

School News

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SUPERINTENDENTS



Los Angeles County

**K-12
Public Schools**

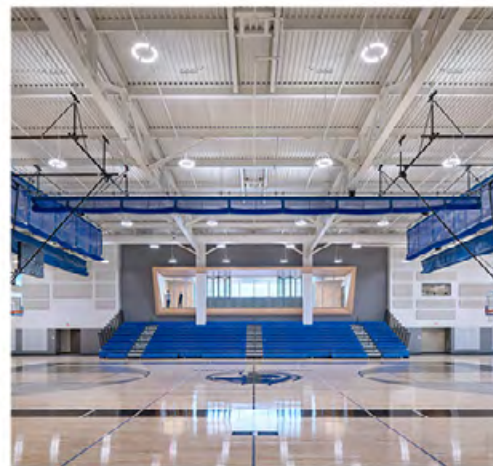
2026—2027

19th
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A Decade of Leadership: Expanding the Boundaries of Public Education



Dr. Debra Duardo
Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools

When I stepped into the role of county superintendent ten years ago, I believed I understood the work: support districts, improve instruction, manage systems. What I did not yet understand was how much that work would need to evolve or how important it would be to stay long enough to see that evolution through.

Because in ten years, you learn something essential about leadership: the work does not stand still, and neither can we.

Over time, the question shifted from “How do we improve schools?” to something far more complex: “What must schools become to truly meet the needs of the communities they serve?”

That shift has defined this past decade. And it required more than new ideas. It required the stability to carry forward difficult, long-term systems change.

For us, that evolution began with a population too often pushed to the margins: young people in the juvenile justice system.

Through our adoption of At-Promise language, we intentionally moved away from deficit-based labels like “at-risk” to an asset-based view of incarcerated youth. This was not about rebranding. It was about fundamentally changing how we see and respond to young people, restoring possibility where systems had too often imposed limits.

But changing language was only the beginning. Once we began to see these young people differently, it became impossible to justify systems that treated them as an afterthought.

That shift did not stay confined to juvenile court schools. It pushed us to rethink how we serve all students.

And that is where the real work begins because evolving systems is not a single decision. It is a sustained effort. It requires time, trust, and a willingness to confront what is not working.

With that broader lens, it became clear that improving outcomes required us to look both earlier and wider.

We expanded early education, Transitional Kindergarten, Universal Pre-Kindergarten, and Head Start, because inequities take root long before a child enters the K–12 system. At the same time, we scaled community schools across Los Angeles County, recognizing that barriers to learning often sit outside the classroom.

These were not isolated efforts. They were part of a larger shift in how we understand our responsibility.

If we are serious about student success, we cannot limit our work to instruction alone. We must build systems that respond to the full reality of students’ lives.

As this work deepened, so did the need to make it sustainable.

The creation of a Wellbeing Department marked a turning point in treating mental health and wellness as essential, not optional. We saw clearly what research has long shown: students cannot fully engage in learning if their basic needs are unmet or their mental health is unsupported.

But building systems like this requires more than vision. It requires stability, not to preserve what exists, but to stay long enough to evolve it.

Because the truth is, this kind of work is complex. It is often a heavy lift. And it does not happen on a short timeline.

That reality became even more apparent during moments of crisis.

During COVID-19, and again in response to the L.A. wildfires, schools became lifelines, providing food, stability, information, and connection for families navigating uncertainty. These roles extended far beyond academics, yet they were essential.

What those moments revealed was not just the scale of need, but the importance of the foundation we had been building.

Our work in community schools, wellbeing, and cross-agency coordination allowed us to respond with greater speed and coherence. Crisis did not redefine our role. It reinforced the direction we were already moving.

And it underscored another critical lesson: we cannot do this work alone.

The launch of the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation allowed us to expand partnerships across philanthropy, community organizations, and public systems because the challenges facing our students do not exist within one system, and neither can the solutions.

A decade into this work, one lesson stands out clearly: the role of public education is not static. It is expanding, and it must continue to evolve.

Our students are changing. Our communities are changing. Their needs, their challenges, and their aspirations are not fixed. If our systems are not evolving with them, we are not serving them well.

This is why stability matters, but not for the sake of maintaining the status quo.

Stability matters because it allows us to take on the hard work. To make the difficult decisions. To build, refine, and sometimes reimagine the systems we rely on.

It allows us to stay long enough to understand the people we serve and to ensure our systems meet them where they are, while helping propel them to where they want and need to be.

Ten years ago, I thought the work was about improving schools.

Today, I understand it differently.

Public education is not just a system of schools, it is a system that must continuously evolve to support the whole child and the whole community.

And our responsibility is not just to sustain it, but to keep building it forward.

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

This is our 19th 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.

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ABC Unified School District

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

Seen. Valued. Inspired.



Dr. Gina Zietlow
Superintendent

At ABC Unified School District, our work is grounded in a clear purpose: to prepare each student to thrive as a lifelong learner, a collaborative problem solver, an effective communicator, and an empathetic leader. We are committed to providing innovative, high-quality educational experiences in a safe, supportive environment where every student feels seen, valued, and inspired.

Serving more than 21,000 students from Preschool through Adult School across 30 schools, ABCUSD proudly serves the communities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, and portions of Lakewood, Long Beach, and Norwalk. For over 60 years, we have partnered with families to create meaningful opportunities for every student.

Our focus on academic excellence is unwavering. We offer 19 Career Technical Education pathways with more than 109 courses, providing students with real-world learning experiences in fields such as engineering, video game design, aviation, welding, and sports medicine. Approximately one-third of our secondary students are enrolled in Advanced Placement courses, and every student has access to a personal device to support their learning.

ABCUSD also leads in the responsible use of artificial intelligence. Through a collaborative, human-centered approach, we engage students, staff, and families to ensure AI enhances learning while maintaining a strong focus on ethics and relationships.

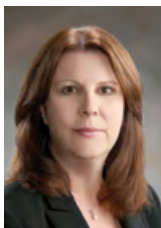
Our schools have earned nine National Blue Ribbon Schools, 18 California Distinguished Schools, 17 California Gold Ribbon Schools, two California Green Ribbon Schools, 19 Golden Bell Awards, and all five middle schools are National Schools to Watch.

At ABCUSD, we remain focused on ensuring every student is supported, challenged, and inspired every day.

Alhambra Unified School District

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

Student Voice and Academic Excellence



Dr. Denise R. Jaramillo
Superintendent

In our richly multicultural and multilingual community, the award-winning Alhambra Unified School District serves over 14,000 students across 18 campuses with a deep commitment to excellence, equity, and whole-child education.

Recent years have brought powerful growth in student leadership, with a student board member position and a 12-member elected Student Advisory Council, reinforcing our belief that student voice belongs at the heart of every decision. These structures ensure students help shape their educational experience while building confidence and civic responsibility.

Our commitment to academic excellence and equity is reflected in comprehensive support systems including Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, mental health and wellness services, and equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives.

AUSD continually demonstrates academic excellence with three Academic Decathlon teams advancing to state-level competition this year. Other recognitions include Distinguished Schools, Blue Ribbon awards, Golden Bell Awards, and a State and National Middle School to Watch.

For the third consecutive year, AUSD was named Best School District in the San Gabriel Valley by Southern California News Group readers, which also recognized AUSD as a Favorite Workplace for the third time. In recent years, the district has also celebrated three County Teachers of the Year and a California State Teacher of the Year.

With Dual Language Immersion programs in Mandarin and Spanish, VAPA and STEAM opportunities, Dual Enrollment courses, a \$259 million construction bond, and a newly-built early education center, AUSD continues to build innovative and inclusive learning environments where students thrive.

It is my privilege to serve a community where students come first and lead the way.

Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District

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

Staff Culture and Service Excellence Plan



Dr. Eric Sahakian
Superintendent

The Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District is implementing a long-term Staff Culture and Service Excellence Plan designed to strengthen student achievement by improving how we work together and serve our community.

At its core, this plan focuses on building a consistent, respectful, and service-oriented culture across the district. By prioritizing clear communication, professionalism, and collaboration, AADUSD is strengthening the systems that directly support teaching and learning. When staff work effectively together and maintain a student-first mindset, classrooms thrive, and student outcomes improve.

The plan begins at the District Office, where staff engage in structured customer service development, heighten shared expectations, and model strong communication practices. This foundation ensures leadership systems are aligned, responsive, and focused on supporting schools. Clear processes for communication and problem-solving improve efficiency and ensure families receive timely and consistent support.

In the next phase, this work will expand to school sites, equipping principals, teachers, and staff with the same tools and expectations. This strengthens a unified, district-wide approach where students and families experience consistency, care, and professionalism at every school.

The long-term goal is a sustainable culture rooted in kindness, accountability, and high expectations. As collaboration strengthens, the district anticipates stronger relationships with families, improved school environments, and enhanced student experiences.

Ultimately, this work reinforces AADUSD's commitment to high-quality instruction and student success. By investing in people, systems, and culture, the district is building the conditions necessary for all students to achieve at high levels.

Antelope Valley Union High School District

176 Holston Drive., Lancaster, CA 93535 • 661/948-7655 • www.avdistrict.org

Measurable Progress



Greg Nehen
Superintendent

One year after launching a comprehensive strategic plan, AVUHSD is seeing measurable progress in transforming student outcomes. Guided by the mission to "DREAM, ASPIRE, ACHIEVE," the District has moved from the planning phase into a period of tangible results focused on student readiness and equity.

Current progress relies on four central priorities. To ensure inclusive excellence, resources are being directed to all learners to close achievement gaps. On the instructional side, classrooms are integrating modern technology with a focus on critical thinking to meet the demands of the 21st-century workforce.

Recognizing that academic success is tied to mental health, we have prioritized social-emotional well-being and expanded these supports to create more stable campus environments. This internal work is being bolstered by strengthened community partnerships that link local businesses and families to educational goals.

Our objective is to ensure every student is prepared for the future, whether they pursue a four-year degree or a technical career path. By fostering a culture of lifelong learning, the AVUHSD aims to produce graduates capable of navigating a shifting economy. Backed by dedicated educators and community partnerships, our schools continue to position themselves as the foundation for the Antelope Valley's next generation of leadership and innovation.

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.
— John Dewey

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Arcadia Unified School District

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

Imagine, Inquire, Inspire



Dr. David Vannasdall
Superintendent

As 2026 unfolds, we continue to be deeply honored and inspired by the recognition Arcadia Unified School District has received in the latest Niche rankings: placing in the top 1% of Best School Districts in the Nation, ranked #9 Best School District in California, and #1 in Los Angeles County for Best Places to Teach. These distinctions reflect the dedication and passion our students, educators, staff, families, and community bring each day.

This year has also been marked by moments of pride and celebration across our community. We were honored to have two Rose Princesses, including Serena Guo, who was crowned the 2026 Rose Queen, an extraordinary achievement that highlights the excellence and character of our students. Additionally, the Arcadia High School Marching Band proudly marched down Colorado Boulevard for the 18th time in its history as part of the iconic Rose Parade, representing our district with grace and dignity in this historic New Year's tradition.

These continued acknowledgments reinforce the importance of the values we live by: Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Empathy, and Resilience. These principles guide our mission to provide every student with a transformative educational experience that nurtures both academic excellence and emotional well-being.

Looking ahead, we are inspired by the incredible potential within our collective efforts, from teachers, counselors, and students to parents, administrators, and community partners. Together, we remain dedicated to empowering our learners to grow into compassionate, innovative, and impactful individuals.

With ongoing dedication, collaboration, and a shared sense of purpose, we look forward to reaching new milestones that enrich the student experience. As the year progresses, there is a strong sense of optimism for what lies ahead and for all we will accomplish together in building a bright and meaningful future for our school community.

Azusa Unified School District

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

Innovators. Leaders. Changemakers.



Arturo Ortega
Superintendent

The Azusa Unified School District (AUSD) proudly serves over 6,000 students across 12 schools in the San Gabriel Valley, offering a comprehensive education from Preschool through Adult Education. AUSD provides an engaging, rigorous journey where every student has the opportunity to thrive.

High-quality Preschool is now available at every AUSD elementary site, providing a strong academic foundation. Students explore through hands-on STEM activities, Visual Arts, and PE, with access to music programs such as Band, Choir, Mariachi, and Orchestra. To support families, every elementary school offers a free before and after-school program from 6:30 AM to 6:30 PM. AUSD also leads in biliteracy through

Spanish- and Mandarin-Dual-Language Immersion programs, giving students a distinct competitive edge.

The journey toward excellence continues at Gladstone Middle School's College and Career Ready labs, which align with award-winning high school pathways in Engineering, Health Science, and Automotive Technology. The California Department of Education recently recognized our Dual Enrollment partnership with Citrus College with the California Exemplary Dual Enrollment Award! Our Dual Enrollment program allows students to earn college credit at no cost, and many graduate with an Associate of Arts degree from Citrus College.

AUSD's TK-12 Visual and Performing Arts program and competitive athletics foster teamwork and school pride. Dedicated to fostering critical thinking and compassionate leadership, AUSD ensures every student finds their passion and pathway to success. Our graduates consistently earn acceptance to top-tier universities and receive significant scholarships. AUSD students are innovators, leaders, and changemakers. Discover more about our educational community at azusa.org.

Baldwin Park Unified School District

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

Ensuring High Achievement for All Learners



Dr. Froilan N. Mendoza
Superintendent

Baldwin Park Unified School District is building momentum in ways that are both purposeful and inspiring. Guided by core priorities centered on academics, safe and supportive schools, and maintaining fiscal responsibility, the District is not only advancing student achievement, but also shaping experiences that prepare learners for life beyond the classroom.

Across every level, students are engaging in dynamic, hands-on learning that sparks curiosity and builds confidence. Our Early Childhood Education program offers enhanced learning spaces designed to nurture our youngest learners during their most critical years. At the elementary level, classrooms excelling through innovative technology and collaborative teaching practices that are driving literacy growth. In our middle schools, students are finding their voice and building connections through expanded social-emotional supports and enrichment opportunities—from theater and culinary arts to targeted wellness workshops.

At the high school level, our Career Technical Education programs are growing, featuring innovative medical pathways, alongside the launch of the new Spyder Media Print Lab. Beyond K-12, Baldwin Park Adult and Community Education is expanding access to career-ready programs in high demand fields such as electrical and roofing—creating pathways to meaningful employment.

Serving eight elementary schools, a 3rd through 8th grade BP STEM Academy, three middle schools, two comprehensive high schools, one continuation high school, and robust early childhood and adult education programs, Baldwin Park Unified offers a comprehensive and cohesive educational experience. Through innovation, collaboration, and a clear vision for the future, the District continues to create spaces where students are encouraged to explore, achieve, and lead.

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Bassett Unified School District

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

Opportunity through Strategic Innovation



Dr. Julie Harrison
Interim
Superintendent

Bassett Unified School District is bringing its strategic plan to life with a focused investment in high school programs that expand opportunity and prepare students for the future. At Bassett, this vision is clear: every student has access to meaningful pathways that connect learning to college, career, and life.

In the upcoming school year, Bassett will launch four new Career Technical Education pathways in Certified Nurse Assistant, HVAC, Construction, and Graphic Design. These additions build on a growing CTE program designed to provide students with real-world skills and industry-aligned experiences. Combined with existing offerings, Bassett now ensures students

have access to a full range of options, including dual enrollment college courses, Advanced Placement, and CTE pathways.

The impact is already evident. The district's College and Career Indicator has increased by more than 13 percent in a single year, an important measure reflecting students' readiness for life after graduation. This growth underscores the district's commitment to aligning programs with student goals and workforce needs.

Student success stories highlight what is possible. Bassett proudly celebrates a member of the Class of 2026 who has earned the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship, a testament to both individual achievement and the strength of the district's programs.

At Bassett Unified, opportunity is not a concept, it is a commitment. With a strategic focus on access, relevance, and student success, the district continues to ensure that every graduate leaves prepared for what comes next.

Beverly Hills Unified School District

624 N. Rexford Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210 • 310/551-5100 • www.bhusd.org

A New Standard for Public Education



Dr. Alex Cherniss
Superintendent

Families from across the nation are drawn to Beverly Hills Unified School District for its commitment to Educational Excellence, a standard that is not simply stated, but experienced by our students each day.

As Superintendent, it is a privilege to lead a district where every decision is guided by intention. In BHUSD, we believe that environment, opportunity, and culture work together to shape not only how students learn, but who they become.

This year represents a defining moment for BHUSD, as a series of transformative projects come to completion across the district. At Beverly Hills High School, the addition of new athletic facilities, a state-of-the-art auditorium, the reopening of the historic Salter Family Theatre, and the introduction of the BHHS Grand Lawn collectively reflect a campus experience designed for both excellence and belonging.

Beyond our facilities, our focus remains firmly on the opportunities we create for students. From transitional kindergarten through 12th grade, students engage in more than 40 college and career pathways, supported by acclaimed programs in Gifted and Talented Education, Multilingual Learning, and Specialized Academic Instruction, as well as comprehensive services that ensure every learner is known, supported, and challenged.

As education continues to evolve alongside rapid advancements in technology and artificial intelligence, we are preparing students not only to succeed in the future, but to lead within it.

BHUSD proudly serves approximately 3,100 students across four schools. Learn more at bhusd.org/pathways.

Bellflower Unified School District

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

An Inclusive Environment



Dr. Erin M. Simon
Superintendent

At Bellflower Unified School District, our motto for this year is "Every Student Known. Every Voice Valued. Every School Ready." This commitment drives us to foster an inclusive environment where students not only feel seen but truly heard.

We celebrate significant progress with increased attendance and graduation rates, demonstrating our dedication to student achievement. Our accomplishments transcend barriers of gender, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, allowing all students to thrive. A notable highlight of this year includes our historic recognition of the Las Flores Home Independent Study Academy as a California School to Watch, marking a milestone for our district.

Bellflower students engage in diverse learning experiences through our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) initiatives, dual language immersion programs, and award-winning athletics. They also have access to career technical education pathways, including e-sports, aviation, construction, and marketing. Our goal is to prepare our graduates to be college and career-ready so they can confidently step into the real world.

We are particularly proud of our dual enrollment program, where Mayfair and Bellflower High School students earn both a high school diploma and an Associate degree from Cerritos College. Additionally, our dedicated AI design team is developing a framework to harness artificial intelligence in enhancing education.

On behalf of our Board of Education and the entire Bellflower Unified family, I invite you to visit our district. Experience firsthand the commitment we share to the academic and personal growth of every student.

Bonita Unified School District

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

Driven by Purpose, Defined by Excellence



Matthew Wien
Superintendent

Bonita Unified School District remains a beacon of educational excellence in the community, expanding opportunities for students and setting the standard for achievement across the region by living The Bonita Way.

Bonita Unified continues to perform at the highest academic levels, with students achieving the District's highest-ever scores on state assessments and significantly outperforming state averages.

Across our arts and athletics programs, Bonita Unified students are performing at an elite level, exemplifying a culture of competitive excellence and creative distinction. In the last year student-athletes have secured 18 league championships, three CIF team titles and four individual CIF championships.

The District's performing arts programs also earned widespread recognition, with more than 30 students selected to Southern California honor choirs and programs receiving superior ratings at major festivals.

In career technical education, students are translating classroom learning into real-world success and earning national titles in the process. Bonita High School culinary students captured first place in a national EcoLab food truck competition, while San Dimas High School captured California ProStart Cup and National ProStart Invitational titles, both marking historic firsts for the District and underscoring our dedication to career preparation.

These accomplishments are made possible through the passion of our educators, the support of our families and community, and the resilience of our students. By continuing to invest in equitable access to opportunities that lead to measurable outcomes, Bonita Unified is ensuring every student is prepared to live their purpose.

Centinela Valley Union High School District

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

Supporting the Whole Student



Dr. Stephen Nellman
Superintendent

Serving the South Bay communities of Hawthorne, Lawndale, and Lennox, Centinela Valley Union High School District is committed to ensuring every student graduates prepared for college, career, and life. Our Graduate Profile reflects this vision, emphasizing effective communication, ethical leadership, critical thinking, and social awareness.

CVUHSD prioritizes the development of the whole student by fostering safe, engaging, and academically rigorous learning environments. Students have access to diverse opportunities, including an Early College program, Career Technical Education pathways, dual enrollment and certification programs, the State Seal of Biliteracy and Civic Engagement, AVID, honors and Advanced Placement courses, and comprehensive College and Career Centers.

To support student success, we provide integrated academic and social-emotional supports. Equity Coordinators, Intervention Specialists, and Wellness Center teams collaborate to ensure students are supported and connected. Inclusive practices, including co-taught courses, expand access to rigorous learning for students with disabilities.

As we prepare students for a rapidly evolving world, CVUHSD is advancing the thoughtful integration of technology and artificial intelligence to enhance teaching and learning while maintaining a strong focus on privacy and responsible use.

Grounded in a commitment to academic opportunities, supporting students, and equitable practices, CVUHSD places students first in every decision. For more information, please call (310) 263-3172.

Castaic Union School District

28131 Livingston Ave., Valencia, CA 91355 • 661/257-4500 • www.castaicusd.com

Empowering Every Student to CLIMB



Bob Brauneisen
Superintendent

For over 135 years, the Castaic Union School District (CUSD) has served as a cornerstone of excellence in northern Los Angeles County. Today, across four vibrant campuses, nearly 1,900 students engage in a personalized learning journey where passion and purpose intersect. This commitment to excellence was recently highlighted by Castaic Middle School being named a 2026 California Distinguished School.

Central to the district's growth is the Castaic Learning Initiative for Mastery and Beyond (CLIMB) with the focus on elevating educational outcomes for all learners. By integrating social and emotional learning with rigorous academic standards, CLIMB ensures students develop essential life skills, resilience, empathy, and self-awareness all within a culture of safety. This holistic approach ensures every child is equipped to reach their peak.

CUSD's success is rooted in teacher clarity. By ensuring students understand both the "what" and the "why" of every lesson, educators empower learners to take ownership of their progress, building the grit and confidence necessary for modern challenges.

A true hallmark of the district is its commitment to full inclusion. In CUSD classrooms, students of all abilities learn side-by-side. By celebrating differences as collective strengths, the district fosters an environment of belonging that prepares students to thrive in a diverse world. Through intentional instruction and inclusive practices, CUSD transforms opportunity into achievement, nurturing the academic rigor and personal growth required for a lifetime of success.

Charter Oak Unified School District

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

This Is Home



Dr. Danny Kim
Superintendent

For 130 years, Charter Oak Unified School District has served as a cornerstone of its community, grounded in strong relationships, local pride, and a shared commitment to student success. We are proud to be a small but mighty district where continuity, connection, and purpose shape our work.

More than 10 percent of our employees are Charter Oak alumni, and many staff members live in the communities we serve. This deep-rooted connection fosters a culture of trust, stability, and collective responsibility. Being part of COUSD is more than affiliation; it is identity.

Our students and staff demonstrate exceptional pride in their schools and programs. Charter Oak provides rigorous and relevant learning opportunities supported by nationally and state-ranked programs, including the nation's top-rated Sports Medicine pathway, California's top-ranked Marching Regiment, award-winning drama and choir departments, and athletic teams that regularly earn CIF titles. These offerings reflect a districtwide focus on student growth, engagement, and whole-child development.

Charter Oak Unified is guided by a culture of collaboration and shared leadership. Our Board of Trustees, district leadership team, and site administrators work closely together to ensure decisions remain focused on students, community trust, and long-term sustainability. This alignment allows our district to remain agile, innovative, and deeply connected to the needs of those we serve.

At Charter Oak Unified, we believe strong communities build strong schools. We honor our legacy, remain grounded in our values, and stay focused on preparing the next generation of learners, leaders, and citizens.

This is Home. This is Charter Oak.

Claremont Unified School District

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

A Place of Belonging



Dr. James Elsasser
Superintendent

Claremont Unified School District continues its commitment to the whole child with the opening of the CUSD Student and Family Resource Center and the expansion of restorative practices through the REACH Network. Together, these initiatives advance The CUSD Commitment, the district's strategic plan, by strengthening Focus Area 2: The Whole Child and deepening connections that help every student thrive.

In February, the district celebrated the ribbon cutting of the Student and Family Resource Center located on the Oakmont Outdoor School campus. Designed as a welcoming hub, the Center brings together essential supports, services, and partnerships that strengthen well-being and student success. It reflects our district's Core Values advancing Excellence through support for students and families, Equity by broadening access to resources, Integrity by honoring the community's diverse experiences, and Innovation through a collaborative space for connection.

Complementing this hub is the district's work with the REACH (Race, Education, and Community Healing) Network. In July 2024, CUSD joined the inaugural cohort as one of ten California districts, led by UCLA's Center for the Transformation of Schools and the UC Berkeley School of Education. Its focus is reducing racial disparities, transforming exclusionary discipline practices, and improving school climate for all students.

Through the work of teacher leaders, Geoff Payton, Martin Renteria, and Vince Rouzan, restorative practices are expanding at El Roble Intermediate, San Antonio High, and Claremont High. Community-building circles, restorative conferences, and structures aligned with PBIS strengthen relationships and intentionally build community while addressing conflict through accountability and repair.

Together, these efforts shape a district where connection, healing, and belonging remain at the heart of every student's journey.

Covina-Valley Unified School District

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

Innovative Education. Unlimited Potential.



Dr. Jonathan Blackmore
Superintendent

Covina-Valley Unified is a destination district where students explore hands-on college and career pathways, engage in rigorous academics, and participate in enriching extracurriculars. Together, these offerings create an innovative education that inspires every student's unlimited potential.

Our three comprehensive high schools offer standout academic programs that enable students to earn college credits before graduation. Our International Baccalaureate Programme, Early College Pathway, Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma, and dual enrollment courses give students a head start on their college journeys.

Through 24 unique Career Technical Education pathways, students develop real-world skills in a variety of industries, including aviation, medical, business, culinary, and agriscience. These programs provide valuable hands-on experiences that help students discover their passions and prepare for future careers.

Covina-Valley Unified is home to strong athletics programs that build teamwork, discipline, and school spirit. This year, our South Hills High School competitive cheer team earned back-to-back titles at the 2026 CIF-SS Division 2AA Championships and the USA Spirit Nationals Competition. Our wrestling programs also continue to excel, with opportunities available at all three middle schools that feed into the high school level.

These many outstanding programs have earned Covina-Valley Unified numerous prestigious honors, including a 2026 California Distinguished School and Model Continuation High School designation. Our District has also been recognized by the *U.S. News & World Report*, Innovate Public Schools, and the Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll. With dedicated educators, engaged families, and a supportive community, Covina-Valley Unified continues to provide a safe, high-quality learning environment where every student can succeed.

Compton Unified School District

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

Educational Excellence in Action



Dr. Darin Brawley
Superintendent

Compton Unified School District continues to raise the bar for student success with exceptional outcomes and national recognition. In 2025–26, CUSD achieved a 94% graduation rate and a 95% college acceptance rate—ranking #1 in both LA County and statewide among districts of similar size and demographics. CUSD also had the top A–G completion rate in California among similar districts, while Dominguez High School's 96% A–G completion rate was one of the highest in the state.

The district earned a 2026 Golden Bell Award for its Impactful 4th Grade Reading Program, while Compton Early College Middle School was named a 2025 National Blue Ribbon School. Five schools—Compton, Compton Early College, Davis, Dominguez, and Whaley—were recognized as 2026 California Distinguished Schools. Additionally, 11 schools earned 2025 ERP Honor Roll recognition, while CUSD was also named a top-performing district. Foster ES was named an NCUST 2026 America's Best Schools Finalist, and Kelly ES was as a 2026 California School to Watch.

At the secondary level, Compton Early College, Compton, and Dominguez High School were named 2025 AP Honor Roll Schools, with Compton Early College and Compton earning the prestigious Exemplary Dual Enrollment Awards.

Athletics thrived, with the Dominguez High School Cheer Team winning a State Championship and Tennis Team earning back-to-back league titles. Multiple CUSD high school teams advanced to the CIF playoffs—highlighting well-rounded excellence across the district.

CUSD continues to invest in transformative learning environments, opening the new \$225 million Compton High School campus in August and holding the groundbreaking of the new \$270 million Centennial High School in May.

Culver City Unified School District

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

High Academic Standards and Achievement



Dr. Alfonso Jimenez
Superintendent

Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) continues to cement its reputation for high academic standards and inclusivity. Consistently ranked as one of California's most diverse districts, CCUSD has seen remarkable success recently. In just the past three years, El Marino (2024), Linwood Howe (2025), and La Ballona (2025) have all earned Distinguished School honors. Additionally, Culver City Middle is a designated California School to Watch, while Culver High is recognized as a California Democracy School.

The district's performance on the California School Dashboard is equally impressive. CCUSD is one of only two districts in Los Angeles County to show growth across every measured category, including English Learner Progress and Mathematics. The standout achievement was a 97.2% graduation rate, which earned the highest "blue" rating and received statewide recognition from the California Department of Education.

Beyond traditional academics, CCUSD is a leader in holistic education through our Elementary Arts Innovation program (art, music, and dance) in all five elementary schools. Through our Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) program, our students receive solid preparation for future careers in film, music, theatre, and game design CTE pathways. With robotics and the speech and debate program on the competitive rise, the future is bright for our students. Furthermore, CCUSD remains a pioneer in dual-language immersion, having launched California's first Spanish and Japanese programs which now serve as national models. These achievements reflect a forward-thinking approach to public education and the tireless dedication of CCUSD students, teachers, staff, and the entire community.

Downey Unified School District

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

Excellence through Innovation



Dr. Roger Brossmer
Superintendent

Downey Unified School District is located approximately 12 miles southeast of Los Angeles and within convenient driving distance of California's scenic beaches and mountains. Long recognized as a high performing public school system, Downey Unified is committed to academic excellence, innovation, and student wellbeing. Guided by the belief that Our Kids Deserve the Best, this commitment shapes daily practices across the district.

Serving a vibrant and diverse community, Downey Unified maintains a strong record of student success, including a 96 percent graduation rate. The district continues to expand rigorous learning opportunities, including the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) designation at Sussman Middle School, the Downey Unified Sports Academy, and more than 25 Career Technical Education pathways that prepare students for college and career success.

Innovation is a defining strength of Downey Unified. Thirteen elementary schools and two middle schools are designated as Apple Distinguished Schools, making Downey Unified the only unified school district in the world to earn this distinction at such scale. This international honor reflects excellence in technology integration, creativity, and student-centered instruction. STEAM opportunities, including robotics and coding, begin as early as Transitional Kindergarten and continue through high school, supported by state-of-the-art facilities and award-winning athletics.

Student wellness is a top priority. Each of the district's 21 schools offers a Wellness Center, providing access to licensed mental health professionals during the school day. Complementing academics and wellness, the nationally recognized CHARACTER COUNTS! program reinforces the Six Pillars of Character, preparing students for success in school, work, and life. We invite families to discover what makes Downey Unified a destination district.

Duarte Unified School District

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

A Place Where Students Thrive



Dr. Jessica Medrano
Superintendent

At Duarte Unified School District, this year has been defined by purpose, progress, and a deep commitment to student success. Across our schools, we are strengthening our system, building strong relationships, and expanding opportunities so every student is prepared for college, career, and life.

We have focused on strengthening instruction in every classroom. Through collaboration with school leaders, classroom visits, and a renewed emphasis on Professional Learning Communities, we are creating a more aligned and engaging learning experience for all students. Our educators continue to grow together, ensuring that every child has access to high-quality teaching and meaningful learning.

We are also building strong connections with our families and community. Open houses, school events, and Community Education Council conversations have created opportunities to listen, share, and partner in support of our students. Clear and consistent communication remains a priority as we continue to strengthen trust and engagement.

Duarte Unified offers a wide range of opportunities that help students explore their interests and plan for the future. Events such as Duarte High School's 9th Grade Preview Day and our middle school showcases highlight the pathways available to students, while partnerships with Citrus College and City of Hope provide real-world learning experiences and college opportunities.

Duarte Unified is a place where students are supported, challenged, and inspired. Enroll today at www.duarteusd.org and discover what makes Duarte Unified a place where students thrive!

East Whittier City School District

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

Opening the Door to Every Child's Future



Dr. Marc Patterson
Superintendent

At EWCSD, success isn't just measured by academic achievement, but by development of the five essential skills of Creativity, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, and Community. That's why we go beyond the conventional curriculum to offer a wide array of enrichment opportunities aimed at discovering new passions, fostering creativity, and developing leadership traits. From academic clubs to our dance program, students have the opportunity to explore interests beyond the classroom. EWCSD's Broad Course of Study initiative also offers students valuable opportunities to develop 21st century skills during the instructional day. Our STEM classes ignite innovation among students and prepare them for the challenges of tomorrow's world. In addition, our art and music programs nurture self-expression and imagination, allowing students to try new things and become more creative. Our extended P.E. program builds teamwork qualities and enhances personal growth. We also believe in the importance of empowering student voice through leadership opportunities. Through our Student Advisory Committee and the Student Board Member programs, EWCSD is building a foundation of success for students that will pay dividends far beyond their time in our district. Students in these leadership roles learn the importance of collaboration, community involvement, and communication to enhance their school communities. In light of our efforts in this area, we were very proud to earn a CSBA Golden Bell Award for Student Leadership this past year. By empowering students to excel academically, socially, and personally, we are working each day to accomplish our mission of "Opening the Door to Every Child's Future."

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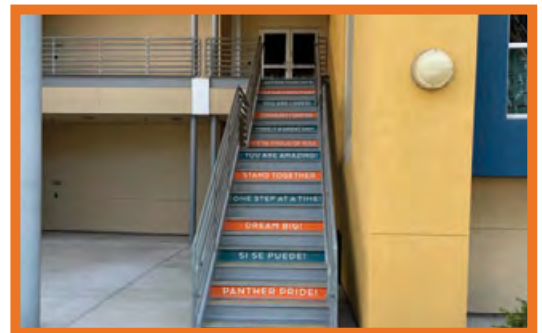
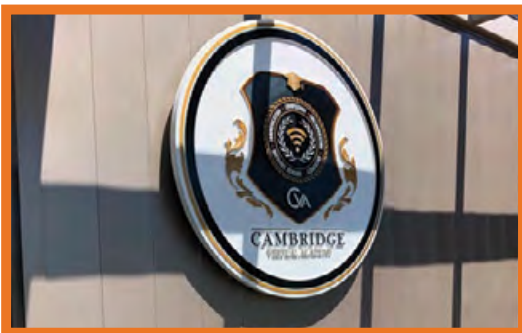
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Eastside Union School District

44938 North 30th Street East, Lancaster, CA 93535 • 661/952-1200 • www.eastsideusd.org

Advancing Student Success



Dr. Jezelle Fullwood
Superintendent

The Eastside Union School District (EUSD) continues to make strides in student success by focusing on key pillars: improved attendance, academic outcomes, social-emotional learning.

Increasing Attendance and Student Engagement: EUSD has placed an emphasis on school attendance. Coordinated strategies that address barriers and support engagement are vital. Measurable progress, including an increase in student attendance and a reduction of chronic absenteeism, reflects the focus on early intervention, family outreach, and support systems.

Strengthening Academic Achievement: The EUSD focuses on student-centered instruction to improve outcomes.

We collaborate across schools to align curriculum, refine practices, and monitor progress. Our approach is built around data-driven decision making and support systems to ensure students receive what they need. Aligning instructional strategies with behavioral and social emotional supports creates a framework that promotes growth and equitable outcomes. This work resulted in all schools exiting Comprehensive School Improvement (CSI)!

Expanding Social-Emotional Learning: Student well-being is tied to academic success. Social-emotional learning (SEL) is a focus and EUSD is expanding programs to develop wellness, resilience, and positive relationships. We focus on integrating SEL competencies into classroom experiences and a value empathy, belonging, and wellness. Teams are also strengthening Coordination of Services Teams (COST) and other support systems to ensure timely academic, behavioral, and emotional support.

A Vision for the Future: Looking ahead, we remain focused on continuous improvement and innovation. Our approach—combining academic excellence, student wellness, strong attendance, and community collaboration—reflects a belief that educating the whole child is the key to long-term success.

El Monte Union High School District

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

Excellence in Action, Thriving Together.



Dr. Edward A. Zuniga
Superintendent

El Monte Union High School District continues to build momentum, with student success across academics, athletics, the arts, and college and career pathways, while fostering an inclusive environment where student and family voices are valued.

Leading the way, El Monte High School was named a 2026 California Distinguished School by the California Department of Education, recognizing its efforts to close the achievement gap.

Across the District, students are making an impact in and beyond the classroom. At Arroyo High School, one senior helped launch the District's Dietary Inclusion Council, while another earned Edison Scholar honors with plans to pursue a degree in electrical and communications engineering. Four EMUHSD students also earned QuestBridge National College Match scholarships, securing admission to top universities, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northwestern University, Claremont McKenna College, and Princeton University.

Students have also excelled in arts, athletics, and extracurricular competition. Musicians from South El Monte and Mountain View represented the District in the 2026 Tournament of Roses Honor Band, while athletic teams captured CIF-Southern Section titles. The District also celebrated its first two national cheer championships from El Monte High School.

El Monte Union also continues to prioritize family engagement through programs like the Parent Involvement Academy, workshops, and events that provide families with tools to support student success. The District also recognizes its parent volunteers annually for their contributions to school communities with festive luncheons, certificate presentations, and more.

Together, these efforts reflect a District on the rise, driven by student achievement, strong partnerships, and a shared commitment to student well-being and success.

El Monte City School District

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

A New Strategic Plan



Dr. Maribel Garcia
Superintendent

This year, El Monte City School District proudly launched a new Strategic Plan that is already shaping how we support students, staff, and families across our community. Grounded in months of collaboration with teachers, students, families, administrators, and community partners, the plan reflects both our shared values and our commitment to the future.

Our vision—*Nurturing young minds to achieve beyond limits*—and our mission—*We empower generations through learning, leadership, and community*—build on the strong foundation of our district while guiding the next phase of our work to expand opportunity and strengthen outcomes for every student.

Across EMCSD, this vision is already coming to life. Instructional teams are working collaboratively to analyze student learning and refine strategies that ensure strong, consistent support for all learners. At the same time, we are expanding meaningful experiences that connect learning to the real world through study trips, hands-on exploration, performances, and enrichment opportunities that help students discover their interests and talents.

We are also continuing to invest in our learning environments, with updated classroom furniture and enhanced outdoor spaces designed to support student engagement, wellness, and sustainability.

Most importantly, this work reflects a shared commitment across our District community. Together, we are building the conditions that allow every child to feel supported, inspired, and prepared to achieve beyond limits.

El Rancho Unified School District

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

Wide Array of Enriching Opportunities



Doro Soto Delgado
Interim Superintendent

The El Rancho Unified School District (ERUSD) remains committed to academic excellence, student safety, and overall well-being. Serving approximately 7,000 students across 14 schools in Pico Rivera, ERUSD provides a comprehensive TK-12 and adult education program. The district includes award-winning campuses, with three middle schools recognized as Schools to Watch and Birney Tech Academy named a California Distinguished School.

Students benefit from a wide range of programs, including Project Lead the Way, robotics, Academic Decathlon, athletics, and music, as well as academic pathways such as Dual Language (Spanish), Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), AVID, and Career Technical Education (CTE). These opportunities ensure students are well-prepared for college, careers, and lifelong success.

ERUSD continues to invest in modern facilities, celebrating the opening of four renovated elementary Multi-Purpose Rooms and the reopening of the high school's modernized main gym. Construction is also underway on a new science building and performing arts center at El Rancho High School.

The district's progress is driven by dedicated staff and strong Board leadership, united in a shared vision of student success. A comprehensive mental health program, aligned with MTSS, provides prevention and intervention services, with full-time counselors at every school and expanding Wellness Centers.

El Rancho Adult School supports lifelong learning through GED, ESL, paraprofessional, medical training, and citizenship programs.

El Segundo Unified School District

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

Career Pathway Experiences



Dr. Jason Johnson
Superintendent

At El Segundo Unified School District, we believe students are best prepared for the future when learning extends beyond the classroom and into the real world. Our Career Pathway Experience (CPE) initiative is designed to do just that, creating meaningful connections between students, local industry, and the broader community. There is no city better suited to provide as dynamic career experiences as El Segundo where innovative industry has taken off.

Through CPE, students engage in a continuum of experiences, from career awareness and exploration to hands-on preparation. Opportunities include classroom speakers, informational interviews, job shadowing, field trips, internships, and employment. These experiences allow students to see the relevance of their learning, build professional skills, and begin to envision their future pathways with confidence.

What makes this work especially powerful is our community. Local businesses and organizations are not just partners, they are co-educators. By opening their doors, they help students understand the expectations, skills, and opportunities within real professions while strengthening the future workforce of El Segundo.

This year marks an important milestone for our district. We are proud to share that more than 300 students will complete the CPE graduation requirement of 50 hours of career or volunteer experience. This represents not only a significant accomplishment for our students, but also a reflection of the El Segundo community's investment in its young people.

Glendale Unified School District

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

Preparing Our Students for a Bright Future



Dr. Darneika Watson
Superintendent

Glendale Unified School District has a long and proud history of serving students and families with excellence. Our schools are deeply rooted in the community, with generations of families returning year after year. These are places where students are known, supported, and encouraged to grow into confident, capable learners.

Glendale Unified serves students and families representing 97 countries and more than 50 languages, creating a rich, global learning environment across our schools. This diversity is reflected in our dual language immersion offerings in seven languages, including Armenian, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, with an eighth program in Western Armenian launching in 2028.

With 10 schools recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools and 26 named California Distinguished Schools, our students continue to achieve at exceptional levels, reflecting rigor, innovation, and dedication across our campuses. Students also benefit from a wide range of opportunities, including innovative magnet pathways in STEM and the arts as well as Career Technical Education programs that begin as early as middle school.

Through partnerships with our local colleges, students can earn college credit while still in high school, helping them take meaningful steps toward their future goals.

We are equally focused on supporting the whole child. Wellness centers at every middle and high school provide students with access to mental health resources, while our educators work each day to create safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environments.

Above all, Glendale Unified is a community that values education and works together to support every student. We remain committed to ensuring each student is prepared for success in college, career, and life.

Garvey School District

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

YOU Matter!



Anita Chu
Superintendent

Garvey School District celebrates the unique talents and contributions of every one of our students, families, and staff in achieving our collective mission.

Every Student Matters: Garvey embraces the core belief that every student, regardless of their diverse cultural and learning backgrounds, is a leader and can further their growth in a nurturing learning community. Resources are dedicated to support high-priority students to unleash their full potential. We continue to reinvigorate signature programs, including the "Leader in Me," Dual Language Plus, STEAM, and Dual Enrollment programs to promote global leaders with multi-lingual, multi-cultural, and cognitive competencies.

Every Family Matters: Garvey values every family and the cultural assets each brings to attain the mission of developing the whole child. Through partnerships with community agencies, we offer ongoing parent education to expand parent and family capacity in providing academic support at home, we conduct physical and mental health workshops; and we offer families on-campus health services. The array of support programs and services exemplify our commitment to celebrating each family and promoting their continued growth.

Every Staff Matters: Every staff member, with our unique passion and talents, serves in different roles and contributes to the team synergy essential to the attainment of the collective vision. With a robust system of mutual accountability and support, we collaborate, support and hold one another accountable for fulfilling our responsibilities. Each of our teammates is a unique and significant piece of the Garvey masterpiece!

Despite the prevailing challenges, Garvey stays committed to recognizing every student, every family, and every staff as leaders and investing in their continued development. Everyone matters!

Glendora Unified School District

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

The Very Best in Education Since 1961



Dr. Dominic J. DiGrazia
Superintendent

Recently, Glendora USD (GUSD) received the exciting news that Goddard & Sandburg Middle Schools, and Glendora High School (GHS) have been recognized as 2026 California Distinguished Schools, the highest level of state recognition that a school can achieve. Further, Glendora High School is ranked in the top 12% of all high schools in the state, through the annual rankings published by US News & World Report.

Congressman Gil Cisneros recently presented a check for federal funding in the amount of \$1.2 million to Sandburg Middle School to go towards refurbishing their Track & Field area in the jointly utilized space with the City of Glendora. Special thanks to the City of Glendora for submitting a successful application on behalf of the students, staff, and greater Glendora community, as well to Congressman Cisneros and his staff for bringing it to fruition.

Sandburg MS received further great news a few weeks ago that they have also been recognized by the California Department of Education as an award-winning Green Ribbon School! Sandburg's Spartan Garden clinched the recognition thanks to the garden's innovation, community impact, and conservation efforts. Job well done Spartans!

GUSD students are making a lasting impact across the District at all ten of our school sites, as we service students from ages 2-22, offering programs that fit each student's needs, desires, and passions. We create intentional belonging spaces for students, families, and staff as we blend a unique balance of time-honored traditions with new, innovative practices and programs.

We look forward to making the 2026-2027 school year our best year yet!

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

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

Unlocking Student Dreams



John Roach
Superintendent

In Hacienda La Puente Unified School District, we are committed to 'Unlocking Student Dreams' by providing rigorous learning opportunities supported by culturally responsive evidence-based teaching practices. I am honored to serve our students and families in partnership with our exceptional teachers, classified staff and leadership team, building upon the District's long standing success.

HLPUSD continues to demonstrate growth in English Language Arts, Mathematics and College and Career Readiness as measured by the California School Dashboard. Our youngest students have an opportunity to enroll in various early childhood development programs throughout our District. In elementary and middle school, students may participate in Dual Language Immersion (DLI) programs in Korean, Mandarin or Spanish. With our ongoing Prop 28 funding, we continue to enhance and enrich our visual and performing arts opportunities for students at all grade levels. In high school, students have hands-on opportunities in Career Technical Education (CTE) courses across multiple industry sectors, may earn college credits for free in our early college academy network in partnership with Mt. San Antonio College (MSAC), or participate in our Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

With ongoing support from our community, students are provided with opportunities to learn in modernized, safe and inclusive classrooms, funded by our Measure BB Bond. Through the California Community School Partnership Program, our schools provide specialized integrated student support through community partnerships coordinating health, mental health and a variety of critical social services. We continue to focus on family and community engagement, involving our families as partners in our decision-making process, and I am excited for our new school year.

Hermosa Beach City School District

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

Strengthening Literacy Skills and Understanding



Dr. Susan Wildes
Superintendent

Hermosa Beach City School District is proud to be in the midst of an exciting transformation in English Language Arts instruction—one that is rooted in research and designed to help every student become a confident reader, writer, and thinker.

Over the past year, our educators have worked collaboratively to implement a research-based ELA approach that emphasizes knowledge-building curriculum, high-quality complex texts, explicit phonics instruction, and evidence-based practices in writing, speaking, and listening. These components work together to strengthen literacy from the earliest grades through middle school, ensuring students build both foundational skills and deep understanding.

At the heart of this work is a commitment to helping students read and engage with meaningful content. Our classrooms are filled with rich texts that expand students' knowledge of the world while challenging them to think critically. In our early grades, teachers are delivering systematic and explicit phonics instruction to ensure all students develop strong decoding skills. As students progress, they apply those skills to analyze complex texts, write with evidence, and engage in thoughtful discussions with their peers.

None of this transformation happens without extraordinary educators. Our teachers have embraced the role of learners themselves—studying the research, collaborating with colleagues, participating in coaching, and thoughtfully adjusting their instructional practices. In doing so, they have reshaped classroom cultures and raised expectations for what students can achieve.

The results are inspiring. Across our schools, Hermosa Beach students are engaged in meaningful academic work—tasks worthy of their time, curiosity, and potential. I am deeply proud of our teachers and thrilled to see the positive outcomes for our students as this important work continues to grow.

Hawthorne School District

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

Celebrating Good Things



Dr. Brian Markarian
Superintendent

As a school district implementing the Capturing Kids' Hearts program, we make a point of regularly celebrating "Good Things" with our students, staff, and families. As we prepare to close out the 2025-2026 school year, there are many notable achievements to recognize.

Continued academic achievement and growth for all remains a core focus. This year, we were proud to have nine of our schools recognized by *U.S. News & World Report*, with Hawthorne Math and Science Academy also being named a California Distinguished School. HMSA further earned the College Board's Platinum Advanced Placement Honor Roll for outstanding student participation and performance on AP examinations.

All three HSD middle schools are designated California Schools to Watch, with Hawthorne Middle School and Prairie Vista Middle School being redesignated this year. PVMS also capped off the year by being named one of only three middle schools in the state to receive the 2026 California Exemplary Arts Education Program Award.

This year marked important milestones in our partnerships. California State University, Dominguez Hills entered into the Aviator-Toro Alliance with HMSA, guaranteeing Aviators admission to CSUDH in the first major of their choice. Additionally, through our Community Schools initiative, a second school-based health clinic was opened for students, families, and the community.

We also launched several new programs and opportunities for students, including an HSD futsal league, esports teams, media arts labs, and the return of overnight outdoor camp experiences.

There is indeed much to celebrate. We are immensely grateful to our Board of Trustees, students, staff, families, and partners who made these accomplishments possible.

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District

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

A Legacy of Connection and Care



Corrie Sands
Superintendent

The Hughes Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary School District proudly serves 200 students from the communities of Lake Hughes, Elizabeth Lake, Green Valley and Leona Valley. Our school district is celebrating 75 years of service to families in the community. The legacy of connection and care at our school is evident as we welcome 3rd and 4th generation students. We are proud of the small school environment that allows each student to be seen and known with the purpose of creating a strong foundation.

Looking forward to the next 75 years, HELUS seeks sustainable practices in the areas of Academic Success, Family and Community Engagement, and Resource Equity and Efficacy.

The district is prioritizing strong partnerships with local organizations, with intent to building a nurturing and connected learning environment. HELUS is looking forward to embracing practices and opportunities that will prepare our students for college, community and career success. HELUS is poised to both honor the past and propel students toward their preferred futures.

Go Mountain Lions!

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

– Benjamin Franklin

Inglewood Unified School District

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

A Community United for Student Success



Dr. James Morris
County
Administrator

Inglewood Unified School District is stepping confidently into a new era of growth, driven by rising student achievement, major facilities investments, and a community that continues to stand proudly behind its students. This momentum is visible across the district, in energized classrooms, active construction sites, and in the growing confidence of students benefiting from stronger instruction and expanded opportunities.

Students are making steady academic gains supported by strengthened literacy and mathematics instruction, targeted interventions, expanded tutoring, and data driven teaching practices. Teachers are engaging in ongoing professional development that elevates consistent, high quality instruction, reflected in improved test scores and increased engagement. While opportunity gaps remain, the district's direction is unmistakable: Inglewood Unified is moving forward with purpose and clarity.

A major part of this progress is the district's facilities transformation. Over the past year, campuses have received upgrades that enhance safety, technology access, and the overall learning environment. Construction is underway on a new, state of the art Inglewood High School designed to support collaboration, innovation, and hands on exploration. This long awaited project is rising quickly and stands as a powerful symbol of the community's commitment to excellence.

In partnership with the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles, the district is also advancing a new YMCA and community sports complex in Inglewood. This philanthropic effort will expand access to health, wellness, and enrichment programs for youth and families while creating top tier athletic and recreational facilities for student athletes.

Guiding this work is a deeply engaged Board of Education whose leadership has been essential in shaping the district's transformation. With stronger academics, modernized facilities, and a united community, Inglewood Unified is shaping a future where every student is equipped to thrive.

Keppel Union School District

9330 East Avenue U, Littlerock, CA 93543 • 661/944-2155 • www.keppelunion.org

Encourage. Empower. Educate.



Priya Darbari
Superintendent

As Superintendent, I am honored to lead a district grounded in purpose, growth, and a shared commitment to excellence. This year reflects the meaningful progress we continue to make together on behalf of our students and families.

Guided by our motto—"Encourage, Empower, Educate: Seeking excellence, striving for greatness for every student"—and grounded in our mission to empower all students to seek knowledge and strive for excellence, Keppel Union is moving forward with clarity and intention.

- I am proud to highlight the significant and steady strides we have made as a district: A clear and unified direction: We have adopted a comprehensive Strategic Plan that defines our vision, mission, and core values, ensuring alignment across all schools and departments.
 - Focus on the whole learner and educator: The Keppel Learner Profile and Educator Profile now guide our work, supporting student growth and strengthening professional practice.
 - Targeted focus areas for success: We have identified key priorities that center on student achievement, instructional quality, and equitable opportunities.
 - Facilities that match our vision: Our Facilities Master Plan positions us to create safe, modern, and engaging learning environments aligned with our long-term goals.
 - Strong progress in literacy: Our literacy implementation is showing measurable growth, building stronger foundations in reading and writing for all students.
- Keppel Union remains focused, intentional, and steadily advancing, with each step building momentum toward a stronger future.

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La Cañada Unified School District

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

Our Success is Intentional



Wendy Sinnette
Superintendent

La Cañada Unified School District is a learning community committed to personal growth and academic excellence. All facets of the district work to ensure intentional success. Part of the fabric of the community, La Cañada schools inspire a national standard for high academic achievement, citizenship, and student well-being. LCUSD emphasizes safety, security, and belongingness as a priority on each of its school campuses. The district operates three elementary schools and a combined grades 7-12 middle and high school. Current student enrollment is just over 4000. Each school in the district has developed a comprehensive Responsive Teaching Plan, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Plan, and has adopted Stanford's Challenge Success initiative to ensure that all students receive appropriate tiers of support towards 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 2.5 million dollars annually to the district and the active volunteerism and program support of the PTA at each school site and the Spartan Boosters at LCHS 7-12. Approximately 99% of graduating seniors enroll in post-secondary schools, with students attending their best fit colleges and universities across the nation. All of its schools have been named National Blue Ribbon schools. La Cañada High School 7/8 was named a National Forum "School to Watch" school four times, most recently in 2023. All LCUSD schools have been designated as California Distinguished Schools. In 2025, Niche - whose rankings are based on rigorous analysis of key statistics from the U.S. Department of education and millions of reviews - named LCUSD as the Best School District in California.

Lancaster School District

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

Educated. Nurtured. Inspired.



Dr. Paul M. Marietti
Superintendent

Serving over 14,000 preschool through 8th grade students in the Antelope Valley and employing over 2,000 dedicated staff, the Lancaster School District is committed to providing safe, inclusive learning spaces where the whole child is educated, nurtured, and inspired.

We are proud to share that Lancaster School District students are showing meaningful test score growth across grade levels. This progress reflects the hard work of our students, the dedication of our teachers, and the strong partnerships we have built with our families. We remain committed to continuous improvement and ensuring every student reaches their full academic potential.

Our expanded learning opportunities provide critical support for students and families, offering enrichment programs, after-school activities, and academic support that extend beyond the school day. These programs are designed to spark curiosity, build confidence, and open new doors for every learner in our community.

Through our Community Schools Program, we are proud to be deepening our roots right here in the heart of our community. By wrapping students and families with resources, support services, and meaningful connections, our community schools are strengthening the bonds between our schools and the neighborhoods we serve — because when our community thrives, our students thrive.

Lancaster School District — where life's journey takes flight!

Las Virgenes Unified School District

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

Every Kind of Excellence. Every Kind of Future.



Dr. Daniel D. Stepenosky
Superintendent

Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) is ranked among the nation's top school districts and includes 15 schools spanning preschool through high school, serving Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village. LVUSD is a destination district known for strong academics, small class sizes, award-winning music, art, and theater programs, professional-level performing arts centers, and championship athletic programs.

The District is recognized for its exceptional administrators, teachers, and staff, a supportive and visionary Board of Education, strong city and higher education partnerships, and an engaged and innovative local business community. LVUSD's many accolades include California Distinguished Schools, *U.S. News* Best High Schools, U.S.

Blue Ribbon Schools, California Gold and Green Ribbon Schools, and designation as an AP Honor Roll District of Distinction. Students are regularly accepted into the nation's most prestigious colleges and universities and benefit from full-time counselors TK through grade 12 and comprehensive college and career guidance.

LVUSD offers a wide range of innovative academic opportunities designed to support diverse student interests and learning styles. Programs include an award-winning preschool, Dual Language Immersion beginning in TK, a public Waldorf school serving TK through grade eight, GATE and STEAM opportunities, the AP Capstone Diploma Program, and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

Students may also pursue Career Technical Education pathways including Arts, Media and Entertainment, Stagecraft, Culinary Arts, Automotive Technology, and Sports Medicine, connecting academic learning with real-world skills.

The District is grateful for community support, including approval of a \$340 million bond funding technology, safety, modernization, and campus improvements to ensure every LVUSD student learns in a modern, innovative environment.

Lawndale Elementary School District

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

Continuing to Grow. Just Getting Started!



Dr. Virginia Castro
Superintendent

This year has been extraordinary for the Lawndale Elementary School District. Across every site, our students, staff, and families have shown what is possible when a community comes together to support learning, growth, and well-being.

We are proud to celebrate Lucille J. Smith Elementary, recently named a 2025 California Blue Ribbon School, one of the state's highest honors for academic excellence and closing achievement gaps. Both our middle schools, Jane Addams and Will Rogers, earned recognition as 2026 California Distinguished Schools, highlighting our commitment to high-quality education at every level!

Academic growth continues throughout our district. Four of our schools, including Mark Twain Elementary and William Anderson Elementary, were named to the 2025 Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll for outstanding academic growth, particularly among historically disadvantaged student populations. Early education in Lawndale is also thriving! All Lawndale State Preschool sites achieved the highest possible rating through the Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA) Assessment process.

Beyond academics, we have made strides in creating inclusive campuses that emphasize student well-being. The district was recognized by the State of California as a 2026 Model School Attendance Review Board, 1 of only 13 districts in the state, demonstrating strong systems for student engagement and attendance. All school sites received Platinum, Gold, or Silver Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Awards, and all schools were honored with 2025 Leaders in Eating and Activity Practices Awards, affirming their dedication to student well-being and supportive school climates.

Adding to our achievements, Mark Twain Elementary was named a 2024–2026 National PTA School of Excellence, a testament to strong family-school partnerships.

Lennox School District

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

“On the Trail to Success”



Gabriela Tavitian
Superintendent

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year. We are excited to begin a new journey together as we continue “On the Trail to Success.” Like any meaningful journey, this year invites us to set our course, prepare the right tools, and move forward with purpose and a shared commitment to success.

Last year, through our theme *Cooking Up a Recipe for Success*, we built essential ingredients for student growth, including strong instruction, meaningful relationships, and equitable access to resources. These efforts created a solid foundation and prepared us well for the journey ahead.

This year, we carry those lessons forward as we continue along our trail, taking intentional steps, navigating new opportunities, and supporting one another. Whether reaching new academic milestones or addressing challenges, we remain focused on ensuring every student continues progressing toward success.

Our work remains grounded in three core District Goals:

Pupil Outcomes: Ensuring every student reaches their highest potential through rigorous instruction and targeted support.

Conditions of Learning: Creating safe, welcoming, and engaging environments where students feel supported to explore, take risks, and grow.

Engagement: Strengthening partnerships with families and our community, recognizing that success is strongest when we work together.

These priorities will serve as our compass, guide our decisions and keep us on our course.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we will ensure every Lennox learner stays firmly on **the flight path to success!**

Little Lake City School District

10515 S. Pioneer Blvd., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • 562/868-8241 • www.llcsd.net

Moving Forward with Focus and Optimism



Monica Martinez-Johnson
Acting
Superintendent

With the recent strike now resolved, Little Lake schools have turned their full attention back to students, classrooms, and the important activities that mark the end of the school year.

This transition is being approached with care. Students are back with their teachers and school communities, routines are being restored, and campuses are focused on providing the stability and support students need to finish the year strong.

Across the District, schools have adjusted state testing schedules to give students ample time to complete assessments in a calm, manageable way. The goal is to support strong testing conditions while avoiding test fatigue and helping students feel prepared.

This is also an exciting season of milestones. Fifth-grade students are preparing for middle school, while eighth-grade students are getting ready for high school. These moments reflect years of learning, growth, and support from families, teachers, and staff.

In the weeks ahead, schools will continue recognizing students for their hard work, resilience, and progress throughout the year. The district also extends sincere appreciation to the teachers, classified staff, administrators, and support teams who work every day to serve students.

Looking ahead, the community’s support of Measures LR and LS will help address important facility needs and make long-term campus improvements without taking away from classroom and student program funding.

Little Lake schools are moving forward with focus and optimism.



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Los Angeles Unified School District

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Rising Together: Progress Across LAUSD



Andrés E. Chait
Acting
Superintendent

Los Angeles Unified is delivering measurable results while reimagining what a large urban school system can achieve.

Over the past year, the District has posted the strongest academic gains in its history. Student performance in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science has improved at more than twice the statewide rate, with all student groups—especially Black, Latino, low-income students, and students with disabilities—outpacing peers across California. Achievement now exceeds pre-pandemic levels, alongside significant growth in Advanced Placement participation and success.

At the same time, Los Angeles Unified is expanding opportunities for all. Career pathways in skilled trades, culinary arts, and video production are preparing students for the modern workforce, while early childhood education has grown to serve nearly 28,000 students. Investments in staff development, including teacher residency and credentialing pipelines, are strengthening the educator workforce.

The District has also prioritized student well-being. Expanded mental and physical health partnerships, a 24/7 mental health referral line, and targeted student attendance initiatives have driven gains in engagement, with chronic absenteeism dropping dramatically.

Systems modernization is improving access and transparency through tools like the One Enrollment system and a comprehensive mobile app for families. Meanwhile, a \$9 billion voter-approved bond is advancing school modernization and safety.

Through strong fiscal stewardship, community partnerships, and learning initiatives, Los Angeles Unified is not only accelerating achievement—but building a more connected, resilient, and future-ready school system for the nation's second-largest district.

Long Beach Unified School District

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

Results. Not Promises.



Dr. Jill Baker
Superintendent

In Long Beach Unified, we are committed to ensuring every student has access to an inclusive, safe, and forward-thinking learning environment.

That commitment is already delivering results: California Academy of Math and Science (CAMS), McBride, Millikan, and Sato high schools, and Keller and Stanford middle schools were each named 2026 California Distinguished Schools, with McBride and Millikan earning the honor for the first time. Jefferson Leadership Academy was recognized as a California School to Watch, reflecting strong, student-centered teaching and learning.

This year, we built on this momentum with the launch of our [English Learner Master Plan](#), shaped by students, families, and educators to strengthen language development and long-term success for multilingual learners. We also launched our Public Dashboard, giving families and staff a clear view of student progress and reinforcing transparency and accountability aligned with the Board of Education's Goals and Guardrails.

We remain committed to safe, welcoming, and inclusive schools. Through our [Standing in Solidarity: Empowering Our Immigrant Students and Families](#) efforts, we connect families to critical resources and supports, while the Center of Black Student Excellence fosters academic growth and cultural connection. From classrooms and campuses to arts programs and athletic fields, we are investing in spaces and opportunities that help students feel connected, inspired, and ready to succeed.

As [I conclude my time as Superintendent](#), I am deeply grateful to our students, staff, families, community, and partners. I leave confident that this work will continue stronger than ever because of the people who make Long Beach Unified exceptional.

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Los Nietos School District

8324 S. Westman Ave., Whittier, CA 90606 • 562/692-0271 • www.lnsd.net

Belong. Connect. Succeed.



Dr. Ramiro Rubalcaba
Superintendent

At Los Nietos School District, we proudly uphold a “Standard of Excellence, Every Day, in Every Way.” This commitment is reflected in the collective efforts of our students, families, and staff to foster achievement, personal growth, and well-being—ensuring every member of our community can *Belong, Connect, and Succeed*.

This year, our district earned its third consecutive Golden Bell Award, recognizing our *Healthy Los Nieto* initiative and our strong commitment to student wellness. In addition, our middle school was named a California Distinguished School for the second year in a row, highlighting sustained academic excellence and dedication across our community.

We are currently implementing our Strategic Plan, anchored by our Portrait of a Scholar, which defines the skills and attributes we strive to develop in every student. This vision ensures our scholars are prepared for success in high school, college, career, and life.

Our unwavering focus on health and wellness remains central to our mission. We are dedicated to creating safe, supportive, and inclusive environments where students, families, and staff feel they truly belong, build meaningful connections, and thrive.

As Superintendent, I am continually inspired by the unity and dedication of our Los Nietos family. Together, we are building a brighter future—where excellence is not just a goal, but a shared way of life.

Lynwood Unified School District

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

Vision 2030: Pathway to Real-World Readiness



Dr. Patrick Gittisriboongul
Superintendent

Lynwood Unified is a District dedicated to uplifting more than 10,000 students as they discover their passions and achieve their dreams. Whether students pursue college, career or new opportunities yet to be imagined, we are proud to support them in their journey.

This school year marks my first as Superintendent, and during my first 100 days I listened closely to students, families and staff. Their input helped shape Vision 2030, a purpose-driven strategic plan aligned with our Board of Education goals: academic excellence, safe and modern schools, strong community partnerships, and a positive culture where every learner thrives. Vision 2030 charts the next five years of progress toward real-world readiness while embracing innovation and evolving technology.

Central to this work is developing signature programs and school identities, ensuring every campus reflects the strengths of its students and community. Programs spanning arts, dual-language learning, robotics, athletics and student leadership connect learning to future pathways to help students see purpose in their education.

Our instructional focus on claims, evidence and reasoning (CER) strengthens critical thinking and communication, empowering students to analyze information, explain ideas with confidence and apply learning to real-world challenges.

Equally important are positive relationships that foster belonging and trust. When students feel seen and supported, learning deepens and communities grow stronger. Through leading with artificial intelligence, Lynwood Unified prepares learners to use technology responsibly while keeping human connection at the heart of education.

Together, Vision 2030 reflects who we are – a community united in preparing every Lynwood Unified scholar to thrive and shape a brighter future.

Lowell Joint School District

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

Rigorous Academics and Innovative Programs



Rhonda Overby
Superintendent

Since 1906, Lowell Joint School District has proudly served the communities of La Habra, La Habra Heights, and Whittier with an unwavering commitment to academic excellence, strong character, and meaningful opportunities for every student. Our long-standing tradition of high expectations continues to guide our work as we prepare students to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Across our six schools, dedicated educators create engaging learning environments that challenge students academically while nurturing creativity, collaboration, and personal growth. Lowell Joint students consistently perform above county and state averages, a testament to the strength of our instructional programs and the invaluable partnership between our schools, families, and community.

In addition to rigorous academics, Lowell Joint offers innovative programs that prepare students for the future. Opportunities include coding and robotics, STEAM Innovation Labs, and Dual Language Immersion, along with vibrant visual and performing arts experiences through our Arts for All initiative. Students participate in band, choir, theater, media arts, and visual arts, and pursue honors coursework and advanced learning in fields such as engineering, robotics, computer science, world languages, and eSports.

Equally important to academic achievement is our steadfast commitment to character education. Core values including integrity, responsibility, respect, and leadership are woven throughout daily learning and school culture. These values help shape students who are not only skilled scholars, but also compassionate and engaged members of their communities.

Together with our families and community partners, Lowell Joint continues to build a district where students develop the knowledge, character, and confidence to excel in high school, college, and beyond.

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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

A Tradition of Excellence



Dr. John Bowes
Superintendent

Manhattan Beach Unified School District (MBUSD) continues to build on a strong foundation of excellence, offering a dynamic and well-rounded educational experience for more than 6,200 students across eight campuses. From MB Preschool through Mira Costa High School, students are engaged in rigorous academics, enriched learning opportunities, and experiences that support both achievement and well-being. Classrooms across the District reflect a commitment to high-quality instruction, innovation, and student-centered learning. A defining highlight this year is Mira Costa High School's achievement of “triple threat” status—demonstrating excellence across academics, athletics, and the arts. Academically, Mira Costa remains among the top-performing high schools in California, supported by strong outcomes in English Language Arts and Mathematics as well as a robust Advanced Placement program. In athletics, student-athletes continue to excel at the highest levels, earning league, CIF, and state recognitions across a wide range of athletic programs. In the arts, Mira Costa was honored with the 2026 California Exemplary Arts Education Award, recognizing the strength and impact of its visual and performing arts offerings. Across MBUSD, students are not only achieving academically but also engaging in STEM, arts, and extracurricular opportunities that foster creativity, collaboration, and leadership. This work is grounded in MBUSD's Climate of Care, where every student is supported, connected, and known. The District's success is made possible through the collective efforts of dedicated staff, engaged families, PTAs/PTSAs, the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation, MBX, and valued community partners. Together, MBUSD continues to provide exceptional opportunities and prepare students for a bright and successful future.

Monrovia Unified School District

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

Steady Progress. Clear Vision Forward.



Dr. Paula Hart Rodas
Superintendent

The theme of this school year, *Keep Growing*, reflects both our mindset and our momentum as a district. Growth has not happened overnight, but slow and steady progress from last year to this year is evident across our schools. Even more encouraging, we are seeing measurable improvements, affirming that our efforts are taking root.

Earlier this year, Monrovia Unified rallied teachers and staff by highlighting how far we have come—and that growth has not stalled. Instead, it continues to build this school year with renewed focus and confidence.

The College Board has recognized Monrovia High School as a **Gold Medal School** on the AP School Honor Roll for the 2024-2025 school year. This honor highlights our commitment to college readiness and academic excellence, and it stands as a testament to the dedication of our students, teachers, and staff.

Across the district, our Dashboard scores continue to improve, signaling that we are moving in the right direction. Student groups who have historically been furthest from opportunity demonstrated notable improvement, narrowing gaps and showing what's possible when instruction and belief align.

Recently, the district launched a new initiative to think differently about math instruction and held a free community screening of the film, *Counted Out*. The #MUSDCountMeIn work centers on ensuring that math learning is accessible to every student and that no learner is left behind or “counted out.” With this mindset, we are strengthening instructional practices to ensure that all students can succeed in mathematics.

Together, we continue to *Keep Growing*—with purpose, perseverance, and a shared vision for the future. Learn more about our schools and programs www.monroviaschools.net.

Newhall School District

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

A Foundation for Success



Dr. Leticia Hernandez
Superintendent

The Newhall School District (NSD) proudly stands as a beacon of high academic achievement, setting a powerful standard for elementary education in Santa Clarita. Our commitment to excellence is reflected across all areas, ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive both intellectually and creatively.

Our focused instructional strategies yield consistently high performance across all grade levels. The district's dedication to literacy is evident in our robust English Language Arts (ELA) program, where student success is tracked and celebrated. The district's ELA performance is consistently strong, as highlighted in the latest state **Dashboard results, which show the ELA indicator shaded in the highest achievement band (blue).**

This “blue” rating signifies that NSD students are achieving at levels significantly above the state standard, demonstrating mastery of reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. This success is powered by dedicated teachers, innovative curricula, and a supportive learning environment.

Beyond core academics, NSD offers a terrific music, arts, and theatre program that is integral to a well-rounded education. We believe in nurturing the whole child, providing extensive opportunities for creative expression.

Music: Every student participates in dedicated music instruction, fostering rhythm, appreciation, and instrumental skills.

Arts: Visual arts are integrated across the curriculum, allowing students to explore diverse media and develop critical observation skills.

Theatre: Our theatre programs build confidence, teamwork, and public speaking skills, culminating in various performances throughout the year.

By combining top-tier academic results with vibrant artistic programs, the Newhall School District ensures a comprehensive, enriching, and successful educational experience for all students.

Mountain View School District

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

Belonging



Dr. Raymond Andry
Superintendent

In the Mountain View School District (MVSD), our theme of Belonging reflects our commitment to ensuring every student feels welcomed, valued, and connected. From preschool through eighth grade, we inspire students to show up, reach their potential, and achieve excellence every day.

As a Community Schools district, MVSD supports the whole child and the entire family. Through strong partnerships, we provide free on-site dental, vision, and medical services—reducing barriers for families, easing the strain on parents, and helping improve student attendance and readiness to learn. Our free Max Learning after-school programs further support students with academic assistance, homework help, and enrichment opportunities such as robotics, coding, sports, and the arts.

MVSD is dedicated to high-quality instruction and strong social-emotional support, with counselors and mental health partners available at every school.

Our innovative programs include STEAM, AVID, Spanish Dual Language Immersion, PBIS, Capturing Kids' Hearts, Visual and Performing Arts, Band, Aquatic Robotics, and a strong college- and career-focused culture. For the past three years, MVSD has been one of only four Los Angeles County districts selected for the Disney Imagination Campus program, offering real-world learning experiences.

Technology enhances learning across the district, with interactive classroom displays and a 1:1 device program providing iPads for TK–1st grade and Chromebooks for grades 2–8.

Through meaningful experiences and a culture of support, MVSD builds a strong foundation that inspires lifelong learning and prepares students for future success.

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

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

Building on Our Strong Foundation



Tania Magaña
Interim Superintendent

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District continues to build on its strong foundation with a focus on innovation, collaboration, and student success in 2026.

A major highlight this year is the expansion of the K12 Strong Workforce Program, a \$700,000 state-funded initiative designed to strengthen career pathways beginning in middle school. The program connects students to high school Career Technical Education pathways and college opportunities, including partnerships with Cerritos College, while expanding hands-on learning experiences such as field trips, industry visits, and work-based learning. This investment supports the District's commitment to preparing students for high-demand careers and closing equity gaps.

The District also celebrated successful labor negotiations with both CSEA and TANLA, reinforcing a shared commitment to supporting staff and maintaining a positive, collaborative work environment.

Student achievement remains a point of pride, with Benton Middle School, Hutchinson Middle School, and Norwalk High School earning the prestigious California Distinguished Schools honor. In addition all five middle schools, Benton, Hutchinson, Corvallis, Los Alisos, and Waite, have now earned the nationally recognized Schools to Watch designation, reflecting excellence in academics, developmental responsiveness, and equity.

Engagement across the District continues to grow through active Student and Parent Advisory Councils, ensuring that stakeholder voices help shape key initiatives. This year also marked the launch of the NLMUSD Leadership Academy, strengthening professional development and building leadership capacity across all levels. Together, these efforts reflect a unified vision... empowering every student with the skills, opportunities, and support needed to thrive in college, career, and beyond.



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Palmdale School District

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

Leading the Charge—Reining in Results!



Dr. Raul Maldonado
Superintendent

As we celebrate over a decade of the **Palmdale PROMISE**, we reflect on our enduring commitment to Pursuing Remarkable Opportunities to Marshal Innovation, Inspiration, and Imagination for Success and Engagement. Since its inception, this vision has transformed our culture, elevated expectations, and redefined how we deliver world-class instruction.

The 2025-26 school year stands as a testament to this progress, marked by prestigious recognitions:

- **Student Brilliance:** From high-stakes E-Sports Competitions to the intellectual rigor of our Black Knowledge Bowls and Latino Knowledge Bowls, our students are leading with confidence.
- **Data-Driven Growth:** Our latest CA School Dashboard results serve as a powerful indicator of our trajectory, showing significant upward progress in academic achievement and student success across the district.
- **District Excellence:** Four Dual Immersion School received the CSBA Golden Bell Award and seventeen schools were recognized as National Showcase Schools by Capturing Kids' Hearts.
- **Distinguished Leadership:** We were proud to celebrate Dr. Frances Ufonda as the Marcus Foster Award winner and Simone Zulu-Diol as the 2026 CAAASA Board Member of the Year. Additionally, I am humbled to have been recognized as the CAAASA Superintendent of the Year 2026.

Looking ahead to 2027, we remain dedicated to expanding these horizons, ensuring every student has the tools to thrive in an ever-evolving world. It is a privilege to serve during this transformative era. The Palmdale PROMISE remains our beacon, guiding us toward continued achievement and shared success.

Together, we Lead the Charge and Rein in Results! —because as we say in Palmdale, “**Palmdale LEADS!**”

Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District

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

PVPUSD—Where Excellence Thrives



Dr. Devin Serrano
Superintendent

In the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District, we are guided by five core values: accountability, excellence, integrity, kindness, and teamwork. These principles guide our commitment to helping every student succeed—both in and beyond the classroom.

Over the past year, we have seen these core values in action:

Award-Winning Schools: Two intermediate schools were named California Distinguished Schools, recognizing outstanding student achievement and strong school communities.

Focus on Communication: Our commitment to strategic and transparent communication with our community earned multiple awards from the California School Public Relations Association (CalSPRA).

Bond Measure: Following the successful passage of Measure SOS, we have begun critical facility and infrastructure upgrades to support student learning now and into the future.

Expanding Programs: Transitional kindergarten (TK) is now offered at every elementary school in the district. Additionally, Lunada Bay's Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program continues to grow and is currently available through second grade.

Career Readiness: By expanding dual enrollment opportunities, we saw a 77% increase in career and technical education (CTE) pathway completers. Advanced Placement (AP) students also achieved record success, with pass rates of 80% and 94% at Palos Verdes High School and Palos Verdes Peninsula High School, respectively.

Advanced Internship: Our brand-new Advanced Internship Program connects juniors and seniors with local businesses, hospitals, nonprofits, and public agencies, providing valuable career experience.

Sustainability: Ongoing efforts, including district garden programs and a partnership with Green Schoolyards America, reflect our commitment to sustainability.

Paramount Unified School District

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

Empowering Students in Paramount Schools



Dr. Joshua L. Lightle
Superintendent

Paramount Unified School District serves approximately 12,000 PK-Adult Education students across twenty (20) campuses. Our Mission is: ...to empower every student to achieve their full potential by providing innovative, high-quality educational programs tailored to their individual needs and goals. We are committed to fostering a life-long love of learning in a safe and supportive environment where students from diverse backgrounds feel valued and inspired.

Our Learner Profile identifies the attributes we desire all students to embrace, and they are as follows:

Purposeful Communicator: Learners use multiple means, know their audience, and are able to convey messages clearly and concisely.

Effective Collaborator: Learners understand how to contribute, navigate, and work well with others in different settings.

Universal Advocate: Learners advocate for inclusion, equity, and justice. Learners are not limited by their circumstance by demonstrating grit and persisting through obstacles.

Empowered Learner: Learners understand the complex responsibility of the multiple strategies to contribute to leading others. Learners see the importance of multiple individuals contributing to a common goal.

Responsible and Empathetic Citizen: Learners are empathetic to the feelings and circumstances of others. Learners reflect on how they support diversity.

Competent Thinker: Learners access their knowledge with a critical, creative, innovative, and academic mindset to interact with the global community.

Accomplished Learner: Learners are equipped to regularly apply their wide breadth of knowledge in their daily lives.

Through strong partnerships and open communication, we will work collaboratively to empower our students to become successful, resilient, well-rounded individuals ready to make a positive impact on the world.

Pasadena Unified School District

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

Resilience, Recovery, and Opportunity



Dr. Elizabeth J. Blanco
Superintendent

The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) continues to see the strength, talent, and promise of our students and staff shine every day.

In the year since the Eaton Fire, we have taken steps to support families, students, and staff as they continue to navigate disruption and loss. A comprehensive wellness plan, expanded access to mental health supports, and partnerships with state, city, and community partners ensure that our schools remain safe, stable, and welcoming places.

Our students are excelling in academics, the arts, athletics, and college and career readiness.

PUSD's graduation rate increased to 91 percent. More students are completing coursework required for college and career readiness, and our award-winning dual enrollment program with Pasadena City College is expanding college opportunities for students while they're still in high school. Early literacy is on the rise, and the majority of our youngest learners are reading above grade level. Attendance remains strong, reflecting that students feel connected and supported in their schools.

In the classroom, teachers and staff are working together, using data to guide instruction and ensure that every student is known, supported, and challenged.

Whether it is success in math competitions, recognition at science fairs, or performances on stage, our students continue to remind us what is possible when they are given opportunity and support.

In PUSD, we're building schools that prepare every student to graduate ready for college, career, and life. Where students are multilingual, critical thinkers, and strong communicators, and where they feel a sense of belonging and confidence in who they are.

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Pomona Unified School District

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

Student Success is Our Success



Darren Knowles
Superintendent

At Pomona Unified School District, our work is grounded in a simple belief: student success is our success. That commitment continues to guide our progress and shape the opportunities we create for every student.

Across the district, we continue to see steady growth in student achievement. Performance in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science is improving, and our graduation rate has climbed to over 92 percent, now exceeding both county and state averages. Just as important, more students are engaged and connected to school, with continued declines in suspension rates and chronic absenteeism.

We are expanding access to dual enrollment across all of our high schools, including our continuation high school, ensuring every student has the opportunity to engage in college-level coursework. Students across our high schools are earning college credits with success rates averaging nearly 90 percent. This year, one of our students will graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate degree, demonstrating what is possible when access is intentional and systems are aligned. This work reflects a broader commitment to scale opportunity, remove barriers, and ensure more students can complete college-level work before graduation.

At the same time, we are investing in innovative career pathways. At Garey High School, our new aviation Career Technical Education program introduces students to careers in operations, maintenance, and systems diagnostics, while providing hands-on learning experiences that prepare them for advanced training and high-demand careers.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on expanding opportunities and continuing to invest in programs that prepare students for college, career, and life.

In Pomona Unified, we remain committed to ensuring every student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed, because student success is, and always will be, our success.

Rosemead School District

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

Spring Success Showcase



Dr. Philip D'Agostino
Superintendent

This spring, the Rosemead School District has continued to demonstrate what is possible when a community comes together with a shared commitment to student success. Across our schools, we have seen strong academic growth, meaningful engagement, and a deepened focus on ensuring that every student is supported, challenged, and inspired.

Our teachers and staff have remained steadfast in delivering high-quality instruction through our exemplary core programs, ensuring that all students have access to rigorous, standards-aligned learning experiences. This commitment is reflected in the outstanding work of our educators and staff members, from the classroom to the cafeteria. This spring, we honored

our Association of California School Administrators Golden Apple Award winners, whose dedication, innovation, and care exemplify the very best of our profession.

Beyond the classroom, we are proud to celebrate the continued success of our school communities. All schools have maintained PBIS Platinum-level recognition, reflecting a districtwide commitment to positive school climate and student well-being. Our annual Girl's Empowerment Symposium for 6th–8th grade students stands as a powerful example of our investment in the confidence, leadership, and future aspirations of our students.

Equally important, the district's recent exit from significant disproportionality marks a major milestone and affirms our focus on equity, inclusion, and meeting the needs of every learner. This achievement reflects the collective efforts of our educators, administrators, and staff, who work tirelessly to ensure that all students thrive.

Redondo Beach Unified School District

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

Purpose, Connection, and Progress



Dr. Nicole Westley
Superintendent

In RBUSD, we embrace the Japanese concept of *Ikigai*: the joy, purpose, and inner spark that gives each day meaning. Rooted in the words *Iki* (life) and *gai* (value or worth), *Ikigai* reminds us that everyone has a reason for being. Some discover it quickly; others find it through exploration, challenge, and reflection. Our role as a district is to create the experiences, relationships, and opportunities that help students uncover their *ikigai* and thrive.

A mural in Bilbao, Spain called *La Llave* (“The Key”) left a lasting impression on me. It depicts two women, different in age and appearance, yet connected by colors flowing between their hearts and minds. Their communication is open, curious, and compassionate.

The message is simple: empathy unlocks understanding. It transforms differences into discovery. *La Llave* made me think of RBUSD – a vibrant, diverse community strengthened by dialogue and trust. We embrace “The Key” by speaking openly, listening generously, and learning from one another. Through meaningful communication, we grow as individuals and as one united district.

Last year, the RBUSD community passed a \$278 million bond. Roofing projects, LED lighting upgrades, HVAC additions and improvements, new playgrounds, enhanced fencing, upgraded security systems such as cameras and PA systems, new buildings replacing portable classrooms at elementary schools, and plans for a new Innovation and Design Building at Redondo Union High School are already underway. These investments reflect our shared commitment to safe, modern, student-centered schools.

In RBUSD, measurable actions and clear goals remain essential as we continue working together toward a shared vision through our three-year Strategic Plan (found at www.rbusd.org). RBUSD continues to shine with the #1 Niche ranking in LA County. Our core purpose remains constant: ensuring every student realizes their passion and purpose and maximizes success and significance.

Rowland Unified School District

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

Supporting the Success of Every Student



Alejandro Flores
Superintendent

The Rowland Unified School District (RUSD) has proudly served generations of families across Rowland Heights, Walnut, West Covina, La Puente, and the City of Industry, establishing a strong legacy of academic excellence and community partnerships. Recognized with numerous state and national honors, RUSD is guided by a cohesive Board of Education and supported by dedicated educators and staff who share an unwavering commitment to a student-centered approach. This focus ensures that teaching and learning remain the District's highest priority, while resources are strategically aligned to support what matters most – the success of **Every Student, Every Day**.

RUSD offers a dynamic and inclusive educational experience designed to prepare students for a rapidly evolving global society. Beginning in Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten, students have access to Dual Language Immersion programs in Chinese and Spanish, fostering bilingualism, biliteracy, and cultural competence. Rorimer Elementary's recognition as one of only four schools in the state named as a 2026 Seal of Excellence School underscores the District's leadership in bilingual education.

Committed to educating the whole child, RUSD provides enriching opportunities including universal elementary music instruction, comprehensive STEAM programs, and free expanded learning opportunities beyond the traditional school day and year. Students also benefit from rigorous academic pathways such as International Baccalaureate (IB) Schools, Advanced Placement, Honors, GATE, AVID, and Career Technical Education, with graduates consistently earning admission to top universities and millions in scholarships making college dreams a reality.

As Superintendent, I deeply value the involvement, strong collaboration and trust placed in us from our community that makes our district exceptional. We stand committed to providing life-changing opportunities for all of our students to succeed and thrive!



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San Gabriel Unified School District

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

Student Voice in Action



James "Jim" Symonds
Superintendent

In SGUSD, we believe student voice and student agency should not simply be ideas we talk about. They should be experiences students live every day. This belief is reflected in our Portrait of a Graduate, which defines the competencies we hope every student will develop, including communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and global citizenship.

A great example of this culture can be seen at Gabrielino High School, which was recently named a 2026 California Distinguished School. This recognition reflects the strong partnership between dedicated educators and students who take ownership of their learning and their school community.

Student voice is amplified through multiple opportunities to be heard. Students serve on the Governing Board and the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. They participate in many of the district's decision-making committees, helping guide conversations about programs, policies, and the future of our schools with thoughtful perspectives, creative ideas, and a deep commitment.

Our programs help bring the Portrait of a Graduate to life. Dual Language Immersion in Mandarin and Spanish prepares students to thrive in a global society, while our STEAM programs encourage curiosity, innovation, and problem solving. Gabrielino's nationally recognized Speech and Debate program and our Visual and Performing Arts programs give students powerful platforms to communicate ideas and express their creativity.

These opportunities are possible because of the extraordinary educators and staff in San Gabriel Unified who believe in their students and work every day to ensure their voices are heard. When students are empowered to lead, their voices strengthen not only their schools, but the entire community they serve.

San Marino Unified School District

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

A Legacy of Excellence



Dr. Linda de la Torre
Superintendent

In San Marino Unified School District, excellence is not a static achievement; it is a sustained commitment, renewed each day through the collective efforts of our students, staff, families, and community. Central to the Board of Education's Four A's: Academics, Arts, Athletics, and Activities, our district fosters an environment where every student is recognized, supported, challenged, and inspired.

What distinguishes SMUSD is not simply high performance, but the intentional systems that support it. Despite operating within one of California's most constrained funding models, our schools consistently rank among the state's highest-performing. This is no accident; it reflects a culture that prioritizes rigor, innovation, and whole-child development. Success is measured not only by outcomes, but by the strength of the relationships and practices that produce them.

Our educators are the cornerstone of this work. Through purposeful instructional design, continuous professional growth, and adaptability, they create learning experiences that are both meaningful and relevant. Classrooms reflect a balance of strong academic foundations and the cultivation of critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration.

Beyond the classroom, students engage in exceptional arts and STEM programs, competitive athletics, and diverse extracurricular opportunities that foster connection and leadership. These experiences are essential to developing well-rounded individuals.

Equally vital is the partnership of our families, alumni, and community, whose ongoing support strengthens every aspect of the student experience.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to continuous improvement, student wellness, and equitable access. In SMUSD, excellence is not inherited, it is intentionally built and sustained.

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Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

1717 4th St., Santa Monica, CA 90401 • 310/450-8338 • www.smmusd.org

Redefining What It Means to Lead



Dr. Antonio Shelton
Superintendent

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is rethinking what it means to create meaningful and lasting change in education. Our responsibility is not only to support student success, but to thoughtfully examine ways to disrupt the systems that shape their experience in our schools.

This work requires a different kind of leadership, one grounded in purpose, action and a deep commitment to equity and diversity. Across our District, that leadership shows up every day. It is present in the educator who adapts instruction to reach every learner, the staff member who builds trust and connection and the teams who collaborate to remove barriers so all students can thrive.

Effective change does not happen by maintaining the status quo. It happens when we are willing to challenge assumptions, embrace innovation and create new pathways for students to succeed. We are expanding access to rigorous and engaging learning experiences, strengthening inclusive practices and ensuring students feel a true sense of belonging in our schools.

At the center of this work is the belief that every student deserves to be seen, supported and empowered. When students are given the opportunity to explore their interests, develop their voice and connect their learning to the world around them, they are better prepared for what comes next.

Our role is to build systems that reflect that belief. Together, we continue to move forward with intention and ensure every student has the opportunity to achieve at the highest levels.

Saugus Union School District

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

Together, WE achieve more!



Dr. Colleen Hawkins
Superintendent

The Saugus Union School District (SUSD) continues to emphasize student wellness ensuring students have the foundational skill necessary to benefit from all academic opportunities provided to them. Maslow before Bloom (basic human needs before academic needs) has driven the school district since January of 2020 and remains the bedrock of District culture.

Like many school districts, SUSD has seen increases in its chronic attendance rate and decreases in its average daily attendance rate (ADA). The 2025 California Dashboard reported the district's chronic attendance rate at 5.2% (i.e., students missing 10% or more of their days enrolled). This is another year of decrease as we continue to emphasize attendance. The district's ADA has increased at 97.1%. Preventative measures and monitoring ensure that parents understand the connection between positive student attendance, positive student mental health, and positive student academic progress.

SUSD continues focusing on the wellness and academic achievement. The programs/practices implemented across the district are designed to wrap students in the security of physical and social-emotional wellness and high-level learning. In 2025, SUSD was honored to have all 14 of its school sites nationally recognized as part of the Healthiest Schools in America. Also in 2025, we were recognized for having six California Distinguished Schools and as a Model PLC District for academic achievement.

South Whittier School District

11200 Telechron Ave., 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 an award-winning district serving approximately 2,260 students across five elementary schools (TK-6) and one middle school (7-8) in unincorporated Whittier. Guided by the motto "Success for Every Student," the district reflects a strong culture of collaboration, high expectations, and intentional action demonstrated by its Board of Trustees and dedicated classified, certificated, and administrative staff.

SWSD is committed to ensuring every student has access to a rigorous and well-rounded education in a safe, clean, and supportive environment where they can grow academically and emotionally. The district offers diverse opportunities, including AVID, Spanish Dual Immersion (TK-8), STEM programs such as PLTW and robotics, and VAPA programs including mariachi, dance, band, and visual arts. Middle school students also benefit from concurrent enrollment opportunities with a local community college.

Beyond the school day, SWSD provides comprehensive support through before- and after-school programs at all sites. These programs include tutoring, targeted academic interventions, as well as enrichment opportunities such as theater and sports. Students and families also have access to an award-winning mental health program and a range of additional services designed to support the whole child.

Classrooms across the district promote engagement through discussions, projects, performances, and presentations that build critical thinking and collaboration skills. Every staff member contributes to a positive educational experience by fostering relationships, supporting students, and delivering an inclusive, high-quality curriculum. SWSD proudly partners with families and the community to ensure student success.

South Pasadena Unified School District

1100 El Centro St., South Pasadena, CA 91030 • 626/441-5800 • www.spusd.net

Challenging Academic Programs



Dr. Angela Elizondo Baxter
Superintendent

Established in 1886, South Pasadena Unified School District (SPUSD) is dedicated to providing high-quality public education to approximately 4,700 students. The District comprises three elementary schools, one middle school, and one comprehensive high school. SPUSD is recognized for attracting families who seek challenging academic programs and outstanding teachers.

SPUSD's commitment to excellence is evident in the accolades earned by its students and schools. All three elementary schools and the middle school have received both the National Blue Ribbon Schools award and California Distinguished Schools honors. South Pasadena High School is consistently ranked as a Best High School in national and California rankings by *U.S. News and World Report*.

The District benefits from parent and community support through the South Pasadena Educational Foundation, local PTAs, and booster clubs. This support was instrumental in modernizing facilities through a \$98 million bond measure, funding projects like the SPHS STEM Building, Athletics Facility, a renovated SPMS Arts Building, and new arts classrooms at elementary schools.

Parcel tax funds, renewed in 2023, ensure manageable class sizes and support vital programs, including arts, counseling, and advanced instruction in areas such as science and technology.

Students are challenged by opportunities in academics, arts, and athletics, and are exposed to pathways through electives in fields like engineering, biomedical science, business, and visual and performing arts. Thriving Dual Language Immersion programs offer a unique opportunity for students to learn content through a target language and English. Dual enrollment courses give middle and high school students the chance to earn college credit before they graduate.

SPUSD is dedicated to helping students realize their full potential by fostering their intellectual abilities, emotional maturity, and unique talents.

Sulphur Springs Union School District

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

All Students Learning at High Levels!



Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi
Superintendent

The Sulphur Springs Union School District (SSUSD) Board of Trustees and staff remain deeply committed to providing approximately 5,300 students with access to academic excellence across all areas of learning. Through our six state preschools and nine elementary schools, the District offers enriching, engaging educational opportunities that support students at every stage of their development. We take great pride in serving a diverse student population, with more than 31 home languages represented. Our teachers intentionally integrate the five core competencies of social-emotional learning into daily instruction, ensuring that all students are supported both academically and personally.

We believe that a strong partnership between home and school is essential to student success and well-being. Our staff is dedicated to collaborating with families to build a comprehensive support system that empowers students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Together, families and educators can unlock each student's full potential and help lay the foundation for a bright and successful future.

District staff remain focused on advancing student achievement and academic excellence. Certificated staff, classified staff, and administrators have worked collaboratively to strengthen the District's Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Through these efforts, educators engage in meaningful dialogue centered on student data, effective instructional strategies, and continuous improvement. They share best practices and resources while ensuring that all PLC discussions are grounded in meeting the diverse learning needs of every student.

As Superintendent of the Sulphur Springs Union School District, I remain committed to building and sustaining a comprehensive system of support that enables every student to achieve and excel. Together with the Board of Trustees and our dedicated staff, I will continue to ensure that each student is provided with a supportive, nurturing environment where academic excellence can flourish.

Temple City Unified School District

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

Champions, Scholars, & Innovators



Dr. Arthur Cunha
Superintendent

Temple City Unified School District remains a premier destination for education, proudly ranked among California's top 50 districts. We serve a vibrant, diverse community of more than 5,300 students, from preschool through adult transition, across four elementary schools, an intermediate school, a high school, and an alternative learning center.

This year marked a historic milestone with the completion of our new athletic complex. This year marked a major milestone with the completion of our new athletic complex, featuring upgraded fields, field houses, a state-of-the-art football and soccer stadium, press box, sports medicine classroom, and tennis courts—home to the 2025 CIF Southern Section Division 3 Women's Tennis Champions.

Oak Middle School was recognized as both a School to Watch and a California Distinguished School. Emperor Elementary earned the Civic Learning Award, and Cloverly Elementary was named the San Gabriel Valley's Favorite Elementary School. Temple City High School continues to excel with top honors in Science Olympiad, Drum Line, Color Guard, and SkillsUSA, while the Choreo Dance Team is now among the nation's premier programs.

We celebrated one of our seniors being awarded \$50,000 in the Edison Scholars Program. Additionally, two seniors received the Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship earning them an internship and \$40,000 each. We also cheered on our Rose Court Princess, Livia De Paula in the 2026 Rose Parade.

This summer we are excited to cheer on Temple City High School as students compete in this year's solar car challenge in Texas with three student-built vehicles. Our latest vehicle has been designed and built by our all-girls Racer X2 team.

These accomplishments & new facilities are more than milestones; they are the foundation for the next generation of leaders, innovators, & changemakers at Temple City Unified.

Valle Lindo School District

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

A Tradition of Excellence.



Dr. Elizabeth Evans
Superintendent

As an award-winning district recognized for student achievement, innovation, and strong community partnerships, Valle Lindo School District believes every student deserves to be known, challenged, and inspired. Our work is grounded in the belief that when students feel seen and supported, they develop the confidence to lead their own learning and shape their future with purpose.

Across Valle Lindo, educators create classrooms where curiosity is welcomed, perseverance is strengthened, and leadership begins early. Through our Dual Language Immersion programs in Mandarin and Spanish, along with opportunities in band, orchestra, STEM, AVID, and Science Olympiad, students build both academic strength and a sense of identity as capable, connected learners in a changing world.

This commitment to purposeful learning is especially visible through Skilled to Build, where students engage in hands-on design, craftsmanship, and problem solving that connect classroom learning to real-world application. These experiences invite students to think boldly, collaborate meaningfully, and recognize their ability to contribute to something larger than themselves.

Our expanding partnership with local community colleges further opens doors through dual enrollment opportunities, giving middle school students early access to college-level learning and clear pathways toward future careers.

At Valle Lindo, students are not simply preparing to participate in the future. They are learning to lead it with confidence, skill, and purpose.

Torrance Unified School District

2335 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/972-6500 • www.tusd.org

A Hub for Innovation and Opportunity



Dr. Tim Stowe
Superintendent

At Torrance Unified, we believe providing a “best-in-class” education means staying ahead of the curve. Our district is widely recognized as a leader in innovation, not just within the South Bay, but across the country. I am incredibly proud of our dedicated staff who are continuously invited to present at local and national conferences, sharing our best practices and pioneering work in digital literacy, AI, communications, and CTE with educators nationwide.

This spirit of leadership extends directly into our classrooms through our expanding Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways. Earlier this year, we hosted our inaugural CTE Business Partnership Breakfast. This event showcased the incredible, real-world opportunities we offer our students, from the creativity of Fashion and Interior Design and Film and Video production to the vital skills found in paths like Emergency Medical Response, Engineering Design, and Plant & Soil Science. By partnering with industry leaders, we ensure our curriculum remains rigorous, relevant, and tied to the future of the global economy.

At the heart of these efforts is our Portrait of a Graduate. This shared vision guides us in developing students who are not only academically proficient but also adaptable, empathetic, and prepared to lead. Whether they are exploring a new passion in a CTE lab or utilizing technology to solve complex problems, our students are gaining the confidence they need to reach their full potential and shape the world around them.

We invite you to visit www.whytorranceunified.com to discover why Torrance Unified remains the premier choice for families. We are honored to empower every student, every day, for a lifetime of success!

Walnut Valley Unified School District

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

Kids First...Every Student, Every Day



Dr. Robert P. Taylor
Superintendent

At Walnut Valley Unified School District (WVUSD), our commitment to “Kids First...Every Student, Every Day” remains unwavering as we continue to support and nurture the potential within every student. Through rigorous academic programs, real-world learning opportunities, and comprehensive STEAM offerings — science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics — students build essential 21st-century skills.

We are proud to share that in 2026, WVUSD once again earned an A+ grade and ranked among the top 1% of more than 10,000 public school districts nationwide in Niche's Best School Districts in America. The district was also featured in the *U.S. News & World Report's* 2025-2026 Best School Rankings, a reflection of our ongoing commitment to student success. In addition, WVUSD reached a significant milestone this year, with all three middle schools and both high schools being named 2026 California Distinguished Schools — five of the 408 schools selected statewide.

In the spirit of fostering deeper connections across our community, this year's district theme, “The Story Wins,” has guided our intentional efforts to learn more about one another, our students, families, and colleagues. By sharing our stories, we strengthen understanding, build empathy, and cultivate a stronger sense of belonging. We have celebrated these stories through our employee recognition events, including the Cornerstone Awards and Salute to Teachers. The Cornerstone Awards honored twelve outstanding classified employees, each recognized monthly throughout 2025, while Salute to Teachers celebrated 15 exceptional educators for the 2024-2025 school year. In alignment with this year's theme, our educators and staff serve as storytellers, bringing learning to life and empowering students to see themselves as the authors of their own success.

West Covina Unified School District

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

Where Students Always Come First



Dr. Emy Flores

Superintendent

At West Covina Unified School District, our mission is simple: do what is in the best interest of each student. Everything we build, every program we offer, and every decision we make starts with that commitment.

Seven of our schools have earned the California Distinguished Schools designation. One is a National Blue Ribbon School. This year, our schools were honored on the floor of the U.S. Congress, and our students are being accepted to top universities, including USC, UCLA, Stanford, MIT, and NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Our students consistently earn top honors in academics, athletics, and the arts at both the state and national levels, reflecting a culture where all students are challenged, supported, and celebrated.

We go to great lengths to ensure our schools offer opportunities where students can develop their skills or discover talents they never knew they had. Our students have access to a TK-12 International Baccalaureate continuum, Dual Language Immersion in Mandarin and Spanish, an outstanding early college program, and Career Technical Education pathways in Aviation, Robotics, Cisco Networking, Health Careers, Cosmetology/Barbering, and more. Our Golden Bell Award-winning Speech and Debate program has won back-to-back State Championships and earned National School of Excellence recognition as one of the top five programs in the country. Our comprehensive arts and theater program guarantees every student access to art, theater, dance, and music. And if that were not enough, we are home to the back-to-back Esports State Championship team and one of the best athletics programs in the county.

As a Community Schools district, we work hand in hand with our families, believing that when families grow stronger, students thrive. Our ultimate goal is that our students look forward to coming to school each day, to the relationships they build, the friendships they enjoy, and the experiences that make learning meaningful.

Whittier City School District

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

Some Things Change – Some Stay the Same



Dr. Raquel Gasporra

Superintendent

The 2026-27 school year will see Dr. Raquel Gasporra take the helm as the new Superintendent leading the Whittier City School District. Her 30 year career in education has all occurred in Whittier City as a Teacher, Principal, Assistant Superintendent and now as Superintendent. Though leadership has changed, the district's commitment to "Students First, Every Decision, Every Day" will remain unchanged.

The positive trajectory the district has been on during its history will continue as the School Board, Administration, Teachers and Staff stay committed to outstanding instruction, relevant pathway offerings, high-interest electives and co-curricular activities and expanded opportunities for all students.

In Whittier City we believe that the dreams of children are often bounded by their experience, so the equation goes like this; More Experiences = Bigger Dreams. In Whittier City we desire to make the differences in the lives of children that bends the trends and changes the trajectory of the lives of our students. Towards that end, Whittier City School district is a wonderful place to work and have your child be educated. To tie into the recent NASA Artemis II Moon launch mission, come partner with us as we partner to launch our students successfully into the rest of their lives.

It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.

– Aristotle

Westside Union School District

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

Cutting-Edge CTE Programs



Regina L. Rossall

Superintendent

Westside Union School District is building a brighter future for its students by dramatically expanding its Career Technical Education (CTE) programs. By offering hands-on, engaging experiences starting in elementary and middle school, the district is working to establish early interest and provide career pathways that will benefit both students and our community. Middle School Innovation in Action

For the past two years, the district has been creating a more robust CTE program for middle school students, including the installation of state-of-the-art Paxton-Patterson Labs in every middle school site. These labs allow students to dive into exciting career pathways as an introduction to professional fields. Students enjoy exploring diverse areas such as fashion design, medical technology, veterinary technology, plumbing, cosmetology, drone exploration, and more. Furthermore, popular elective classes like woodshop, home arts, and aeronautics are converting into formal CTE courses, expanding firsthand learning even further.

With the Mini Med Partnership, our CTE vision extends to even our youngest learners through the groundbreaking Mini Medicine partnership with Palmdale Regional Medical Center. This unique program—fondly known as Mini Med—is the first of its kind in California.

Fourth-grade students are taught exploration activities by the hospital's residency staff to help them become more familiar with and motivated to enter the medical field. The program's critical goal is to cultivate an early interest in medicine to ensure our area has adequate nurses, technicians, doctors, and other medical professionals to enhance local care.

Rounding out the program, counseling staff members are implementing direct classroom lessons to help students get better acquainted with the world of work.

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Whittier Union High School District

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

To Achieve and Maintain Excellence



Dr. Monica Oviedo
Superintendent

Whittier Union High School District is fully committed to providing equity in education for every student, as we prepare them for fulfilling lives that embrace college, career, and future success. Whittier Union's achievements are fueled by our dedicated and hard-working administrators, faculty, and staff, who provide our students with inspiration, rigor, and the tools to succeed.

The District has worked hard to maintain student achievement and success. Our schools consistently rank in the top 20% of public high schools nationwide, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. Our graduation rates are also at an all-time high, and our college and career readiness indicators have increased significantly, according to the 2024-25 California Dashboard.

Whittier Union students continue to embrace academic challenges, with three WUHSD high schools earning recognition from the College Board and being named to the 2026 AP Honor Roll for their success and participation in Advanced Placement courses.

This school year, the District launched a "Future Ready" initiative where seniors spent a day filling out college applications, culminating in an "I Applied" celebration day with their classmates and family.

Additionally, our strong partnership with Whittier College will reduce financial barriers through a series of scholarship programs, while a free afterschool dual enrollment program with Río Hondo College will allow students to earn transferable credits to UC or Cal State schools.

Lastly, thank you to our Board of Trustees for their ongoing support of Whittier Union students, classified and certificated staff, families, and community members, and for doing *Whatever It Takes* to help us continue living out our mission, "To Achieve and Maintain Excellence."

William S. Hart Union High School District

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

Driven by a Shared Commitment



Dr. Michael Vierra
Superintendent

At the William S. Hart Union High School District, we are united as One Hart - a community driven by a shared commitment to every student's success. With exceptional academics, diverse extracurriculars, and personalized learning pathways, we empower students to thrive in their unique journeys.

Our schools, with over 20,000 students in grades 7-12, are places where opportunities abound today, inspiring students to explore, grow, and excel. Through the Career and College Readiness Program, students can begin career paths as early as junior high. With a strong emphasis on college and career readiness, more than 90% of our graduates go on to four-year colleges or universities, community colleges, or career technical programs.

Extra-curricular programs including athletics and performing arts abound on all our campuses and are regionally, state, and nationally recognized as award-winning, providing exceptional opportunities for students beyond the classroom.

A focus on wellness is evident in the Hart District. Campuses are equipped with wellness centers, wellness coordinators, and school social workers. Student Care Lines at each site provide students and community members a venue to report concerns. With a strong commitment to safety and wellness, students and families can feel confident that campuses are safe environments and that the security of students and staff is the #1 priority of the Hart District.

Together, with families and the community, we create an environment where every child is seen, supported, and given the tools to dream big. At Hart, we prepare students not just for success in school but for a lifetime of opportunities beyond graduation.

Wilsona School District

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

Committed to Student Success



Steve Doyle
Superintendent

The **Wilsona School District** is committed to providing a high-quality educational experience that supports the success and well-being of every student. Through a focused set of goals and initiatives, the district works to ensure that students are prepared academically, socially, and emotionally for future opportunities.

A primary goal of the district is to provide all students with an educational program that increases academic achievement for every learner. By maintaining high expectations and providing strong instructional support, teachers and staff work together to help students reach their full potential.

Another key priority is the implementation of a **Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)** throughout the district. Through targeted interventions and supports, the district aims to reduce achievement gaps and ensure that every student receives the assistance they need to succeed.

Creating a safe and secure learning environment is also central to the district's mission. Schools within the **Wilsona School District** strive to foster positive relationships, student connectedness, and a strong sense of belonging. When students feel safe and supported, they are better able to engage in learning and participate fully in school life.

Finally, the district recognizes that strong partnerships with families and the community are essential. By increasing parent and community involvement, the district works to build meaningful home, school, and community connections that support student success.

Together, these priorities guide the **Wilsona School District** in its ongoing commitment to excellence in education and service to its students and families.

Wiseburn Unified School District

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

Together with Purpose Every Student Thrives



Dr. Blake Silvers
Superintendent

In Wiseburn Unified School District, our story continues to be shaped by a shared belief: when we work together with purpose, every student can thrive. Serving approximately 2,500 TK-8 students, we center our work around five district-wide priorities that guide our decisions, focus our efforts, and help us continuously reflect on how we can better serve our learners.

Over the past year, two themes have stood out in our journey—deepening collaboration and reimagining our learning environments. Across our schools, collaboration is not just a strategy, but a daily practice. Teachers, principals, and district leaders are working more intentionally together—analyzing student work, refining instruction, and aligning efforts in key areas like Mathematics and English Language Arts. These shared efforts are strengthening both our professional community and student outcomes.

At the same time, our community's investment in Wiseburn has come to life in tangible ways. With the support of Measure EE, we proudly celebrated the opening of the Wiseburn Sports Complex—a space that represents far more than new facilities. It is a place where students will grow, compete, and connect, and where the broader community can come together. This milestone reflects a collective commitment to creating safe, modern, and inspiring environments that support the whole child.

As we move forward, our focus remains clear. By continuing to build strong relationships, invest in meaningful collaboration, and create spaces where students feel connected and supported, we are shaping a Wiseburn experience where every student is engaged, empowered, and elevated—both in school and beyond.



For more information about the Math Academy call (562) 222-1482

Río Hondo College is seeking educational partners who wish to provide their students with free exceptional Middle & High School Math Courses to prepare them for college. If you are interested and want to know how we can support your academic mission, give us a call.

The mission of the Río Hondo Math Academy is to provide a supportive, equitable, and engaging environment that fosters appreciation of mathematics and skills development to prepare middle and high school students for higher college level math courses, such as AP Calculus and AP Statistics.

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.....
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QUALIFICATIONS

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Middle & High Schools
Monday - Thursday
& Selected Fridays

June 2026 - July 2026

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Interested in being part of our innovative mathematic instructors for the Río Hondo Math Academy.



<https://riohondo.peopleadmin.com>

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