



Dear Lompoc Community,

Spring Break

The week of April 18-22, 2022 is the official Spring Break recess for LUSD. All schools and school offices will be closed. Monday, April 18 is a paid holiday for staff members. The Education Center will be locked, but will be open by appointment only. We wish our hardworking staff members a much needed restful break!

Breaking News: CDPH announces delay of COVID-19 student vaccine mandate

Following [news earlier today](#) that a bill requiring student vaccinations against COVID-19 has been shelved, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [announced this evening](#) that it will postpone the regulatory process used to require COVID vaccinations for public and private school attendance.

The requirement, which was expected to go into effect for the 2022–23 school year on July 1, 2022, will not be implemented until after full federal Food and Drug Administration approval and no sooner than July 1, 2023. The department's decision takes into consideration that full approval for the vaccine for individuals of all ages within the 7–12 grade span has not yet been granted by the FDA.

The decision also reflects concerns raised by CSBA in February that CDPH was considering adopting the requirement through the emergency regulation process, rather than the full regulation adoption process that allows for public input. CSBA also raised concerns that a mid-year implementation, if full authorization was granted too late for schools to put in place for the fall 2022 semester, would pose significant challenges for schools.

Today's announcement recognizes these and other concerns and confirms that the requirement will not go into effect earlier than July 1, 2023.

Read CDPH's full statement [here](#).

As Expected, Enrollment Down in 2021-22

BY PATTI F. HERRERA, EDD

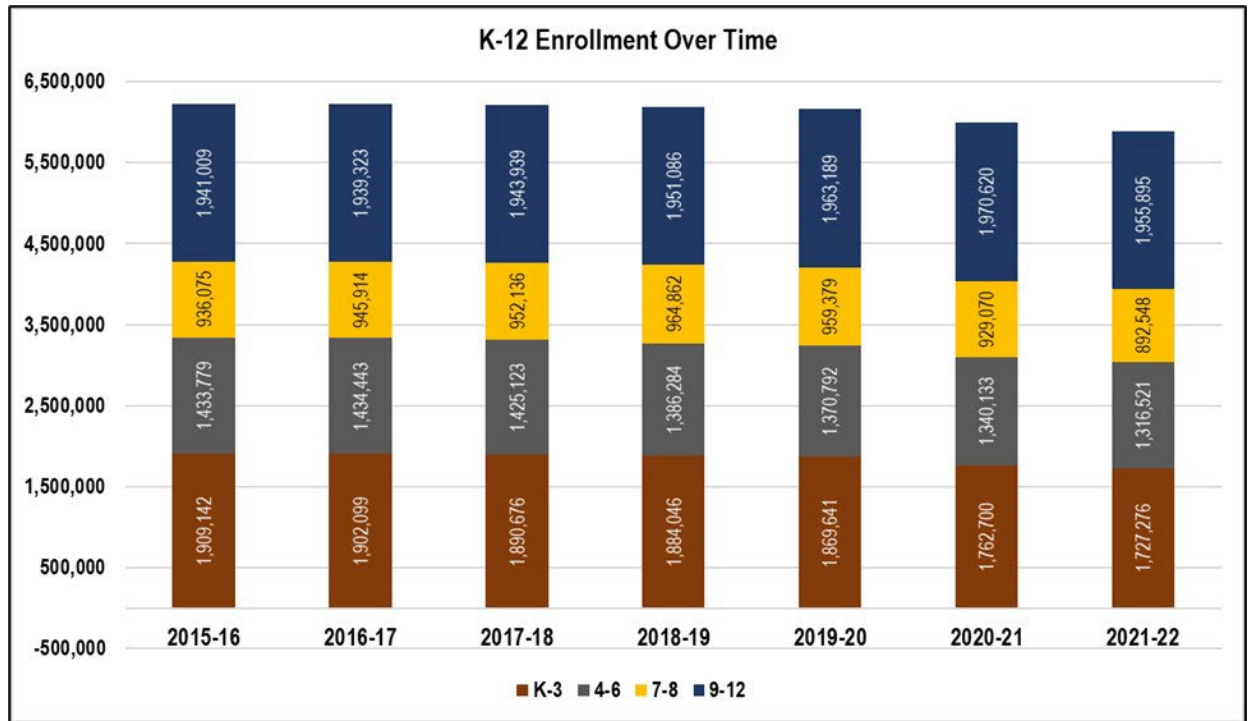
BY DAVE HECKLER

posted April 14, 2022

On April 11, 2022, the California Department of Education released student enrollment data for the 2021-22 school year, affirming local anecdotes that school agencies across California continue to feel sharp drops in the number of students they serve, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the first year of the global health crisis, K-12 enrollment plummeted by 2.6% with the largest percentage declines in high school, followed by declines in kindergarten. In numeric terms, kindergarten enrollment dropped by over 60,000 students from 2019-20, when in previous years, enrollment in kindergarten was naturally declining by a few thousand students per year.

For the 2021-22 school year, with a statewide emphasis on returning students back to the classroom, student enrollment continued to decline, but more modestly than 2020-21, or by 1.8%.



Statewide enrollment is down by more than 110,000 students from 2020-21, with the largest percentage reductions in grades 7 and 8. Despite the overall decline, kindergarten was the only grade to experience an increase in enrollment from 2020-21. In 2021-22, kindergarten enrollment increased by more than 7,700 pupils (1.7%), a complete turnaround from 2020-21, when kindergarten enrollment declined by roughly 11.6%.

While declining enrollment is not a new phenomenon and is something local educational agencies (LEAs) have been grappling with for the better part of the last decade, some are beginning to wonder if student enrollment will ever return to pre-COVID-19 trends. LEAs are having to adjust their budgets to reflect lower-than-anticipated state funding, which is largely (though temporary) offset by historic levels of emergency federal and state aid. They are peering past ephemeral funds and “hold harmless” policies to face difficult fiscal realities of reduced revenues and increasing costs.

In light of this, lawmakers—including Governor Gavin Newsom—are pursuing policies designed to ease this fiscal slope and give LEAs time to plan and budget accordingly. These proposals include extending a “hold harmless” policy for average daily attendance (ADA), making permanent changes to how we calculate ADA for funding purposes, and a one-year

COVID-19 attendance relief policy that recognizes the numerous, deleterious, and anomalous effects that the protracted health crisis has had on student attendance in 2021-22.

Econ Alliance Panel

The Santa Barbara County Broadband Alliance held a panel this week to discuss the work efforts on the Countywide strategic plan regarding broadband and internet access.

They had a panel of professionals to provide some insights and challenges that the County will need to overcome to meet the Broadband for All Action Plan's long-term goals which all focus on closing the digital divide. Bree Valla represented Lompoc Unified on the panel to share the District's needs.

Every 15 Minutes

Every 15 Minutes program is a two-day program focusing on high school juniors and seniors, which challenges them to think about drinking, driving, personal safety, the responsibility of making mature decisions and the impact their decisions have on family, friends, their community, and many others. This year the program was held at Lompoc High School. Each year, we rotate to the other high school. We have not held the program for two years due to the pandemic.

The program brings together a broad coalition of interested local agencies with the goal of reducing alcohol-related incidents among youth. The partnering of the California Highway Patrol, local law enforcement, our local hospital, emergency medical responders, schools, businesses, and service clubs validates the importance of working together to ensure a healthy community.

The two-day Every 15 Minutes program is very dramatic and emotional - and purposely so. Teenagers are constantly reminded about the choices they have to make involving alcohol and how many others are affected by their decisions. They know the intellectual statistics. However, many teens share the belief it will never happen to them.

This powerful program is designed to create an awareness among students that they are not invincible. This program helps open the emotional doors, and they experience first-hand how their actions affect the lives of so many other people.

We wish to offer our appreciation and gratitude to all of our community sponsors and LUSD staff members for their continued support in hosting this very important program.

Artesia School

This week, Mr. Sorum and others from M&O met with Lisa Renken, the Director of the Lompoc Artesia Museum at El Camino. Also in attendance were Jana Hunking who staffs the monthly Open House at Artesia and was one of Mr. Sorum's 7th grade teachers at Vandenberg Middle School, and James Carucci, a museum Board member. This meeting came at the request of Renken who wants to work in conjunction with the District on completing some repairs to the front porch and roof over the porch. Renken has been contacted by a potential donor who may be willing to fund this work.

This landmark country school which is owned by LUSD is an important historical resource that helps to illustrate the early history of education in the Lompoc Valley. Artesia was opened as a

museum in 1995 and so entered into a five-year agreement with the District. That agreement expired in 2000, and although attempts have been made to renew it, each time failed. Mr. Sorum is working with Renken to determine a work-around so that a signed agreement may be completed.

Interviews & Recruiting

This week we held interviews for Elementary, Elementary Arts, Elementary Music, Special Education, English, and Elementary Principal (Los Berros).

TSP Newsletter

Here is this month's TSP newsletter. <https://www.smore.com/u9n27>



April TSP Newsletter

April TSP Newsletter Courtesy of the LUSD TSP/ED Tech Team

www.smore.com

Lompoc Early Learning Project Update

The Lompoc Early Learning Project, funded by a First 5 Grant, is dedicated to ensuring that all students and families are prepared with the skills for students to succeed in kindergarten and throughout their K-12 education. Recent successes of the project in its first year include the following:

- Supporting families with early learners: free parent education classes are being offered in Nurturing Parenting Strategies and in Parent Café workshops. These trainings, offered through June 2020, build on the Five Protective Factors to Strengthening Families: parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children.
- Helping early learners become effective readers: approximately 4,832 books are being distributed to families with preschool through kindergarten age children throughout Lompoc. This represents 2,416 preschoolers, and 2,400 transitional kindergarten students who are receiving books to begin their own home library and begin a home reading habit of up to 20 minutes per day. Families are also receiving information about how to read to children and how to support children's growth as strong readers.
- Improving teacher skills for supporting early learners whose first language may not be English: Professional Development in Dual Language Learning strategies is being conducted for educational professionals in Lompoc Unified School District elementary schools and early education practitioners in the Santa Barbara County Office of Education Preschool System as well as Head Start. In total, 520 dual language early learners will benefit from the improved skills of the instructors.

Community Schools Grant

LUSD has applied for a \$200,000 two-year California Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) Planning Grant. With this grant, LUSD would create a plan to implement a Community School model at specific school sites. The Community School model improves student outcomes by

supporting schools' efforts to partner with community agencies and local government to align community resources. These partnerships provide an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement.

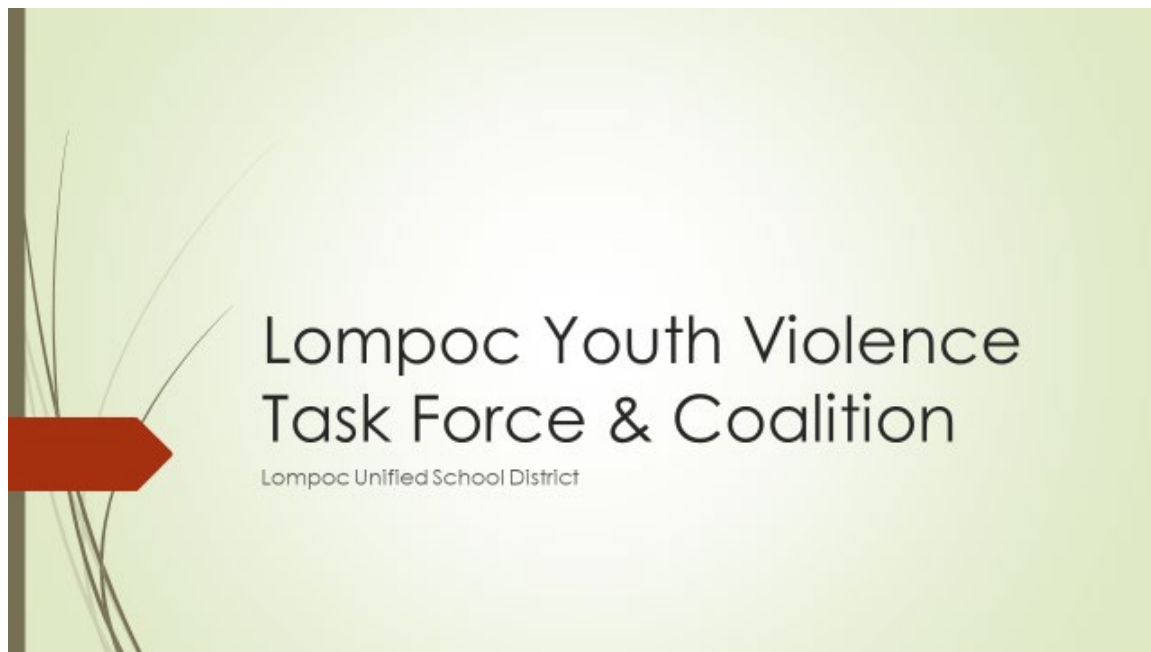
Community schools can be an effective approach to mitigate the academic and social impacts of emergencies that affect local communities, improve school responsiveness to student and family needs, and to organize school and community resources to address barriers to learning. Community schools often include four features, which are aligned and integrated into high-quality, rigorous teaching and learning practices and environments:

- Integrated support services;
- Family and community engagement;
- Collaborative leadership and practices for educators and administrators; and
- Extended learning time and opportunities.

The awards for CCSPP Planning Grant applications will be announced by May 31, 2022, with the two-year planning project due to begin on June 1, 2022. Following the planning grant years, school districts may apply for five-year implementation grants of up to \$500,000 per Community School site.

OJJDP Annual Convening

Education Services participated in the OJJDP CYVP Yearly Peer Sharing Meeting on Zoom. The OJJDP grant term comes to an end on September 30th, 2022; however, there will be carryover funds that were not spent during the school closures to assist in funding counseling for the 2022-2023 school year. We presented the work of the Lompoc Youth Violence Coalition with the following slides:



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The Journey

- Lompoc Youth Violence Task Force
- Lompoc Youth Violence Coalition
 - Consultation with Sandra Espadas
- Community Dialogues
- CBPS Collective
- Safe Routes to School
- Student Success Class for Parents



Lompoc Youth Violence Task Force Obstacles to Success

- COVID-19 limited in-person meetings
- Saturation of virtual meetings
- Changes to schedules and responsibilities
- Health focus over violence



Lompoc Youth Violence Coalition Community Partners

- Lompoc Unified School District
- Family Service Agency
- Council of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Lompoc YMCA
- Community
- Future Lompoc
- Lompoc Promotoras
- North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center
- Child Abuse Listening and Mediation
- Lompoc Valley Medical Center
- Lompoc Parks and Recreation
- Santa Barbara County Probation
- Lompoc Valley Community Health Organization
- C4
- One Community Action
- Local Pediatrician
- Local Churches



Lompoc Youth Violence Coalition

- Monthly meetings
- Growing participation of agencies and individuals
- Designing next steps
 - Community Dialogues
 - Student Success Class for Parents
 - CBPS Collective
 - Safe Passage/Routes to School
- Commitment to Support




Community Dialogues

- Questions
 - What **vision or goals** do you see for the youth of Lompoc or the community of Lompoc?
 - What **obstacles** would prevent these goals from being met?
 - How do you receive **information** about violence in the community?
 - Do you believe you are well informed about violence in the community?
 - How has community violence impacted you or your family?
 - Are there **specific safety concerns** you have in Lompoc? Any specific locations?
 - What community safety initiatives have you seen, experienced, or heard about that have had an impact on safety in the community?
 - Do you have ideas about how we can address safety concerns in Lompoc?
 - Who else should be involved in these conversations? How do we bring them to the table?



CBPS Collective

- Possible Training and Technical Assistance Plan for Lompoc
 - **Consultation with skilled intervention workers**
 - **Training in the development of safe passage to and from schools**
 - Two-day training and action planning in developing a school safety plan
 - Training in the facilitation of restorative/transformational justice programs in schools
 - **Assessments of current shootings and a plan for violence prevention**
 - Development and analysis of violence and its root causes in and around Lompoc schools



Safe Passage/Routes to School

- Current initiative with City of Lompoc and LVCHO
 - Safe Passage has been an expressed concern by students, parents, community members
 - City of Lompoc is working on infrastructure
- Presentation by CBPS to LUSD District Safety Committee
 - Hire "intervention workers/peacebuilders to assist students with safe passage to and from school
 - Students will feel safer walking with reputable adults who live in their communities
- LUSD next steps
 - Consider recommendation by increasing hours of Student Supervision Aides to before and after school
 - Focus on schools within the band of improvement identified by the City of Lompoc: 3 elementary schools, 1 middle school, 1 high school



Student Success Class for Parents

- Purpose: To engage parents in their students' educational process through an after-school class that meets the needs of the unique parent group. The purpose will be to provide a forum for parents to learn how to better support their students to be successful in their lives.
- Specific Concern: A group of approximately 12-6th grade Fillmore students have demonstrated repeated behaviors that have disrupted the learning environment for themselves and others. The school has attempted individual interventions with students with some success; however, a wider plan is needed to address the concerns that will impede success now and in the future. The students are influenced by the gang culture in the community around the school.

Your partner in education,

Trevor McDonald
Superintendent of Schools