



SIMI VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Jason Peplinski, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Board of Education

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July 9, 2015

Dear SVUSD Families, Staff and Community Members:

In response to the comments we received from the release of the final 2015 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), I would like to expand on and clarify the LCAP, its goals and the district's implementation of those goals. The SVUSD completed the LCAP according to and in compliance with the state mandate (available for review on pages 3 to 5 of the LCAP). Our LCAP reflects the concerns and interests of our community, and includes a three-year action plan for each goal, created from our stakeholder's input.

This past year has seen tremendous change throughout our district. From the implementation of Common Core State Standards to a new math adoption; aligning all college prep courses to meet A-G requirements; launching 24 career Pathways in our secondary schools; new state assessments; integrating Aeries software to improve communication between teachers, parents and students; the technology rollout and the creation of intervention programs, we have aggressively sought to fulfill many of our LCAP's goals and know that we have become a more efficient, well-trained school district that provides better educational services to our families.

The move to Standards-Based Grades report cards (for elementary students) is a work in progress. The committee reconvened in June to examine the first rollout of the SBG report cards and identify what problems need to be solved to make the process more user-friendly and informative for teachers and parents. We are committed to SBG because it provides teachers and parents with an in-depth individualized assessment of how each student performs in class and where that student's problem areas might reside.

Professional development was offered to all teachers last year. Our LCAP includes funding for ongoing annual professional development covering all teachers in every subject area. As California continues to adopt state standards for other academic subjects (currently there are new standards in place for mathematics, English/language arts and science), we will continue to ensure that our teachers receive the specific training they need to confidently and successfully teach to those standards.

Educational technology continues to evolve as we identify the best practices for using technology as a teaching tool. Staff training and the regular review of tech products to best meet the needs of students and teachers will continue. Technology is an integral part of the 21st century and we must prepare our students for this reality.

Since the passage of the 2004 Measure C4 school modernization bond, every one of our schools has undergone extensive modernization. Many improvements are not readily visible as they involved the upgrade of campus systems, such as utility lines and HVAC systems. While the bond is close to its end, we continue to use it to improve our facilities to make them as safe and attractive as possible for our community at large.

Community involvement and parent outreach will continue to be a high priority for the SVUSD. We welcome your participation and will continue to seek it through many different channels of communication. Each year, our LCAP will be updated based on stakeholder input and we will post these committee meetings on our website and at the school sites to encourage your involvement.

Sincerely,

Jason Peplinski, Ed.D.
Superintendent