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14th
Edition



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JOHN BERNARDY
Executive Vice President
e. jbernardy@balfourbeattyus.com
p. 949-502-4000



GIL FULLEN
Vice President, Education
e. gfullen@balfourbeattyus.com
p. 949-502-4000

Balfour Beatty
balfourbeattyus.com



Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



This is our 14th edition highlighting each of the district superintendents in the Los Angeles County K-12 public schools. Our mission is to introduce each superintendent with their brief message to encourage you to visit their individual web sites for in-depth information.

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

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

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

14th Annual Edition
Covering the
Los Angeles County Public Schools
K-12 Superintendents

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
NETRAGREDNIK CARTOONIST: Neta Madison
GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION: Emily Ung
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562/493-3193

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Ensuring Every Student Receives the Support and Opportunities to Achieve Their Fullest Potential



Dr. Debra Duardo
Superintendent

I am honored to welcome you to *School News Roll Call's* Los Angeles County Superintendents Issue for 2021-22.

It's been a year like no other. Our education communities have risen to the daunting challenges of this COVID-19 pandemic. There hasn't been another period in recent history that so clearly demonstrated the vital and unique role of public education in our society.

We have seen greater appreciation for the essential caretaking role schools play in our communities, as well as increased recognition of teachers and school staff, their skills and their important role in supporting student well-being.

In this special annual edition, you will find valuable information about your school districts and their efforts to ensure students are safe, healthy and engaged in learning during this unprecedented time. You will learn how districts continue to promote educational excellence during distance learning, providing hope and a vision to see students succeed during COVID-19 and beyond.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education is the nation's largest regional education agency. We support and protect the education and well-being of LA County's nearly 2 million children through an equity lens. There are 80 school districts spread across 4,000 square miles of our county. LACOE serves all those districts and their more than 1.4 million students. We do this in many ways. As mandated by the state legislature, LACOE certifies the financial health of individual districts and approves the related Local Control and Accountability Plans. This translates into LACOE's monitoring of over \$18 billion in education funding for Los Angeles County.

In addition, LACOE plays a key role in reviewing each district's budget to ensure fiscal solvency, and works with them to correct any budgetary problems. We also help districts save and safeguard their money through the cost-effective delivery of essential administrative and business services. One such service equates to LACOE processing 174,000 monthly payroll warrants for school employees.

We educate the county's most vulnerable students, including justice-involved youth and others at high risk of dropping out or with unique needs. We also support the academic needs of LA County's over 26,000 foster youth and 63,000 students experiencing homelessness.

LACOE also operates the nation's top performing Los Angeles County High School for the Arts as well as the popular International Polytechnic High School. We also partner with other county agencies on 15 community schools throughout Los Angeles County that aim to disrupt poverty and address longstanding inequities by focusing on schools as the heart of a community.

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

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. We provided guidance, expertise and support to our 80 districts to ensure student learning continues and staff and students are physically and mentally healthy. Over 100,000 educators attend our trainings annually.

The pandemic has brought much of the work of LACOE to the forefront of the education pandemic response here in LA County. Districts turn to LACOE for state-of-the-art technology services, specialized training and professional development for teachers and school administrators, and other supports and services. We offered tools and

resources to help districts successfully navigate this dynamic public health crisis and prepare for reopening of schools.

We provided child care through our Head Start program, connected families with food services through our Nutrition Services and Community Schools and supported distance learning through professional development.

With our current focus on Equity, the Whole Child and the Power of One LA County, we developed partnerships with the Departments of Public Health, Mental Health and Children and Family Services to get our students and their families the services they need.

Our initiative to help close the digital divide has made possible the distribution of more than 48,000 devices and more than 32,000 hotspots to students in need in 55 districts. Acting on our proposal, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors allocated \$12.5 million in federal coronavirus relief funds for technology and internet connectivity needed by students to successfully participate in distance learning.

These are just a few examples of our current initiatives to ensure every student receives the support and opportunities they need to achieve their fullest potential during this challenging time.

As you browse the pages of this special edition of *School News Roll Call*, you will learn how our distinguished district superintendents are leading efforts to provide the best possible education for our students in Los Angeles County as we work together to chart a vision for how education can emerge stronger from this crisis.

ABC Unified School District

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

A World Class Education



Dr. Mary Sieu
Superintendent

ABC Unified School District is comprised of ten preschools, 30 schools and serves over 21,000 (K-12) ethnically diverse students in the cities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, and portions of Lakewood, Long Beach and Norwalk. Our Adult School serves an additional 10,000 adult learners in the region. As Superintendent of this award winning District, I am honored to be a part of its rich history of academic achievement and innovative partnerships. The District continues its commitment to raise student achievement with a dedicated staff, engaged parents and hard working students. Our strong collaborative partnerships with our employee organizations, local businesses, PTAs, colleges, and civic groups help to advance our mission.

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

The District offers an array of educational options for students and families to participate in. This includes sixteen thematic magnet schools, a dual language immersion program, the STEM Program, an IB World School, bi-literacy programs, and international exchange programs. Technology is transforming our classrooms where 1:1 mobile devices are being implemented in several of the schools.

We are proud of our National Blue Ribbon School Awards, California Distinguished Schools, nineteen 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.

Alhambra Unified School District

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

Relationship-Driven Excellence and Equity



Denise R. Jaramillo
Superintendent

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

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

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

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

Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District

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

The Gold Standard



Lawrence M. King
Superintendent

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

Our Board Trustees began discussing the need for the development of a District strategic plan nearly two years ago. We established a strategic plan committee comprised of teachers, administrators, classified employees, parents, students, and our local community partners. We worked with an outside facilitator to establish overarching goals, objectives, and a vision statement.

The Gold Standard name is derived from the concept of Stay Gold moments and the importance of having a growth mindset. The Gold Standard was adopted by our Board Trustees in November, 2020.

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

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

Antelope Valley Union High School District

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

Turning Challenges into Opportunities



Dr. David J. Vierra
Superintendent

Serving approximately 23,000 students and employing 2,300 faculty and staff, the AVUHSD is nestled in the high desert just an hour north of Los Angeles. Covering the largest geographic area in Los Angeles County, the onset of the global pandemic last March demanded coordinated and decisive efforts to meet not only the educational needs of our students but also the basic needs of families throughout our community. In what now seems like an instant, students and teachers were thrust into new ways of teaching and learning. Our support staff rallied to cover multiple tasks from disinfecting spaces and distributing technology to serving hundreds of thousands of meals across our valley.

As we continue to look ahead at how best to adapt and pivot when permitted to return students to our classrooms, AVUHSD recently made a significant investment in providing Promethean technology for every classroom. This investment will allow teachers to meet the needs of both students physically present in the classroom, as well as those learning at home, ensuring that all students continue to receive high-quality instruction each day.

In this unprecedented time, AVUHSD employees continue to work collaboratively and tirelessly in service to our students and community. “While this pandemic has created many challenges, it has also opened the doors to new ways of teaching and learning and provided new opportunities,” Superintendent Vierra said. “I am confident that our collective experience through this difficult year has created stronger, more supportive systems to serve students, staff, and our community well beyond this current health crisis.”

Arcadia Unified School District

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

Opportunity



Dr. David Vannasdall
Superintendent

In my most imaginative state, I could not have predicted our reality as we started the 2020-2021 school year. I wholeheartedly believed we would be back together in two weeks from the time we closed our schools on March 13th. Nearing a year later, we still find ourselves weathering this storm. When we started this safer at home journey, I called on our school community to offer grace and space to others moving forward, knowing that everyone is giving their best within their unique personal and professional challenges. I continue to echo that sentiment and am proud of our district for adopting the motto, “schools closed, hearts open.”

In preparing for a Distance Learning start for Fall 2020, I asked my team to join me in adjusting our lenses to see the opportunities these unforeseen circumstances provide us as educators. Massive global disruptions to industries like education have been happening for hundreds of years as society evolves. I am grateful to say it feels like Arcadia Unified has been training for this moment for years as we’ve put heart and hard-work into agility and innovation through collaboration and expanding student and staff agency.

Ultimately, great teaching and learning have never been tied to a specific time, place, or space. This challenge brings an opportunity to find ways to continue to make profound connections with our students and to learning. I am thankful to be in Arcadia working alongside a world-class staff and school community I know will continue to meet this challenge.

Azusa Unified School District

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

Team: Continuous Improvement, Collaboration



Arturo Ortega
Superintendent

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

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

At AUSD, we recognize that no two students are alike, and each student has different interests and learning styles. Providing students with a variety of options keeps them engaged in their education and encourages them to plan for their future, at a college, and in the workforce. AUSD’s graduation rate easily outpaces both the state and national averages. Our two comprehensive high schools were recognized as U.S. News and World Report’s “Best High Schools” in the nation award. Recent AUSD graduates have been accepted at a record number of top colleges and universities in California and across the nation and offered an impressive amount of scholarships and grants. Our higher-education partners, Azusa Pacific University, Grand Canyon University, and the University of La Verne, provide guaranteed admission to AUSD graduates who qualify.

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



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Baldwin Park Unified School District

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

Ensuring High Achievement for All Learners



Dr. Froilan N. Mendoza
Superintendent

Baldwin Park Unified provides a high-quality education to students from Early Childhood Education through to adult school, and prides itself on being a trustworthy resource for families and community members.

Baldwin Park Unified has an unwavering commitment to the socio-emotional well-being of its students. In September 2020, the District launched a virtual wellness center that provides online resources for students and teachers. Additionally, Baldwin Park students have been recognized with scholarships for their volunteer work with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, helping to spread positive messages and de-stigmatize mental health issues.

Baldwin Park Unified's focus on language development and the arts is exemplified by its pioneering participation in the federally funded Teaching English Learners through the Arts program, with the goal of creating an equitable arts-based curriculum that can be used as a template for schools across the United States.

Career technical education remains a priority at Baldwin Park, bolstered by industry professionals who lend their expertise and guidance to students looking to explore new fields and launch their own businesses. In 2020, several Baldwin Park students received lucrative scholarships totaling nearly \$40,000 through the Careers Through Culinary Arts Program.

The District could not achieve these successes without the dedication and compassion of our hard-working teachers, administrators and staff. Baldwin Park Unified has a singular goal of instilling equity and academic rigor that allows all learners to achieve at the highest levels.

Bellflower Unified School District

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

We Build Futures!



Tracy McSparren
Superintendent

Bellflower Unified School District has ensured all students have access to connectivity, technology resources, and social emotional support during this challenging time.

Our District serves a diverse student population in grades PreK-12 while continuing to focus on meeting the instructional needs of our students. We have leveraged resources to ensure all students have access to technology and internet connectivity, Chromebooks are available to all students as well as Verizon jetpacks that host up to 10 devices.

Our schools have found creative ways to connect students to provide counseling and social emotional support. Social media has been embraced as a way to connect with students and families in their homes.

We continue to provide ways for students to participate in CTE programs and explore future career opportunities at each of our elementary sites. Construction on our state of the art STEAM building on the Mayfair High School campus is underway and the automotive facilities at Bellflower High School are beginning an overhaul.

We are fortunate to have strong partnerships with our communities and local service organizations. These organizations support our students through services, leadership trainings, and scholarships. We are proud of our Caring Connections organization that includes 50 members from a variety of service providers and community service organizations in providing resources and services in our community. They provide families with a variety of services and supports from food baskets, bus tokens, clothing, counseling services, and participate in school events such as Career Fairs. We are proud of how our schools and the community work together to build futures for our students.

Bassett Unified School District

904 North Willow Avenue, La Puente, CA 91746 • 626/931-3000 • www.bassett.k12.ca.us

An Enriched Education



Dr. Alejandro Alvarez
Superintendent

Bassett Unified School District is in the San Gabriel Valley within the city of La Puente, California. The Board of Education is dedicated in ensuring that all students are inspired to develop academic curiosity, creativity, innovation, and the will to succeed. The school district provides an enriched education that confirms its students will graduate college and career ready with a deep understanding of their civic responsibilities.

Early into our student's education, the pursuit for college admission is introduced through the No Excuses University campaign and program across the district. Students, as early as transitional kindergarten, are introduced to the concept of attendance to colleges and universities across the nation. As students matriculate through our schools up to high school, the campaign continues to follow them as they prepare to submit applications to the colleges and universities that they have come to learn about over their years in the district.

The focus on college bound students is further enhanced with the district taking full advantage of Assembly Bill 288 which allows our high school students to be dually enrolled with our neighboring Mt. San Antonio College and take college courses. As a result, our high school students earn college credits that count toward college degrees such as an Associates of Arts degree and/or Bachelor's degree. In addition, all our high school students are provided with a unique opportunity to participant in career pathway courses within the medical field offered through the district's partnership with Kaiser Permanente. This is a unique partnership exclusive to the Bassett Unified School District with pathways focusing on Medical Assistant, Pharmacology, and Hospital Occupation.

Beverly Hills Unified School District

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

Education Re-Imagined!



Dr. Michael Bregy
Superintendent

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

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

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

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



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Bonita Unified School District

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

Preparing Students to Live Their Purpose



Carl J. Coles
Superintendent

The purpose of the Bonita Unified School District is to prepare every student to live their purpose. Bonita Unified is proud to provide more than 10,000 students with robust and engaging academic programs that develop a love of learning through athletics, arts and activities. Our District fulfills this purpose by adhering to our core values of equity, mastery and a focus on results.

Since March 2020, our District's 13 campuses have undergone thorough modifications to implement Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that help keep our staff, teachers and visitors safe. Our Distance Learning model continues the excellent, top-tier education our District is known for, combining state of the art technology with programs that focus on giving our students every opportunity for success. With the help of our incredible community partners, our dedicated teachers, staff, classified members and administrators, Bonita Unified continues to finetune our plans for the eventual reopening of our campuses that prioritize the health and safety of our students, employees and community.

Bonita Unified School District's commitment to family and community has earned our organization recognition by the Inland News Group for a second consecutive year as one of 2020's Top 35 Workplaces in the Inland Empire. Bonita Unified students have scored among the highest in the state on standardized tests, boosting performance by as much as 33 percent over five years and placing the District among the top 10 percent of California's unified school districts. Even amid a global pandemic, with the support of our parent community and engaged local partners, Bonita Unified School District continues to innovate, inspire and motivate our students to live their purpose.

Burbank Unified School District

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

Power of Resiliency, Empathy, and Grace



Dr. Matt Hill
Superintendent

2020 was the year that tried to break us, but instead it brought us together. Even with so much heartbreak and loss, we were able to rally together to stay focused on the health and safety of our community. 2020 taught us the power of resiliency, empathy, and grace.

At the Burbank Unified School District (BUSD), we continue to focus on providing a quality education to more than 15,000 students via our infant program all the way through our Adult School.

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

We have multiple career pathways that our students can explore. Career Technical Education (CTE) provides students with the opportunity to investigate their interests and learn more about possible careers in animation, broadcast journalism, sports medicine, and more.

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

Castaic Union School District

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

Innovative Learning



Steve Doyle
Superintendent

We have much to celebrate and be thankful for in Castaic Union School District. We are extremely proud of all of the accomplishments during the past year in a global pandemic shifting our instruction to Distance Learning. Our staff, students and families have shown remarkable patience, resilience, and perseverance for the last 11 months.

Our mission is that the Castaic Union School District advances the hearts and minds of students through innovative learning and differentiated teaching to challenge all learners and provide a holistic approach to wellness in a secure, safe environment. The Castaic Union School District will develop independent, high achieving and socially responsible students.

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

Centinela Valley Union High School District

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

Prepared for Life



Dr. Gregory O'Brien
Superintendent

None of us could have predicted the COVID-19 global pandemic or the many ways it would change us. Masks, physical distancing, distance learning and Google Meet are now part of our everyday lives. The good news ... we have shown that we are resilient, and, by working together, we cannot be defeated!

Now more than ever, the efforts and energies of every stakeholder within the Centinela Valley Union High School District are focused on ensuring all students have the opportunity to not only graduate, but also to receive a world-class education that effectively prepares them for college, career, and life. Even before the pandemic began, every CV student had their own personal Chromebook, access to Canvas Learning Management System, and internet connection at home. Our Digital Learning Initiative that provided all of these resources will continue long after the pandemic is vanquished.

Additionally, we continue to prepare our students for careers. Our students deserve the opportunity to learn 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 enrollment in numerous academies as well as field trips, guest speakers, and internships.

Finally, we prepare our students for life. We want them to be exemplary citizens 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. We are committed to ensuring all of our students are ready for college, career, and life. Pandemic or not ... We Can Do This!

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

Charter Oak Unified School District

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

5 Pillars for Success



Dr. Jeffrey D. Jordan
Superintendent

Charter Oak Unified School District is committed to fostering strong relationships between administrators, teachers, classified staff, and parents in order to build cohesiveness to support kids. Having provided all stakeholders with the opportunity to offer input on key areas of focus within the district, consistent elements emerged as important factors to everyone in Charter Oak. With the support of our Board of Education, we have developed 5 Pillars for Success. They include providing a pathway for all students to be college and career ready, emphasizing the importance of communication and collaboration to strengthen relationships, developing leaders throughout our organization, ensuring student/staff safety & wellness, and making sure we are financially responsible and providing the best facilities.

Charter Oak Unified continues to support the whole child and provides outstanding pathways in a variety of programs. Our schools provide opportunities for kids in AVID, Project Lead the Way, STEAM, GATE, Technology, Capturing Kids Hearts, Career Technical Education, and International Baccalaureate. We are also proud of providing a high-quality education for students in need of an alternative setting. This includes a growing virtual academy that allows families to choose between a full-time online program or a hybrid program. Charter Oak recently established itself as a strong proponent to prepare adults for the workforce. The growing Adult Education program has nearly 600 students who can receive experience and certification in a variety of areas.

Claremont Unified School District

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

Thriving in a Challenging World



Dr. Julie Olesniewicz
Interim
Superintendent

Claremont Unified School District is a diverse community serving just under 7,000 students in grades TK-12. CUSD's mission states that each student is equipped academically, prepared socially, and empowered to participate and thrive in a challenging, diverse world. To effectively meet that mission, CUSD has embarked on a year-long journey to evaluate and improve racial equity in the District.

CUSD has committed to improving racial equity with a systematic approach to evaluating the impacts of policies, procedures, and practices with staff, community members, and students. Through facilitation by qualified consultants, CUSD leadership is engaged in this work. All administrators attend monthly study sessions aimed at developing an inside-out approach to cultural proficiency. Additionally, the Board of Education will attend study sessions this spring to identify barriers to racial equity in CUSD.

The CUSD community is joining on the journey to develop racial equity through the District Advisory Committee on Racial Equity. This committee consists of CUSD staff, community members, and students who meet monthly to evaluate CUSD's practices and make recommendations to the Board of Education. CUSD is also holding two community forums to gain stakeholder perspective.

Finally, this work would not be complete without the perspectives of the students. The Board of Education has opened dialogue with students to address racial equity needs in CUSD schools and the District is hosting two student forums this year to hear the voices of the students being served.

By creating brave spaces for conversations of racial equity to occur, CUSD is committed to building a district in which all students are valued and empowered.



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Compton Unified School District

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A Year of Elevating Despite Challenges



Dr. Darin Brawley
Superintendent

Despite the pandemic, the 2019-2020 school year still was a year of elevating for Compton Unified School District. Twelve of our schools were named 2020 Top Los Angeles County Public School by Innovate Public Schools (in partnership with the University of Southern California's (USC) Sol Price Center for Social Innovation and USC Rossier Center on Education Policy, Equity and Governance). We received two Golden Bell Awards from California School Boards Association celebrating outstanding education programs and governance practices. We launched a gorgeous Verizon Innovative Learning Lab at Davis Middle School, complete with 3-D printers, green screen, and curriculum designed to support scholars and educators in access and leveraging technology as a learning tool. When the pandemic hit, thanks to outstanding partnerships and years of work toward getting as many classrooms as possible access to learning devices, we were able to pivot to distance learning relatively quickly when the pandemic hit and even launching robust summer programming for students preK to 12 in arts, music, eSports, coding, math, language arts, and more. We also began robust trainings for educators to ensure they were prepared to continue to support distance learning and equipped our classrooms with technology enabling teachers to teach from classrooms in order to ensure they had high quality internet access, educational resources, and the ability to provide students with some normalcy during a challenging time. Finally, the hard work of staff, students, and partners culminated in increased graduation rates across the board for our high schools (88%, including our continuation programs), increased college acceptance and increased a-g completion rates. Our Compton Unified School District community has most definitely been a bright spot in a very challenging year.

Covina-Valley Unified School District

519 East Badillo Street, Covina, CA 91723 • 626/974-7000 • www.c-vusd.org

Preparing Kids for Their Future!



Dr. Elizabeth Eminhizer
Superintendent

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

We are driving down our career pathways into the middle and elementary schools.

Covina-Valley is a District of Choice that offers two dual immersion programs in Spanish and Mandarin, expanding our students' abilities to be globally competitive. Additionally, we are a Computer Science Magnet District - the first of their kind in Los Angeles County!

Students are immersed in computer science and a technology-oriented environment. The district is expanding its emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics or STEM K-12. The district will continue to emerge as one of the leading districts in providing our students with the 21st Century skills they will need to be pioneers into the next decades to come.

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

Culver City Unified School District

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

Thinking Beyond Distance



Leslie Lockhart
Superintendent

We are all anxious to put the pandemic behind us and return to school as soon as it is safe to do so. But when we return, it is critical that we address the impacts of distance learning and work together to address the needs of the whole child as we return.

While distance learning was a necessary solution to the unprecedented challenge we faced due to the spread of COVID-19, we are all feeling the effects of months of learning over Zoom, the lack of social interaction and the inability for students, teachers, staff, and parents to interact face-to-face. So much learning and so much emotional development happens as a result of that face-to-face interaction that the pandemic has robbed from all of us.

Transitioning back into the classroom will require us to take more into consideration than just academics. We are working hard to make sure that we have in place the social-emotional support our students and teachers will need when they return. We will have more counselors, more therapists, and more social workers available to deal with the inevitable negative impacts the pandemic has created. We will allow more time for students to readjust to the return to the classroom. And we will continue to be flexible as we encounter challenges that we have not yet anticipated.

Logistically, there we will an adjustment as well. Our classrooms will look different. Our desks will be farther apart. Our students and teachers will follow social-distancing protocols and wear facemasks.

Academically, we will have to balance the need for older students to relearn material they were taught during distance learning while at the same time dealing with students who are learning and experiencing school for the first time.

As challenging as it was for us to switch to distance learning, returning to in-person instruction will pose important challenges as well, but I am confident that our teachers, staff, and students can all return safely, pick up where they left off.

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Downey Unified School District

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

Our Kids Deserve the Best...



Dr. John A. Garcia, Jr.
Superintendent

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

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

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

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

East Whittier City School District

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

Focused on the Idea of Refinement



Marc Patterson
Superintendent

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

Despite the challenging and uncertain times we find ourselves in at the moment due to COVID 19, we will remain focused on the idea of refinement. We will use this year as an opportunity to refine the amazing programs we already have in place, including Distance Learning, while we find even more ways to capitalize on the expertise of our teachers, classified staff and administrators to realize our goal of “Opening the Door to Every Child’s Future”. Additionally we want to encourage and embrace the creativity and innovation of our students, staff and community members. If you have any ideas to harness innovation please do not hesitate to share them with us so that we can continue to explore different ways to challenge ourselves, our students and our community to meet the demands of a 21st Century Society.

Although we have always known that the East Whittier City School District is a very special place, the empathy, compassion and support that we as a community have demonstrated in these challenging times reinforced this long held sense of pride. We are so proud of the community of learners we have in East Whittier. There is so much to celebrate in our amazing District. Please check out our various social media links and hashtags to follow our team’s phenomenal work to support ALL students as we engage our students, staff, parents and community to continue to ensure that EWCSD stands out as a shining example for other districts.

Duarte Unified School District

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

21st Century Schools – 21st Century Students



Dr. Gordon Amerson
Superintendent

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Eastside Union School District

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

Innovative Education, Unparalleled Results



Dr. Joshua Lightle
Superintendent

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

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

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

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

El Monte Union High School District

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

Eliminating Barriers Ensures Success



Dr. Edward A. Zuniga
Superintendent

At El Monte Union High School District, our mission is to graduate college- and career-ready students. We are a family of teachers, staff, classified members, parents, students and community partners dedicated to eliminating barriers to learning and fostering a robust, college-going culture for our scholars. El Monte Union wants every student to graduate prepared for the future, especially in these uncertain times. These shared values help guide us and enable us to foster a culture of continual evolution in our approach and curriculum.

In fall 2020, we launched a groundbreaking Ethnic Studies course – despite the challenges of the pandemic – that encourages and

empowers our scholars to become the next generation of leaders in an ever-changing world. In 2019, we launched our Access for All digital learning initiative, which provided all high school students with their own Chromebook laptop and access to Internet-abled devices. Needless to say, this initiative has become more valuable to our community than we ever could have imagined. This initiative continues to give our students the tools and support they need to succeed while they learn from home.

Through our comprehensive college-level dual enrollment and career technical education programs, the District works with higher education and community partners to provide students with college credit and internship opportunities.

We continue to ensure high-quality learning environments, thanks to a \$190 million facilities bond approved by voters in November 2018. We are nearing the completion of a 15,000-square-foot multipurpose building and gymnasium and a Community Educator Center, ready for use when our students may safely return for on-campus instruction.

No matter what challenges we face, El Monte Union High School District will continue to ensure students receive the support they need to achieve all of their goals – in college, careers and life.

El Monte City School District

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

New Challenges, Same Goal



Dr. Maribel Garcia
Superintendent

At El Monte City School District, we pride ourselves on providing outstanding educational services to our school community, and the COVID-19 pandemic did not change that.

In a collaborative effort, we made history with schools around the country, launching distance learning models to ensure that schooling continued despite the pandemic. We created a successful meal distribution system that offers free meals to all children in our community. In fact, we've served over 3.5 million meals since March 2020. We also effectively provided child care to essential workers through our extended learning pod program, providing safe spaces for our students even during the highest of COVID surges. Spirits were kept high with wonderful themed drive-thru celebrations, virtual musical performances by our bands and dance teams, and interactive activities designed to foster connections during a time where self-isolation was the safest action against the virus. From holiday door decorating competitions to Lunar New Year dumpling making classes, this year provided amazing creative opportunities for us.

As wonderful as these achievements are, I know none of it would have been possible without the incredible work done by our school community. From teachers, board members, administrators, assistants, custodians, counselors, and aides, to students, parents, families, community members and more — our successes belong to each of them. We would not be the strong District we are today without the partnerships we've created and maintained, especially over the last year. Every year brings new challenges, and every year we make it our goal to be a District our community can count on.

El Rancho Unified School District

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

We Continue to be El Rancho STRONG!



Dr. Frances Esparza
Superintendent

The El Rancho Unified School District (ERUSD), prides itself of our academic accomplishments even during a year of the COVID 19 Pandemic. ERUSD resides in the City of Pico Rivera and COVID 19 ran rapid throughout the City and the District but we kept our commitment to ensuring our students continue to receive a robust education. We moved to a 1 to 1 learning model in March of 2020. And, even though this change, we are headed to the California State Academic Decathlon.

We have kept up our momentum by providing Interim Assessments to all students even though the State Assessments were canceled in 2020.

This helps us to continue on our path of challenging our students to become college and career ready and life-long learners. We do this by offering a technology rich and innovative learning environment for all students as we use take the theoretical and methodical stance of Improvement Science.

As Superintendent of ERUSD I am proud of the growth that we have made even during the Pandemic. Our School Leaders/Principals are focused on supporting staff through our Improvement Science lifecycle and this allows our teachers to be creative, inspiring, and innovative. When our teachers can flourish then our students also flourish. ERUSD's successes are grounded by talented educators that motivate our students to have a passion for learning.

We stand proud knowing that as a community we will continue to excel academically, exceed graduation rates, and continue to be accomplished global citizens.

El Segundo Unified School District

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

Transforming Education



Dr. Melissa Moore
Superintendent

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

At the core of ESUSD's learning environment is our Graduate Profile, expressly developed to prepare students for jobs of the future. It outlines the cognitive, personal, and interpersonal competencies that ESUSD believes students should possess when they graduate from high school. This profile guides and aligns our educational practices to help students achieve the profile competencies identified. It provides a clear visualization of priority goals for teaching and learning that can be easily communicated to students at all grade levels, parents, faculty, and staff to align our collective efforts. ESUSD used current research on the job market of the future, as well as insights gleaned from business/civic leaders to develop our Graduate Profile.

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

Glendale Unified School District

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

Endless Pathways for Success



Dr. Vivian Ekchian
Superintendent

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

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

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

Although this school year has looked very different from prior years, we remain relentlessly focused on maximizing student achievement, fostering students' social and emotional growth, and creating a vibrant, inclusive environment where all children can learn and thrive. We are excelling together to provide our students with endless pathways for success.

Garvey School District

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

Meeting the Unprecedented Challenges!



Anita Chu
Superintendent

Garvey School District serves a richly diverse community covering portions of Monterey Park, Rosemead, and San Gabriel. The District has nine elementary and two intermediate schools serving approximately 5,000 Preschool through Grade 8 students.

Leadership development is the heart of the District's vision. Despite the unprecedented challenges in this school year, the staff remains committed to nurturing and growing leaders who are academically competent, social-emotionally resilient, and morally driven to advance the global society in the 21st century.

To realize this vision during these unprecedented times, the District has developed innovative approaches to build critical academic, social and emotional pathways. The instructional staff have devoted themselves to designing and facilitating high-quality, high-interest online learning experiences, to engage the young mind and raise the rigor of academic learning for all. To promote students' social-emotional wellness, schools offer a variety of creative engagement activities to provide opportunities for social interaction and relationship building. Teachers integrate social-emotional learning strategies and resources to nurture the whole child in their daily lessons and counseling and integrated services are provided for the most vulnerable to build their resilience in these trying times. In addition to dedicated staff, parent partnership as home instructors is pivotal to achieving the District's rigorous vision during distance learning. The District is committed to providing ongoing support to parents through training and informational meetings. For the most vulnerable families, technology, food, PPE supplies, and student supervision programs are offered to ensure equity for all.

Despite the unprecedented challenges, Garvey has created unprecedented, exciting opportunities to best serve our students and community.



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Glendora Unified School District

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

A Premier School District



Dr. Penelope A. DeLeon
Superintendent

The Glendora Unified School District is one of the premier school districts in the state of California. We proudly serve over 6,800 students in the foothills of east San Gabriel Valley, where our staff, students, parents and community work together to ensure our students thrive both academically and personally.

As a District of Choice, our schools continue to earn distinction at the state and national levels, with 7 California Distinguished Schools, 4 California Gold Ribbon Schools and 6 California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll schools. Each year, the *Washington Post*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *Newsweek* each rank Glendora High School as one of the 'Best High Schools' in the United States.

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

In addition to world class academics, we offer exceptional educational experiences, including CIF Championship athletic programs, award-winning performing arts programs, state-of-the-art visual arts and expanded CTE programs. Of all the quality programs Glendora offers, it is our people that make it one of the most exciting and rewarding school districts in Southern California! The District's success is the result of our dedicated and talented teachers, support staff, administrators and board of trustees. Please visit our website to see how you can become part of the Glendora family!

Gorman Joint School District

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

Effective Teaching and Learning



Johannis Andrews
Superintendent

The Gorman Joint School District is located at the southern tip of the beautiful Tehachapi Mountains, 60 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. The Gorman Joint School District has one TK-8 school with 60 students and three teachers. The small size of Gorman Elementary School makes it possible to have an individualized nurturing environment in each classroom where the average class size is 20 students. The Gorman Joint School District is a District of Choice where any parent can choose 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 the 2020/2021 school year is our dedication in providing visual and performing arts, STEAM opportunities, Code to the Future, FFA and PBIS for our students.

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

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

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

Partners in Your Child's Future



Dr. Alfonso Jiménez
Superintendent

The Hacienda La Puente Unified School District has invested in state-of-the-art technology to ensure that our transitional kindergarten through adult education students learn in engaging environments while safer at home.

The well-being and educational equity of our community continues to be a top priority for our District. We have distributed thousands of laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots, curated a digital library of nearly 6,000 eBooks, distributed over 1,623,224 meals, and hosted numerous virtual parent education workshops on various topics to support students with Distance Learning.

While we have adapted to Distance Learning, our schools have remained diligent in providing our students with an innovative STEAM curriculum. Our middle and high schools have collaborated with the University of California, Davis, to enrich our C-STEM programs to teach coding, robotics, and common-core aligned math with hands-on and interactive activities. Districtwide, our schools have partnered with New Pedagogies for Deep Learning as part of their global initiative to promote student engagement, voice, and global citizenship.

Our schools' success has led to two being named 2020 California Distinguished Schools, 11 Honor Roll Schools by the 2019-20 Educational Results Partnership, a 2020 Golden Bell Award for our Middle School Math Summer Enrichment Program, and the District receiving the Best Employer Award by Forbes.

With an overall 96.2% graduation rate from the California School Board, Hacienda La Puente Unified School District provides its students with the resources and tools they need to transition to college, careers, and beyond. Our District looks forward to reaching for new levels of success in the years to come.

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Hawthorne School District

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Meeting the Challenges



Dr. Helen E. Morgan
Superintendent

Reflecting back on March 13, 2020 and what we thought would be a three week closure of our schools, I continue to be stunned by what transpired and the unimaginable outcomes. Los Angeles County had a total of twenty-eight positive cases of COVID-19. It was recommended we close schools until the pandemic could be managed. Months later our classrooms remained closed, our students didn't have a true school experience, and our staff lost out on the joy of seeing students play, engage, laugh, and just be kids. School was redefined.

The impact of the school closures will be felt well into the future. Students suffered the stress of social-emotional issues, learning loss, too much screen time, and school experiences that cannot be replicated at home. In the Hawthorne School District we recognize these issues and are working to meet them head-on. We are providing social-emotional supports for our students through our counselors, deans, and community partners. We know that learning loss is real and must be addressed. We are implementing strategies to provide additional supports to students who had the most difficult time engaging and thriving in a virtual environment. Teachers have been hired with the sole purpose of providing those supports at each school. Tutors have been hired to further meet the needs of students who have experienced learning gaps.

There is no easy fix for students who have lost out on months of a true school experience, but I am confident that working with our caring and exceptional staff, we are on the road to recovery.

Hermosa Beach City School District

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

Small, Resilient, and Thriving



Dr. Jason Johnson
Superintendent

Hermosa Beach City School District is small, resilient, and thriving in the 2020-2021 school year. Although a quaint size and population, we pride ourselves on being the best little school district in the South Bay. The Hermosa Beach City School District (HBCSD) was established in 1904 and serves approximately 1,200 students in Transitional Kindergarten through 8th grade. Our heritage and history has kept our community resilient as we transformed our distance learning program from the 2019-2020 school year and have fought hard to return on our students to campus. Since our September start, we have implemented a unified distance learning program, a comprehensive social-emotional wellness program, and returned special education and high-need students to campus. Oh yeah, and we built a brand new school.

A small school district like ours is successful because we take a community approach. We have collaborative partnerships with staff and with outstanding community organizations such as Beach Cities Health District, Chevron, Kiwanis, Rotary, Grades of Green, the PTO, Hermosa Beach Educational Foundation, and the City of Hermosa Beach. The strength of staff and community have led to state recognition including a Gold Ribbon and two Distinguished School Awards, California Exemplary Program, District Green Ribbon Silver Award, South Bay Model SARB Program of Distinction, Sandy Hook Promise National Sustainability Award, Google Certified Teachers, as well as Northrop Grumman and other Leadership Fellowships.

HBCSD is accepting a limited number of inter-district permits this year. We encourage you to learn more about us and reach out. We might be small, but we believe that is what makes our student experience so special.



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Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District

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

Family Centered Community of Learners



Dr. Lori Slaven
Superintendent

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary School District is a rural K-8 one school district, nestled in the hills of the Angeles National Forest in Northern Los Angeles County. We serve 180 students from the mountain communities of Lake Hughes, Elizabeth Lake, Green Valley, and Pine Canyon. The Elizabeth Lake School District was formed in 1874, the Lake Hughes School District was formed in 1899. The two districts formed a union in 1950 as is the old school district in the Antelope Valley. Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes school district is "Family-Centered" and fosters every child and stakeholder to be part of a community of learners in the District. Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes also serve students from neighboring communities in the Antelope Valley.

During the pandemic, we offer distance learning and independent study. We have small class sizes with a dedicated group of teachers and staff. A few of our enrichment opportunities for students include arts in education, competitive athletic program, and a competitive robotics team. Teachers and staff collaborate to improve their practice so that we may continue to improve to serve our students. Parents and community members are an important part of our school culture. We have an active P.T.A. and dedicated volunteers who support our students and school. Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes is a wonderful school to learn, work, and grow. Our families enjoy county living and value our solid educational program. Our vision at Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes School is to provide an excellent education in an atmosphere that supports students as they develop into outstanding members of the community. Our mission is to enable our students to reach the highest levels of achievement. This goal is obtained through a total commitment to the ongoing success of each student and through open and honest communication within our school community.

Keppel Union School District

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

Opening Doors to Infinite Possibilities



Dr. Jacqueline A. Cardenas
Superintendent

The Keppel Union School District is located in the beautiful, picturesque high desert in northern Los Angeles County in the Antelope Valley. Loyal and committed staff proudly serve 2,700 students in six schools that provide stellar academic programs for preschool - 8th grade students from diverse backgrounds.

Our District's mission for educating all students is to "Seek Education, Strive for Excellence, and Aspire to Greatness."

We celebrate each school's successes, including two California Distinguished Schools and other award-winning programs. Learning experiences are personalized to students and unique programs ensure access to a broad and enhanced curriculum. Students develop personal interests in music, STEAM, the arts, AVID, media production, agriculture, and other specialized programs. There have been significant advances in technology at all schools and a multi-year trend of increasing academic achievement.

Schools create positive learning environments where student safety and health, academic success, and social and emotional wellness are of highest priority. A Positive Behavior, Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program is implemented districtwide to effectively model and teach appropriate behavior to all children. Other assistance includes school counselors, an afterschool RISE program for academic intervention and enrichment, an early childhood program for ages birth to 5-years-old through a partnership with Save the Children, and summer school programming. The Keppel learning community is embraced and supported through district-centric, rich resources such as a Parent Center, the Keppel Closet, Resource Center, Wellness Center, Immunization Clinic, and Keppel's own Bus Transportation Department.

Students leave Keppel with the skills, confidence, and motivation to continue opening doors to infinite possibilities for themselves and others in their trajectory of lifelong learning.

Inglewood Unified School District

401 South Inglewood Avenue, Inglewood, CA 90301 • 310/419-2700 • www.inglewoodusd.com

Inglewood Unified on the RISE!



Dr. Erika F. Torres
County Administrator

Inglewood Unified School District (IUSD) has risen to the challenges of these most extraordinary times by continuing to give our students access to high quality education and services. This pandemic has highlighted the need to prioritize the health, safety and wellness of our school district community and address the social justice and inequity issues that exist in the educational system.

In response to these needs, we are proud to share that IUSD is a one-to-one District, ensuring every student has the technology and tools needed to succeed in our distance learning environment. We have partnered with the YMCA to provide childcare support for our families who are struggling to manage the demands of work and school. To help dismantle the effects of institutional racism, IUSD has partnered with the University of Southern California's Race and Equity Center to develop an initiative aimed at improving the outcomes and experiences of our students.

Despite these uncertain times, IUSD placed Measure I, a local school bond measure, on the November 3rd ballot to repair and renovate our schools. We are honored to share that Measure I was passed by Inglewood voters to provide our students access to safer, healthier, state of the art schools that support quality teaching and learning.

Our amazing community has rallied around our district- from students, families, labor partners, board, our wonderful city and community partners- IUSD has risen to the challenge. Together, we have been able to provide over 100,000 meals to children and organized clothing, supplies, and gift card distributions to our families. We will continue to come together and exemplify the spirit behind #WeAreInglewoodUnified.

La Cañada Unified School District

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

Our Success is Intentional



Wendy Sinnette
Superintendent

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

The district operates three elementary schools and a combined grades 7-12 school. Current student enrollment is approximately 4150. Each school in the district has developed an "Every Student Succeeds" plan and has adopted Stanford's Challenge Success initiative to ensure that all students receive appropriate support in mastering academic standards and in developing their social, emotional, and physical health and resilience.

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

Approximately 99% of graduating seniors enroll in post-secondary schools, with students attending their best fit colleges and universities across the nation. The high school (2015) and one elementary school (2013) have been named National Blue Ribbon schools. La Cañada High School 7/8 was named a National Forum "School to Watch" school in 2014, 2017, and 2020 and all four schools have been designated as California Distinguished Schools (with Palm Crest Elementary awarded again in 2020) and as Gold Medal winners by California Business for Education Excellence.

Las Virgenes Unified School District

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

Every Opportunity Every Single Day



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

Las Virgenes boasts student achievement and college-going metrics that are amongst the top in the state. Las Virgenes high schools have been named to the National College Board Annual AP District Honor Roll for expanding student participation, especially among our subpopulations, in our AP program. Las Virgenes has a wide variety of options for our students that

include Dual-Immersion English and Spanish programs at the elementary and middle school levels, High School International Baccalaureate Program, Arts and Media Academy, a Waldorf-inspired school, and arts-embedded elementary programs.

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

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

Dr. Daniel D. Stepenosky
Superintendent

Lancaster School District

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

Uncompromising Commitment



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 600 students in our progressive preschool program.

Focused on 21st century skills, college and career readiness, and acquisition of core knowledge, Lancaster School District is making GREAT things happen for every child – every day!

Educational programs emphasize foundational skills through engaging, standards-based lessons in core content areas. In addition to our core classes, students may participate in: STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math), AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), Computer Science, Music, Foreign Language, Dual Language Immersion, Visual and Performing Arts, Sports and other exciting elective and enrichment programs. Promoting meaningful family engagement and strong community partnerships are also an essential part of the work that we do. We invite and value the support and participation of all of our stakeholders and are extremely pleased to see growing levels of involvement.

Lancaster School District maintains an uncompromising commitment to provide all students the knowledge and skills that they need for academic and personal success. Our district's Strategic LCAP is designed to "chart our course" as we continue to enhance our practices and programs to encourage continuous improvement and ensure equity, access and engaging learning experiences for all students.

Dr. Michele Bowers
Superintendent

Lawndale Elementary School District

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

21st Century Access and Equity for All



Lawndale Elementary School District (LESD) puts students at the center of every decision. When schools closed, we achieved a longstanding goal: a take-home iPad or Chromebook and internet support for every student, pre-K through 8th grade. Teachers transformed instruction and established common communication and instructional platforms. Students have taken charge of their own learning with interactive and collaborative learning tools. Teachers 'visited' students' homes during virtual learning, and parents viewed teachers' instruction, opening up the educational process.

Lawndale prides itself on collaborative school teams that support students' academic and social-emotional growth and wellness. Language arts and mathematics coaches at each school ensure continuous support and improvement in the quality of instruction. Social Workers at each site provide social and emotional learning and wellness for staff, students, and families. Community Liaisons provide a communication lifeline to the school for parents. FamilyU engages parents to participate in workshops, volunteer activities, and school committees to become successful advocates for students' education. Our "RAP" (Realizing Amazing Potential) program offers coding, "tinkering", robotics, literature, folklorico, marching band and arts, before and after our regular school program.

We ensure our earliest learners are off to a great start by offering a high quality Preschool, TK and all-day Kindergarten programs. We continue challenging our students with a rigorous academic program, including our state-of-the art Library Media Centers and Makerspaces that enhance 21st Century learning.

Dr. Betsy Hamilton
Superintendent

Lennox School District

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

A 21st Century School District



Situated east of Los Angeles International airport, the Lennox School District offers a wealth of opportunities for our students. Our district strives to prepare students to be lifelong learners with the problem-solving skills and knowledge to understand their ever-changing world. We take great pride in our district being named a 21st Century Exemplar District by Battelle for Kids/P21 for providing children with the necessary skills and knowledge for success in college, career, and life. In addition, Moffett Elementary was designated as a 2020 California Distinguished School. We are equally proud of our Lennox Dual Language Schools, which continue to expand opportunities for students to develop literacy in two languages.

School as we know it changed dramatically in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has exacerbated challenges in our community such as poverty, mental health and learning gaps. We truly appreciate the flexibility and patience that our students, parents, and staff have displayed during these difficult times. As a district we quickly ensured every student had a device and internet access in order to stay connected and learn from home. Our teachers successfully learned new strategies to engage students and ensure academic growth and social-emotional well-being during distance learning. Parents have also taken on increased responsibility as co-educators with students at home during the pandemic. We continue to make steady progress towards safe preparations for reopening. Our priority is to get students back on campuses as soon as possible while protecting the health and safety of all in the school community.

Dr. Scott Price
Superintendent

Little Lake City School District

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

Students First – Results Matter



Dr. William Crean
Superintendent

As we encounter and overcome the many challenges presented to us this year, 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 4,100 students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade at seven elementary and two middle schools

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

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

Reason #2: Little Lake instruction is personalized to meet the unique learning needs of all students.

Reason #3: Little Lake staff strive to develop and promote close relationships among students, parents, and staff members.

Reason #4: Little Lake Schools are led by a cohesive and focused governance team as well as a highly qualified and dedicated team of administrators.

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

By continuing to focus on our students’ needs, the Little Lake City School District is committed to maintaining the educational quality that makes us a District on the Move!

Long Beach Unified School District

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

Welcome to a Season Of New Beginnings



Dr. Jill Baker
Superintendent

As spring approaches, fresh buds bloom and the world seems to come to life again. That feeling is especially pronounced for our schools this year as we begin a phased reopening of in-person learning after what has felt like a long winter of grim pandemic news.

Our schools have finally been allowed by the state to implement our plans to bring many of our students back to campuses, where we can best ensure excellence and equity.

Our latest updates can be found at lbschools.net/coronavirus.

We are on target to open transitional kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms on March 29 on a hybrid schedule (part of the day at school, and part of the day learning at home). Families who prefer that their TK-5 students continue learning entirely at home through the online setting can continue with that option. We plan to reopen middle and high school grades on an April schedule also available at lbschools.net.

We thank Long Beach Health and Human Services and Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia for their exemplary support. We continue to partner with them to vaccinate all school district employees who want the COVID vaccine. Thank you also to our entire school communities for your perseverance during one of the most difficult eras in our school district’s long history. I am still completing my first year as superintendent, and it’s a year that I’ll never forget. But together we can look forward to brighter days ahead. As spring signifies, the best is yet to come.



Two Years Free College

The El Camino College **SOUTH BAY PROMISE** program provides an affordable pathway to college for students enrolling after high school. Students receive free enrollment for two years, priority registration and specialized support services.

Our steadfast commitment to student success continues in these unprecedented times. Visit www.elcamino.edu/SouthBayPromise for more information.

Application Deadline: **April 30, 2021**



El Camino College

Los Nietos School District

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

Transcending Obstacles for Quality Education



Jonathan Vasquez
Superintendent

Located in Whittier and established in 1861, the Los Nietos School District is one of the oldest continuously run elementary school districts in California. In the storied history of the District, I am extremely proud of how the staff and community met the unprecedented challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presented. As our District will soon reach its 160th anniversary, the 2020-2021 school year will be remembered as a year where our employees transcended obstacles in order to continue delivering high quality instruction.

Prior to the onset of the pandemic, on a daily basis the use of technology could be seen augmenting instruction and learning in all of our classrooms. All 2nd-8th grade students were provided their own Chromebook, while our TK-1st grade students had access to iPads. During the summer months we worked diligently to ensure all students possessed the necessary technology to make distance learning possible. In order to meet the needs of our students during distance learning this year, teachers willingly augmented their previous Cloud-based learning strategies with new instructional techniques designed to make distance learning more accessible and engaging to their students. Teachers received micro-credentialing in: Apple Certification, Google Certifications Level I and II, Go Guardian, Flipgrid, and Pear Deck Inspirational Educator.

We look forward to the day when our students are back on campus learning alongside their peers. Until that day, the Los Nietos School District staff will continue to meet the instructional, social-emotional, and nutritional needs of our families in order to ensure their success.

Lynwood Unified School District

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

Empowering Students to Reach Goals



Dr. Gudiel R. Crosthwaite
Superintendent

At Lynwood Unified School District, we empower students to reach their goals in a changing educational environment and provide them with the instructional tools and socio-emotional support needed to reach their college and career aspirations. Lynwood Unified serves over 14,000 students across 12 elementary schools, three middle schools, three high schools, a preschool, and adult and independent study programs.

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

Lowell Joint School District

11019 Valley Home Avenue, Whittier, CA 90603 • 562/943-0211 • www.ljdsd.org

Destination District



Jim Coombs
Superintendent

The Lowell Joint School District strives to be among the leading districts throughout the State of California, holding true to our traditional American core values since 1906. Our students receive a quality education from outstanding teachers whose #1 priority is the success of their students. This is evident in the fact that the students of LJSD exceed the scores of Los Angeles and Orange County as well as the State of California in all grade levels. We are honored to serve the families from the communities of La Habra, La Habra Heights, and Whittier. Each of our six schools are Gold Ribbon, Distinguished, and California Business Excellence Schools. Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate School is also recognized as a "Schools to Watch" and CSBA Golden Bell award winner. LJSD has also received a Magna Award from the National School Board Association. The importance of education, family, and traditional American values are the bedrock to LJSD, as is our emphasis on higher education, personal integrity, and Character Education.

Specialized academic programs are provided at our schools for all students such as: 1:1 instructional technology, AP Computer Science (7th-8th), coding & robotics, STEAM Innovation Labs, and ARTS FOR ALL: vocal music, instrumental music, fine-art, dance and strings. Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate School is proud to provide students with enhanced educational opportunities through the Pre-AP/IB Honors Academy, Conservatory of the Arts (COFA), AP Computer Science, Robotics and Engineering, Audio Engineering, and Green Architecture. Each of these programs prepares our students to transition into our local high schools and onto post-secondary education. LJSD continues to focus on 21st Century learning, while assuring that we keep our attention on the whole child. This ensures that our students have the foundation to be globally competitive and grounded in their traditional American values. Together, it is the people of Lowell Joint that make Lowell a Destination District for our community.

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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

Overcoming Challenges Together



Dr. Michael D. Matthews
Superintendent

At the time of this publication, we are nearing the one-year anniversary of being impacted by COVID-19. Together, we in MBUSD and across LA County have overcome these immense challenges.

During this difficult time, the employees of MBUSD have worked tirelessly to make our campuses safe for the return of our staff and students. We have fed our students nutritious meals that make them remember school fondly. We have provided support to families through child care and preschool. We have provided in-person services and support for our students with IEPs and other high need students. We have brought back student athletes to campus, giving our secondary students connections during the pandemic. Finally, using new hybrid models, we safely brought back our students in grades TK-2, then TK-5, and at the time of this writing, we are planning to bring back our secondary students. Our teachers, who quickly learned to how to effectively teach in distance learning, also figured out how to effectively teach and make connections in a hybrid environment. Seeing the smiles, hearing the laughter, and witnessing the learning that came with each of these return phases has been incredibly powerful and moving.

It has been a year of learning together, finding totally new ways to support students, and overcoming challenges. I have never been more proud to be the Superintendent of Manhattan Beach Unified School District, and I thank each of our employees for their dedication to our students.

Monrovia Unified School District

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

A World-Class Education



Dr. Katherine Thorossian
Superintendent

Our mission at Monrovia Unified School District focuses on providing World-Class Schools for World-Class Students and, this school year, there was an even greater focus on that mission. Despite the challenges with distance learning and the COVID-19 pandemic, our school community has come together to make the most of this unprecedented time.

Our strong academic programs begin with early education at Canyon Early Learning Center and extend into elementary school with robotics and coding, dual-language in Mandarin and Spanish, and the arts. Students continue their studies in these programs when they transition to middle and high school.

At the high school level, our engaging humanities, math and science, and theater arts instructional programs provide students with critical knowledge and skills. Our award-winning Early College Program allows students to advance their college careers free of cost, even as they pursue their high school courses. Our Career Technical Education pathways in Information Technology, Digital Media, Transportation, and Patient Care prepare our students to successfully compete for high skill, high wage careers in high priority and emerging regional industry sectors.

Lastly, to better serve our community, Monrovia Unified offers a variety of adult education career courses through our community adult school.

Our students continue to reach high levels of achievement and excel in their education despite the many challenges we have faced in the last year. I am proud to say that Monrovia Unified remains true to its promise of providing an outstanding education to our scholars, and will continue doing so in the months and years to come.

Mountain View School District

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

Inspiring Each Student to Succeed



Lillian Maldonado French
Superintendent

Inspiring each student to succeed every day is the mission of the Mountain View School District. 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.

Throughout the continuing challenges of the pandemic, MVSD remains committed to ensuring our school communities are healthy and connected, and all students are receiving quality instruction and social emotional support that meets their needs.

Our exceptional educators and students continue to display great flexibility, resilience and perseverance through this transitional

period and new way of schooling. Whether instruction takes place in-person on campus, virtually through distance learning, or a combination of both, students are provided with the curriculum, programs and leadership that inspires them to be lifelong learners.

MVSD is committed to the development of the whole child which is supported through programs like STEAM, Project Lead the Way, AVID, Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL), extensive technology learning including in school 1:1 technology devices, Spanish Dual Language Immersion program, Mandarin Enrichment Program, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), comprehensive Visual and Performing Arts, a strong college-bound culture, nationally recognized nutrition and health education, nationally recognized family engagement program and a Golden Bell award-winning Parent Leadership Academy. We are proud to have school counselors at every school supporting students and families.

Through positive collaboration our dedicated team educates each student at the highest level, as we strive to make a positive difference in the life of each student entrusted to us.

Montebello Unified School District

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

A Quality, Positive Education Experience



Dr. Anthony J. Martinez
Superintendent

Montebello Unified School District (MUSD) serves the city of Montebello, portions of the cities of Bell Gardens, Commerce, Monterey Park, Pico Rivera, and a part of the unincorporated community of East Los Angeles, as well as the unincorporated community of South San Gabriel. The vision statement of the Board of Education is "Empowering Students to Achieve Academic Excellence as Model Citizens." It takes great pride in its athletic and educational programs including Pregnant and Parenting Program, Infant/Toddler Program, Head Start, Dual Immersion Academy (English/Spanish, English/Mandarin), Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Advanced Placement (AP), Career Technical Education (CTE),

Dual Enrollment (in partnership with East Los Angeles College), and Adult Education. Its most recent project provides students with the opportunity to graduate from high school with a high school diploma and an Associate Degree. Recently, the district has made available laptop devices, hotspots, and headsets to all students. Meanwhile, continuing to work on a cabling project that will provide reliable Internet access, telephones, digital clocks, public announcement system, as well as surveillance cameras throughout the district. Furthermore, the district has invested in adopting English, Mathematics, Science, and World Language core materials. Montebello USD is looking forward to the development of a few mixed-use city projects that are currently underway. Leadership efforts focus on forward thinking and providing students with a learning environment that fosters and respects their sense of identity. Dr. Anthony J. Martinez, Superintendent of Schools, continues to lead the district alongside the Montebello USD employees. Their collaborative approach is obtaining great results, providing students with a quality education and an unforgettable positive schooling experience.

Newhall School District

25375 Orchard Village Road, St. 200, Valencia, CA 91355 • 661/291-4000 • www.newhallschooldistrict.com

Empowering Every Child Every Day



Jeff Pelzel
Superintendent

The COVID-19 pandemic has created significant obstacles for all school communities in the areas of health and wellness, finances, and other emotional strains. As the Superintendent, and a Santa Clarita community member, I am constantly reminded how blessed I am to live and work in a community of resilient, caring and compassionate people who always put children first.

Our teachers, administrators and classified staff continue to work tirelessly to support and engage students academically and social-emotionally each and every day. Our families can see evidence that learning is progressing in both the blended learning model and our digital learning academies over the course of the year. Art and music continue to be part of our core instruction as evidenced by our winter virtual art and music show (<https://youtu.be/x8IFjcjj5Q>)

Despite so many moving targets and evolving sets of expectations this year, we continue to have a laser-like focus on high quality instruction and are committed to providing a learning environment that empowers every child every day. In these most challenging times, I can assure everyone, our entire certificated and classified staff in the Newhall School District are ready for the challenges and opportunities ahead of us as we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year.

We have a history of academic excellence and are open for new enrollment 661.291.4163. If you have any questions or would like to know more about the Newhall School District, please visit our website at <https://www.newhallschooldistrict.com>.

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

12820 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-2000 • www.nlmusd.org

Dedicated to Success for All Students



John M. Lopez
Superintendent

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District is committed to fulfilling our vision of *Every Student. Future Ready. Our Promise!* Our 2020 Learning Initiative allowed us to successfully transition to a Distance Learning model by equipping our students with 1-1 devices and building digital proficiency. Our devoted teachers have participated in numerous training opportunities to maximize the use of technology and develop the skills needed to creatively deliver and engage our students in rigorous instruction during Distance Learning. Additionally, we strive to meet the needs of the whole child through a focus on Social Emotional Learning and Equity by providing staff training along with an online portal with resources dedicated to support our families and staff.

Many of our schools have been recognized for high levels of academic achievement including 12 *Honor Roll Schools*, *CA Distinguished Schools*, *Golden Bell award recipients*, and *Schools to Watch*. In addition, through bond initiatives our communities have invested in our schools and funded the completion of state-of-the-art sports facilities at John Glenn High School, and currently working on updating the sport facilities at Norwalk and La Mirada High Schools.

NLMUSD is also proud to share our partnership with Cerritos College to offer the Early College initiative for our students who can earn over 40 college units (or the equivalent of an AA degree) by the time they earn their high school diploma. Furthermore, our career pathways are focused on preparing students for high skill, high wage, and in-demand careers.

NLMUSD is dedicated to the success of all of our students and I welcome you to visit our website to learn more.

Palmdale School District

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

Poised for Transformational Changes



Raul Maldonado
Superintendent

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

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

Community relationships and partnerships are growing, and the city infrastructure is working hand-in-hand with the district to support students and families. The idea of Palmdale emerging as a national model of excellence is empowering and provocative. There are conversations taking place about what it would take to make that a reality. Making Palmdale Schools the BEST in the world is our passion.

Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District

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

Putting Kids First



Dr. Alex Cherniss
Superintendent

Clearly, this year has brought with it enormous challenges, and our educational programs continue to evolve with this pandemic. PVPUSD recognized early on that there was not a “one size fits all” solution to meeting the needs of our students and staff during this unprecedented time. Three different learning programs were provided as options for families to sign up for: Hybrid program (in person when County allowed), Distance Learning Academy (virtual every day), and Independent Study Option. Our district created advisory committees of staff, medical professionals in our district, elementary parents, intermediate parents, and high school parents to gather feedback and be a conduit of information for our community. We worked with our student board members to create a monthly Superintendent Roundtable group at the high school and intermediate level to hear the students’ perspectives, challenges, and suggestions. We continue to hear from struggling students and are doing our best to address their mental health and their academic concerns.

From day one, PVPUSD has worked to prepare our schools for reopening and advocated for a safe return to campus. We also are focused on how to incorporate some of the positive outcomes from the flexible and innovative educational strategies/programs into future years, such as the possibility of continuing a Distance Learning Academy. In addition, we remain committed to working on pre-pandemic areas of importance to our district: sustainability, diversity, ethnic studies and multicultural awareness.

I am proud of the resilience and fortitude of our students and thankful to our staff and parents who have sacrificed so much, balancing work and family to “put kids first.”

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Vanessa Jung, Psy.D.
Clinical Director

Phillip Tirman, M.D.
Medical Director



Pasadena Unified School District

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

Where Children Learn and Thrive



Dr. Brian McDonald
Superintendent

During the pandemic and the events of 2020, the Pasadena Unified School District responded with the values that guide our District's Graduate Profile: creative problem solving, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking. Our District's innovation and forward-thinking approach quickly adapted existing infrastructure to put 1:1 technology devices in the hands of every student, develop a quality distance educational program, and support our students and their families. In November 2020, Measure O, to increase student access to technology, upgrade classrooms and schools, and expand STEAM and Career Technology Education programs and facilities.

With strong academics and community support, the preK-12 schools of the Pasadena Unified School District invite students to explore ideas, deepen their knowledge, and prepare to excel in college and the workplace. Whether in-person or in distance learning, PUSD schools are places where children learn and thrive and where our communities come together.

As we get ready to return to in-person instruction, PUSD is emerging stronger and more committed to actualizing our mission to provide a caring, engaging, and challenging educational experience for every student, in every classroom.

Redondo Beach Unified School District

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

Transformative District



Dr. Steven E. Keller
Superintendent

The state-of-the-art RBUSD consists of eight elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, one continuation school, one community day school, one adult school, and a district-wide child development center. The truly transformative district serves approximately 10,000 K-12 students and despite declining enrollment trends throughout California, RBUSD continues to grow as a result of the synergy created between community and schools. We attribute the enrollment increase to: 1) hiring and supporting excellent staff members who are focused on students; 2) the passage of a transformative school construction bond that was completed on time and on dime; and 3) the passage of a solar and technology bond aimed at providing

modern instructional tools for each RBUSD student and staff member, while concurrently relieving the district's general fund. The focus on people, facilities, and instruction is why RBUSD is the finest school district in the South Bay.

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

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

Pomona Unified School District

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

All Means All



Richard L. Martinez
Superintendent

In the Pomona Unified School District "All Means All," a goal of excellence for every student, in every classroom, every day.

This award-winning district has a history of excellence, garnering recognition with the national *Magna Award* and numerous *District of Distinction* awards. It is the winner of numerous *Golden Bell* awards from the California School Boards Association for programs ranging from providing free apps promoting dual-language literacy among preschoolers, to its partnerships with the community.

In the Pomona Unified School District, students are supported at every level. PUSD's preschool program has once again won the Golden Apple award for teaching excellence. The District

has established community partnerships to meet the needs of our families. The Pomona Health Career Pipeline works in conjunction with Western University to mentor children into careers in the health sciences and follows them from elementary school through college and graduate school. Our award-winning continuation school, Park West, has once again garnered the Model School Award. In the performing arts, PUSD partners with Citrus College and Chapman University to allow students transferrable college credit and attend Master classes.

When faced with the challenge of a global pandemic, the Pomona Unified School District put the safety of its students and staff foremost, moving immediately to distance learning in full compliance with public health guidelines. When it was deemed safe, families have the options of placing their children in full time remote learning, full time in-class instruction, or a hybrid combination of both. Throughout the pandemic, PUSD's teachers have used their creativity to continue offering students a well-rounded education in science, math, and English, as well as music, art, and dance.

The Pomona Unified School District is fully committed to partnering with our students, families, and community in ensuring that every student is kept safe, educated, and fully prepared to achieve his or her dreams.

Rosemead School District

3907 Rosemead Blvd., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/312-2900 • www.rosemead.k12.ca.us

Inspiring and Developing Leaders



Alejandro Ruvalcaba
Superintendent

In 2017 the Rosemead School District schools received the prestigious recognition of being ranked as one of the top 4 school districts in the San Gabriel Valley. That distinction was affirmed recently with the recognition of Savannah Elementary School as a 2018 California Distinguished School, and Mildred B. Janson Elementary School and Emma W. Shuey Elementary School, as 2020 California Distinguished Schools.

Along with outstanding academic achievement, our students are a part of nationally recognized leadership and character development schools. The Rosemead School District has adopted the 7-Habits® Leader in Me® (LIM) program. This process helps develop the essential life skills and characteristics students will need in order to thrive in the 21st-century workforce. During the past 10 years, our Leader in Me® program has been developed and integrated into our schools' core curriculum.

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

For more information about our amazing school district and/or signature programs, please visit us at www.rosemead.k12.ca.us.

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

– Henry L. Doherty

Rowland Unified School District

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

Innovative Learning for All



Dr. Julie Mitchell
Superintendent

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

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

Additional signature programs include:

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

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

San Gabriel Unified School District

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

Reimagining Education in a Pandemic



James "Jim" Symonds
Superintendent

Just before COVID-19 and the move to online learning, the San Gabriel Unified School District was adopting our Portrait of a Graduate. Little did we know that our Portrait of a Graduate and the 12 competencies we identified would become our “North Star” and guide us in reimagining education in a pandemic in SGUSD.

In a collaborative effort, with members of our stakeholder groups and a strong representation of students, we identified the following competencies in our District that we hope to instill in our graduates:

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

Our Portrait of a Graduate competencies became the competencies that we have been relying on as a District over the last 12 months. These competencies have helped move our district into its future. We have learned that our future is reliant upon our Portrait of a Graduate. We will continue to nurture all of our students, families, and staff to be Resilient, Empathetic, Global Citizens, Creative Thinkers, Collaborators, and Communicators.

We now have completed our Portrait of a Graduate which has been adopted and become a public facing document. These competencies have become the foundation of our District initiative of providing 21st Century Learning to all of our students, which we call the #sangabrielexperience.

San Marino Unified School District

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

An Innovative Instructional Program



Dr. Jeff Wilson
Superintendent

In San Marino Unified schools, connection and resilience are keys to our students’ success and are why SMUSD remains in Niche’s top 1% of School Districts in California (#4 overall) and in the nation.

As we have endured a second year of distance learning during the pandemic, SMUSD teachers and counselors have made it their priority to connect our students to their classrooms and peers while providing important mental health and wellness resources to promote resilience. We proudly recognize that social and emotional well-being is the ultimate key to success and do all we can to make our students feel safe and supported at school.

In SMUSD, we have great teachers who are receiving training related to student-centered instructional shifts such as Universal Design for Learning, Multi-Tier Systems of Support and Trauma Informed Practices, giving them resources to reach and connect with each of their students in significant and timely ways. Even with the frustration associated with learning from home, our community remains steadfastly supportive of our teachers and schools.

While being one of the lowest state and federally funded school districts in California, SMUSD remains a leader in K-12 education. We could neither survive nor thrive without our community’s consistent financial support.

As we look forward to a return of in-person learning, we will continue to provide our students access to an innovative instructional program that connects students to their talents, strengths, and passions, preparing them to be agile, adaptive and successful citizens in an ever-changing world.

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

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

Resources to Support Anti-racism



Dr. Ben Drati
Superintendent

While this school year has been dominated by the pandemic and our responses to support students and open facilities, SMMUSD has also advanced our work in social justice. The events of 2020 have ignited and set forth an urgent call to action for our staff and educators to implement an anti-racism curriculum. Our goals are grounded on educating socially-just and culturally-responsive individuals.

We have developed lessons and activities for in-class use and we are engaging our families and staff in difficult and challenging conversations. We have compiled resources in order to support discussions related to racism, systemic oppression and teaching cross-cultural and socio-emotional skills.

A few examples: Our school board unanimously adopted a resolution recognizing the first week of February as black lives matter at school week of action; our staff has attended anti-bias trainings and professional development continues; we have added an American cultures / ethnic studies graduation requirement; we are encouraging project-based learning throughout the district and we have implemented a family engagement framework, to name a few.

We bear a great responsibility as educators for shaping society, as we have the unique privilege of educating our youth as they are forming their values and worldview. We have a responsibility to ensure equity, opportunity and engagement for all students, while at the same time working to create a better and more just world for our students to inherit.

Saugus Union School District

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

A Commitment to Excellence



Dr. Colleen Hawkins
Superintendent

Saugus Union School District (SUSD) continues its commitment to Excellence in Elementary Education despite enduring a pandemic of 2020. We remain true to our ABC's:

Academics – Our rigorous, articulated curriculum and assessment plan serves as the foundation for core subject areas while giving students tools to explore beyond the basics. Each school provides unique and specific programs to meet community needs and interests. SUSD is in its third year of Dual Language Immersion for the Santa Clarita Valley – Highlands Elementary School. We are also preparing to launch our edible school yard program - Cedar Creek Elementary School. Regular curriculum will

be integrated into culinary and horticulture lessons allowing students to experience a project-based learning environment focused on health and environmental sustainability. We are very proud of our award-winning schools including our 2020 California Distinguished Schools – Rio Vista Elementary and West Creek Academy.

Business – We maintain consistent fiscal practices, ensuring SUSD provides outstanding instructional programs and facilities. Measure EE enables us to modernize our facilities, providing 21st Century technology, flexible instructional spaces, and secure campuses. In summer 2020 we replaced 515 AC Units, installed bipolar ionization technology, and increased outdoor airflow to support the demands of COVID-19 and any future airborne issues.

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

South Whittier School District

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

Success for Every Student



Dr. Gary Gonzales
Superintendent

South Whittier School District (SWSD) is comprised of 6 elementary schools (TK-6) and a middle school (7-8) located in the unincorporated area of Whittier and proudly serves approximately 2500 students. The District's motto is "Success for Every Student" and is evident through the focused actions and high expectations of our Trustees and the commitment and dedication of our classified and certificated staff members. Collaboratively, we work together to ensure that every child has access to a rigorous and appropriate education in a clean and supportive environment where they can grow and thrive. SWSD is committed to providing every student with a

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

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

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.

Sulphur Springs Union School District

27000 Weyerhaeuser Way, Santa Clarita, CA 91351 • 661/252-5131 • www.ssd.k12.ca.us

Top Priority: Educating the Whole Child



Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi
Superintendent

The Sulphur Springs Union School District, located in Canyon Country within the Santa Clarita Valley, has continued to focus on not only academics, but also the well-being of students. All nine schools comprise of staff that are dedicated and committed to providing excellence to all students. In addition, there is a strong connection between District Office staff and staff at the school sites to work together to provide students and their families resources that focus on learning and achievement.

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

Even though the 2020-21 school year has been a challenge for many families and staff, the Sulphur Springs Union School District never lost site of the number one priority, which is students' well-being. The District continues to deliver resources to families in need, such as food and clothing. In addition, any child who may need some social/emotional assistance can access counseling services. Finally, staff make sure that academic support is provided to ensure that all students have access to a rigorous academic program.

The District continues to have a strong focus on the arts. Even when students were learning from home this past year, parents and staff partnered together to bring artists in the virtual classrooms. Parents in the District know that staff will continue to partner with them to deliver extraordinary learning experiences to students.

As a proud Superintendent of an amazing District, the Board of Trustees, staff, and I will always strive to place Students First and commit to strong healthy relationships with families, staff, and community.

Temple City Unified School District

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

Preparing for a Lifetime of Success



Dr. Kimberly Fricker
Superintendent

Temple City Unified School District is a diverse District and community that is centralized around a sense of family. Education has remained the cornerstone of our community as we have transitioned into a digital learning environment. Our community and parents remain a tremendous support and we have a great appreciation for the involvement of our staff and the educators who have met this challenging time with professionalism and grace. We extend great admiration to our parent and community-based support as well. Maintaining the integrity and quality of our programs is paramount to our District in order to ensure that our students have access to a rich and nurturing educational environment. It is our mission

to provide opportunities for our students to achieve their academic, career, and post-secondary goals.

Temple City Unified School District firmly believes that academic achievement begins with a high-quality teaching staff and parents to provide an environment that is central to the individual needs of every student. We believe that students need a nurturing and accepting environment in order to achieve success. Therefore the Temple City Unified School District is committed to increasing student access, equity and social justice for every student. We will conduct an accessibility audit and are committed to enriching the professional development for our entire staff in order to make the changes necessary to ensure equity. There is no question that strong schools and strong communities go hand in hand, united by a common mission and goal in service to others. Temple City Unified School District remains focused on preparing our students for a lifetime of success and developing the leaders of tomorrow.

Valle Lindo School District

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

Commitment to Excellence



Lynn Bulgin
Superintendent

Valle Lindo School District has been serving the community of South El Monte since 1863. Both New Temple Elementary and Shively Middle School have earned Title I Academic Achievement Awards, and have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools and California Gold Ribbon Schools. Valle Lindo School District is one of only six districts nationwide to receive the Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase District award.

Social-emotional wellness continues to be a priority, focusing on building positive relationships and showing our students their actions and words matter. Instruction and exploration in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) provides multiple avenues for developing 21st century skills, preparing students for both college and career. A comprehensive K-8 computer science curriculum and fully-equipped Makers Spaces afford students opportunities to explore, design and create.

The COVID pandemic prevented students from on-campus instruction, however throughout the 2020-21 school year, our students were actively engaged in a rigorous curriculum taught "live" by our own highly qualified teachers. Social emotional supports included 1:1 and small group sessions, as well as weekly assemblies, clubs, virtual field trips and special events.

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

Walnut Valley Unified School District

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

Inspiring Students to Be Their Best



Dr. Robert P. Taylor
Superintendent

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

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

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

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

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

Our schools have been distinguished with top honors, including National Blue Ribbon, California Distinguished School and Exemplary Arts Education Programs, CSBA Golden Bell, NAMM Best Community for Music Education, CIF State Champions, and more. WVUSD Teacher of the Year Ty Watkins from Diamond Bar High was named a 2020 Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year semifinalist.

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

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

West Covina Unified School District

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

Patience, Flexibility and Resilience



Dr. Charles D. Hinman
Superintendent

I am so proud of our Board of Education, teachers, students, and parents who have mitigated the impact of school closure through their patience, flexibility, and resilience.

The transition to distance learning was less acute owing to our pre-existing 1:1 device program. Consequently, we focused on enhancing our online learning platforms and building teacher capacity. The fall reopening of our Special Day Classes is testament to this work.

New CTE programs have been implemented to prepare our students for postsecondary success. TK-8 students can now participate in coding, robotics, dance, and art enrichment. Edgewood High School students can enroll in a career pathway through a partnership with Cisco.

The WCUSD is the only district in the state offering an International Baccalaureate TK-12th grade continuum. We are excited to have both Dual Spanish and Mandarin programs growing at two of our elementary sites.

The Mt. SAC Early College Academy is now fully accredited and will have its first graduates in 2022. Students can earn a high school diploma and up to two years of free, transferable college credit.

Extensive modernization and construction of state-of-the art facilities has occurred using Bond Measure ES funds. The Aquatic Center/Athletics Complex and Event Center/CTE building at Edgewood Schools are operational. At West Covina High School, the CTE/Science building opens this spring. The District Performing Arts Center will open in the fall of 2022, housing our new Performing Arts Academy.

We look forward to welcoming students back on our campuses very soon!

Westside Union School District

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

Working Together for Exceptional Learning



Regina L. Rossall
Superintendent

Like all schools throughout the nation, our district has been evolving from in-person instruction, to distance learning, and now we are moving back to in-person instruction. Quickly pivoting from one method to the other, our staff has continued the quest to provide our students with exceptional learning activities, maintaining active engagement, and making the most of each instructional segment in the day.

Our students are now outfitted with Chromebooks and as needed hotspots so that instruction continued without interruption. They have become proficient with software such as Zoom, Google Suite especially Google Classroom and in some classes SeeSaw. The devices and software have been exceptionally valued so that learning could continue, though the format took some getting used to.

During the past year, 4 more of our schools became WASC accredited, and in a few months we are hopeful that all 12 of our sites will have completed this process. Throughout this process, we have engaged in professional communities to help assess our instructional programs, they measure the progress our students are making and identify areas for growth. The WASC process coupled with our LCAP process have helped us continue to make adjustments to our various programs to make them more effective and meaningful to students.

Like all schools in our County, we are looking forward to the return of our learners as we work together to ensure that any learning loss can be addressed. I am proud of our community for the patience, cooperation and care they have shown our students during this most unusual time.

Whittier City School District

7211 S. Whittier Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602 • 562/789-3000 • www.whittiercity.net

Better Together



Dr. Maria Martinez-Poulin
Superintendent

At Whittier City School District, board members, certificated and classified staff alike are committed to educating the whole child. Parents, family members, and caregivers are now more important than ever as most learning is happening in the home.

Classroom time is dedicated to Social-Emotional Learning every morning and revisited throughout the day. Students and teachers are learning together how to recognize feelings, express themselves, and manage their emotions. We have heard success stories from parents and caregivers about how these lessons are carrying over beyond the school day and becoming a part of home life as well. This work is supported by a robust Wellness

Team made of School Social Workers, Counselors, and Psychologists who do the intense work of intervention and support. The launching of Technology Enhanced Arts Learning project integrates social emotional learning with the arts and STEAM across content areas.

During the pandemic our teachers continue to develop 21st Century Skills for all of our students. We believe in offering a full range of coursework for students within the digital environment including music, art, and physical education. Ongoing professional development and one-on-one support is available for all teachers during this unprecedented time.

Students are taught to be advocates for their own learning. Most important of all, all students are empowered to share their voices, expertise, opinions and stories through writing every day.

Students receive a better education when all of the adults around them rally together. While these are challenging times, we are learning more about each other and how we truly are, "Better Together."

William S. Hart Union High School District

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

An Exemplary District



Mike Kuhlman
Superintendent

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

Close to 22,000 students are enrolled in the seven comprehensive high schools, six junior high schools, a California Model Continuation school, an Early College high school, an independent study school, an adult school, and a unique school designed to address the needs of students with significant social/emotional issues. Our newest comprehensive high school, located in Castaic, opened in fall 2019. The District has a strong focus on student wellness and has opened wellness centers at every campus in the District.

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

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

Whittier Union High School District

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

Promoting Culture of Success



Martin Plourde
Superintendent

Since the start of the 2020-21 school year, Whittier Union High School District has put an even greater focus on staying true to our motto, "To Achieve and Maintain Excellence," though faced with challenges along the way related to remote learning and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Though remote learning has never been the ideal situation, our strong educational programs continue to provide our students with the tools and resources needed to ensure they graduate prepared for college and career.

Whittier Union offers many different avenues for success, including our 13 award-winning career academies that focus on career and technical instruction. These academies serve as learning communities, providing our students with hands-on experience through training and internship opportunities in professional settings.

Our District – which includes five award-winning comprehensive high schools, a model continuation school, independent study program, transition program and Adult School – takes pride in its strong educational programs, connection with students and the support we provide them. These are the reasons Whittier Union has maintained its outstanding graduation rate year after year – topping 94% at each of our five comprehensive high schools.

By applying the District's "Whatever It Takes" initiative, our Board of Trustees and our team of administrators, teachers and staff carefully study data to determine best practices to support our students and maintain our culture of success. Our goal as a District is to make an impact in the lives of our students and help build their confidence as they go on to pursue their dreams.

Wilsona School District

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

A Foundation for Life-Long Learning



**Dr. Susan
Andreas-Bervel**
Superintendent

Wilsona School District is dedicated to “Building the Foundation of Life-Long Learning!” Wilsona is located in Lake Los Angeles in the Antelope Valley, serving approximately 1,225 students.

The district is made up of 2 schools, Challenger Middle School and Vista San Gabriel Elementary School. Throughout the COVID pandemic, our entire school community has come together to ensure that our students receive the services and supports needed for continuity in their education and their lives. Our Child Nutrition and Transportation departments truly rose to the challenge to ensure our students stayed fed by delivering their

meals to the bus stops every day during distance learning.

Our Board of Trustees is forward thinking, and we are very appreciative of our community who supported Bond Measure WE in November 2018 at almost a 70% voter approval. We are very proud to report that we now have new roofing and HVAC systems at Challenger Middle School, and are beginning to replace the HVAC system at Vista San Gabriel Elementary. We also applied for a grant that will provide 3 new modern Kindergarten classrooms.

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

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

Wiseburn Unified School District

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

All Means All



**Dr. Blake
Silvers**
Superintendent

Wiseburn Unified School District is a high performing district located just miles from Los Angeles International Airport and within the aerospace capital of the World. Our continued partnerships with Chevron, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, Raytheon, and others have helped propel Wiseburn forward in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Additionally, our commitment to promoting literacy and writing, the Arts, Social Emotional support, and athletics provide for a well-rounded educational experience for our students while maintaining a commitment that every child has an opportunity not only to achieve, but to excel. Our engaging, highly trained

teaching and support staff continue with innovative instructional strategies through Cognitively Guided Instruction, Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop, student-centered learning, and inquiry-driven pedagogy, which is driven, in part, by an ongoing relationship with the Cotsen Foundation. Wiseburn also continues to benefit from the highly unique partnership with the DaVinci Schools where project-based, real world learning support and challenge all students to be college and career ready. In Wiseburn we are driven by our commitment to live up to the statement that “all means all.” Every child, every day provides a lens from which we can ensure our commitments of safety, student-centered and future ready students, community engagement, and organizational strength. We are proud of our continued growth and accomplishments.

Los Angeles County Office of Education

9300 Imperial Hwy., Downey, CA 90242 • 562/922-6360 • www.lacoe.edu

Leading Literacy



Leslie Zoroya
RLA Coordinator

Storytelling, especially as an oral tradition, is as old as time. Oral storytellers have been looked to as the center of communal life, telling and retelling the history, traditions and knowledge critical to preserving cultures and serving the needs of communities.

Fast forward to the 21st century – storytelling is still alive and well, especially in the information age. Along with blogs and vlogs, video channels and social media platforms, podcasting is a great way to reach a wide audience of listeners and share not just stories, but contextualized information that can enlighten, entertain and certainly, open hearts and minds.

Our podcast [Leading Literacy](#) began as a way to do all of those things. We were interested in presenting conversations with experts in the field that offer sound literacy research, insights, advice and practice.

Oddly, the pandemic has given us access to experts we might not have otherwise had. [Episode 3](#) with NYU professor and literacy researcher and practitioner Dr. Carolyn Strom was particularly noteworthy in offering strategies for closing the gaps between research and practice, especially in our earliest learners.

[Episode 8](#), with esteemed reading guru Dr. Louisa Moats, was nothing short of a thrill. Her 30-plus years of advocating for the science of reading research has shaped the field of reading instruction in indelible ways. Having her share what works with our listeners gave life to the theory, grounded in solid practice.



Leading Literacy has also allowed us to explore a variety of aspects of literacy instruction. Critical media literacy is an area of utmost concern in this Digital Age. In a time of rampant misinformation, propaganda and just a sheer avalanche of information to shift through, students need to have the skills of discernment. Questioning sources and bias analysis are absolutely essential for students to learn, as they seek to preserve our democracy and participate as informed citizens.

[Episode 7](#) features UCLA professor Dr. Jeff Share, an expert in the field of critical media literacy. His personal journey as both a classroom teacher and photojournalist abroad provides a unique lens through which to offer practical ways to teach these skills.

Our other primary goal with the podcast was also just *to listen*. We wanted to hear the voices of our own LA County teachers and students and give a platform for how they have coped in this unprecedented time and what they have learned about themselves and their work.

[Episode 11](#), Teacher Roundtable, pulls back the curtain on what our teachers on the frontline have experienced as they pivoted from the traditional classroom to distance learning. It is a compelling story of resilience and hope – one that we felt was sorely needed. An upcoming episode will feature the voices of students in LA County as they share their experiences as well.

Storytelling is a powerful medium and podcasting has been a wonderful way to expand the literacy stories in LA County as we seek to support and enlighten the educators we serve.

Leslie Zoroya is LACOE’s coordinator of Reading/Language Arts in the Division of Curriculum and Instructional Services.

She is an expert in K-12 reading, writing, listening and speaking; integrated ELD and culturally responsive teaching.

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