; and five of our educators received Southwest Special Education Local Plan Area’s 4th Annual Staff and Community Partners Recognition for Educational Excellence and Support award.

We are so proud of our team of exceptional educators, who continuously find ways to make classroom learning innovative, valuable, and meaningful for all our students.

Wonderful World of Learning



Dr. Mary Louise Labrucherie
Superintendent

Come visit the Valle Lindo School District, an enchanting place where Shively Saints and Temple Tigers thrive in the exciting world of learning! The Valle Lindo School District began in 1863 and has maintained its proud, rich and long history.

Today, the old school bell, brought around the Horn in 1878, rings early in the morning summoning the students to award-winning schools. The schools have earned multiple Title I awards and California Distinguished School Awards. In addition, they have earned four Golden Bell Awards from the California School Boards Association (CSBA). New Temple School earned the recognition of being a California Gold Ribbon School. Out of 10,000 schools, New Temple Elementary School is one of 46 schools recognized by the Flippen Group as a model school for the Capturing Kids’ Hearts program. Dean L. Shively Middle School was recently recognized as a highly certified school site and was most recently nominated to receive school-wide Site of Distinction recognition, an honor awarded to the top 2% of schools for their Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program.

The pristine schools provide all students with state-of-the-art technology. Students are enthusiastically engaged in both STEM and performing arts activities that have earned CSBA Golden Bell Awards. Student-made botanical gardens reinforce reverence for the environment, while an outstanding school band and dance program entertain and honor the senior citizens at their luncheons. The Mayor has proclaimed the Valle Lindo School District as the gem of the City.

When you observe the students of the Valle Lindo School District engaged in their wonderful world of learning—you won’t want to leave!

Inspiring Students to Be Their Best



Dr. Robert P. Taylor
Superintendent

Walnut Valley Unified School District is a premier school district committed to “KIDS FIRST - Every Student, Every Day.” Our wonderful teachers and staff are dedicated in preparing all students to thrive in a rapidly changing, competitive, global economy by teaching them 21st century skills through quality programs that include STEAM — science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. Our hard-working WVUSD schools, in the midst of significant changes by state and federal oversight to the curriculum, instruction, and assessment programs, continue to experience high gains in academic achievement. We recently earned the highest test scores of any school district with a minimum of 12,000 students in all of L.A. County.

This past year, our students, staff, and schools were distinguished with top awards including seven California Gold Ribbon Schools, CSBA Golden Bell, Schools to Watch, Grammy Signature School Semifinalist, National Merit Scholars, CIF champions, and more. WVUSD earned an A+ grade, ranking #149 in the nation and #14 in California in the Niche 2016 Best Schools in America report. For the 7th consecutive year, Diamond Bar and Walnut made the *U.S. News & World Report* ranking of 2016 Best High Schools. Additionally, WVUSD’s high performing schools were ranked #1 in Southern California in the Best School District for Your Buck report. 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. 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.

The Future is Bright



Dr. Charles D. Hinman
Superintendent

It has been another remarkable school year at West Covina Unified School District, and we have seen tremendous growth in student performance and college readiness, and our graduation rates are still one of the highest in the San Gabriel Valley. Another example of measurable data that we are extremely proud to share – the overwhelming support of our parents, neighbors, and community members of West Covina. The passing of Bond Measure ES was approved with over 74% of the voters in favor of improving and upgrading our school facilities. This was a vote of confidence in our district, our schools, and our students. The 2016-2017 school year was the launch of the K-3 Reading Initiative to ensure that all students will read at grade level before they reach the fourth grade. With only a few months in, students have been making major strides. Each student has a personal laptop that they use at school and home to perfect their reading skills. Hundreds of K-3 students have just reached or exceeded their grade level. This is an initiative that we have placed tremendous amounts of time, effort, and resources – to already see such fantastic results is beyond reassuring. This past year also initiated College and Career Pathways with state-of-the-art technology in Engineering as well as Entertainment Arts. The programs are set to expand in the upcoming school year with more advanced classes in each field. With the modernization of our schools along the horizon and stellar district innovations, the future is bright in the West Covina Unified School District.

Pointing the Way, Providing the Path



Regina L. Rossall
Superintendent

As we continue to help our students achieve success as 21st Century learners, we have upgraded their access to technology by expanding our available hardware and software as well as major revisions to our connectivity. Our newest schools have become the model for the remaining schools in the district, some that were built in the 50’s, as to how staff and students can utilize technology in their daily instruction as well as learning about the ready access they now have to endless information. Students participate in many web-based programs for all subjects, use various apps and the District has concentrated its effort with students through the use of programs such as Fast For Word, Project Lead the Way and several other programs in science and math in particular. Our strong academic programs in middle school are supported by a wide range of electives including woodshop, home arts, art, instrumental music, computers, broadcast journalism, to name a few. There are opportunities to participate in the Civil Air Patrol program, and other leadership training programs. We have two STEM schools of choice, one K-6 and the other 7-8--both have been operational for 2 years, we’ve added a 6th grade Honors Academy, too. In the coming year we will be adding a STEAM school of choice in our newly remodeled Cottonwood School. It will feature the STEM activities of other sites, but will also have an emphasis on the arts. We are fortunate to continue receiving community support for extracurricular and academic programs from partners such as the WAVE, SAVE, Rotary and Kiwanis. Through the generosity of these partners, our middle school sports program, AVID, ballroom dance, children’s musical theater, career orientated field trips, leadership camps, and many others have been available to our students. Our District motto is “Pointing the Way, Providing the Path,” and everyday our staff endeavors to create the environment that sets our students on the path for success. We are proud to serve the western Antelope Valley.

Students First, Every Decision, Every Day



Dr. Ron Carruth
Superintendent

The Whittier City School District is extremely proud of our schools and programs. Our motto, “Students First, Every Decision, Every Day” exemplifies our commitment to providing students with opportunities to excel in nurturing, dynamic learning environments. Students in Whittier City are engaged in the development of critical thinking and the application of 21st century skills. Through intentional planning, our curriculum promotes student collaboration, greater levels of perseverance, and problem solving. Even more impressive is our commitment to the explicit teaching of writing in every classroom and content area. This year, the Whittier City School District successfully implemented a 1:1 iPad program for all students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Technology is meaningfully integrated into the instructional program and students use iPads to research, collaborate, and communicate. Our classrooms are innovative learning environments that prepare students to be competitive in college, career, and a global economy. The Whittier City School District offers several different themed academies to support developing interests and talents in students: Mill School Technology Academy, an Apple Distinguished School, Daniel Phelan Language Academy, a Spanish dual language immersion school, Hoover Fine Arts Academy, Sorensen Science Academy and Edwards STEM Academy. Furthermore, our outstanding academic programs have yielded impressive achievement gains and noteworthy distinctions. Andrews School was named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School and four Whittier City School District schools were named 2016 California Gold Ribbon Schools: Andrews School, Mill School and Technology Academy, Phelan Language Academy, and Sorensen Science Academy. The Whittier City School District is a great place for the students and families of Whittier!

Whittier Union High School District

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

Transforming Students’ Lives in 720 Days



Martin Plourde
Superintendent

Whittier Union High School District is a high-achieving school district that does whatever it takes to ensure student achievement, while supporting teachers as they implement rigorous programs. We foster a culture of collaboration, inclusiveness and support, setting a foundation for the ongoing success of our students, from the first day they step onto our campuses to the last day they graduate from our schools. Whittier Union serves more than 12,000 students at five award-winning comprehensive high schools, a model continuation school and an independent study program, as well as an adult school with more than 7,000 students who continually demonstrate exceptional growth.

Each year, we welcome close to 3,000 freshmen who will spend the next 720 days of their high school experience learning from our talented teachers and staff. In that time, we take them from being teens who are just beginning to spread their wings to mature adults who are ready to take on the world in college, the military and careers – experiencing their greatest growth and reaching their potential. Nearly 96 percent of students are graduating from our comprehensive high schools; students in grades 10 to 12 have maintained the highest On Target for Graduation rates in District history; nearly 97 percent of seniors are on track to graduate; and more than 90 percent of graduates enroll in two- or four-year colleges. These achievements would not be possible without our Board of Trustees and team of educators, who work vigorously to provide a world-class education for our students and strive to provide the most transformative 720-day experience they can imagine.

Wilsona School District

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

Focused On Student Success



Teresa A. Grey
Superintendent

The Wilsona School District serves the rural, high desert community of Lake Los Angeles. The Wilsona School District is an organization which views itself as a family. Tucked in the northeast corner of the unincorporated Los Angeles County, Wilsona provides welcoming campuses and devoted staff to its 1310 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The District covers approximately 100 square miles. 90% of the area’s population is located within 20 square miles. Wilsona has one of the highest poverty rates. Student achievement and high standards are the focus of our schools. Working collaboratively with student success as a goal, the staff has developed strong bonds focused on teaching and learning. They are constant professionals who actively participate in professional development, engage in self reflection and collaboration. Despite the challenges our students face and the distance staff drives to work in Wilsona, there is a great sense of unity and support for our efforts to educate students. We welcome parents to work with us to educate their children. We want to provide the best educational opportunities for our students. Wilsona may be small but we are mighty in our efforts to educate our students. I am proud to be the Superintendent of this wonderful District. I feel privileged to work with outstanding teachers, support staff, families, and the Board of Trustees. Each person brings special qualities to the District that supports students in becoming lifelong learners. Our school community wants all children to excel and fulfill their dreams.

William S. Hart Union High School District

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

College and Career Ready



Vicki Engbrecht
Superintendent

The William S. Hart Union High School District, which serves students in grades 7-12, is located in the Santa Clarita Valley, in northern Los Angeles County. 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. Outstanding extra-curricular programs, including athletics and performing arts, are available on all campuses, and are regionally, state, and nationally recognized for their excellence.

A variety of educational options are provided. Nearly 23,000 students are enrolled in the six comprehensive high schools, six junior high schools, a California Model Continuation school, a “Middle College” high school, an independent study school, a home school support program, an adult school, a therapeutic school, and a Regional Occupational Program. The Hart District has strong partnerships with the local community college and the City of Santa Clarita. Academy of the Canyons, a partnership between College of the Canyons and the District, allows high school students to take college courses while completing high school graduation requirements. In addition, students enrolled on our comprehensive high school campuses take more than 1000 college courses each year through concurrent enrollment at the College. 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 has made a commitment to prepare students for post-secondary life with strong collegiate, civic, and business partnerships.

Wiseburn Unified School District

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

Celebrating Over 120 Years of Innovation



Dr. Tom Johnstone
Superintendent

After 119 years as a K-8 district, Wiseburn realized a long-term dream on July 1, 2014 to become the K-12 Wiseburn Unified School District! As a K-12 district, Wiseburn shares a very unique and innovative school district/charter partnership that takes advantage of the very best educational opportunities offered by both methods. With approximately 4,000 students and 8 schools, Wiseburn continues to enjoy the benefits of being one of the “small” districts in Los Angeles County. Diversity with balance is one of Wiseburn’s greatest assets and in the past few years we have virtually eliminated the achievement gap. In August 2009, Wiseburn chartered two independent high school charters, Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design, to offer Wiseburn families a high school option for the first time in our district’s history. The Da Vinci Schools excel academically using project-based learning and strong support from local aerospace corporations. In August 2011, Da Vinci Schools launched the K-8 Innovation Academy, which provides a two-day per week program that targets the home school student population. In 2013, Da Vinci launched a third high school program, Da Vinci Communications with a Liberal Arts and “coding” focus. In August 2017, Wiseburn and Da Vinci schools will launch the RISE High School Program as part of a \$10 million XQ Super Schools Project for the redesigning of high schools. RISE High will focus specifically on homeless and foster children. Capitalizing on the Wiseburn community’s approval of an \$87 million school construction bond in November 2010, the district purchased a 13.7 acre site in El Segundo in September 2012. In November 2014, the State Allocation Board approved \$52.7 in charter school state matching funds that will enable us to complete the \$150 million Wiseburn High School construction project by August 2017!

Balfour Beatty

Construction



College View School, Glendale Unified School District

We also build confidence

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Gil Fullen, Vice President, Education

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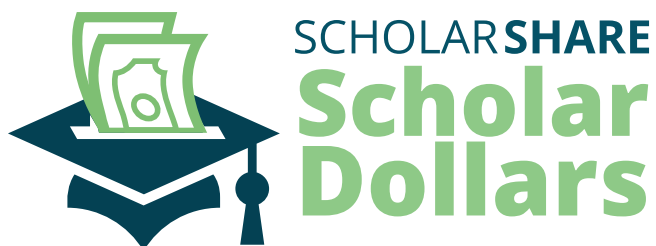
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