



VALLEJO CITY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

STATE of the DISTRICT

2022-23

VCUSD'S ANNUAL
EDUCATION REPORT





Vallejo friends and neighbors,

I am honored to serve as the superintendent of a district that embraces more than 9,900 young minds, and there is much reason for optimism within the Vallejo City Unified School District (VCUSD). This is an important time for us.

In acknowledging our challenges, VCUSD has spent the past year initiating transformative changes for the children of Vallejo and the entire community. Within the following pages, I invite you to explore the promising and innovative solutions our district has already set in motion.

The mission of VCUSD is clear: to meet our students and their families where they are and provide them with a high-quality, enriching educational experience. We aim to unlock every student's potential and connect with their passions, laying a robust foundation for a productive and fulfilling future along their chosen path. This vision encompasses all our students, from the youngest early learners to our high school seniors, and it is guided by the 2022-27 VCUSD Strategic Plan. The dedication of our board of education, leaders, teachers, and staff to this mission, its commitments, and its goals is unwavering.

We take pride in our graduates pursuing higher education or joining the workforce this past year. Our faculty boasts nationally board-certified educators who are celebrated for their leadership and expertise. Over a certain percentage of our staff members have attained bachelor's degrees, reflecting their commitment to excellence.

Our gratitude extends to our community partners, from the approval of Measure S—a \$194 million bond passed by Vallejo voters in November 2018—to the invaluable support of our Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs), the African American Parent Network (AAPN), Ser Latino and various other organizations and individuals who actively champion our classrooms, teachers, and students.

While we celebrate our achievements from the past year, we know a challenging journey is ahead. I remain resolute in my commitment to enact positive change within this district for the betterment of our children and our community. With our unwavering commitment to change, as outlined in our strategic plan, VCUSD is poised for a bright and promising future.

We Are Vallejo's Schools. We are Vallejo.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Spalding'.

William Spalding
Superintendent
Vallejo City Unified School District



The Vallejo City Unified School District Board of Education comprises citizen volunteers elected by the community. They develop policies and procedures for the school district's operation and the management of its tax dollars.



President
Christy Gardner
Area 2
Term: 2020-24
cgardner@vcusd.org



Vice President
Dr. Latyna Young
Area 4
Term: 2020-24
lyoung@vcusd.org



Trustee
John Fox
Area 5
Term: 2022-2026
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Trustee
Carlos Flores
Area 1
Term: 2022-26
cflores@vcusd.org



Trustee
Glenn Amboy
Area 3
Term: 2022-26
gamboy@vcusd.org



Student Trustee
Ronnie Taylor
Jesse Bethel H.S.
Term: 2023

STRATEGIC PLAN

A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

When Superintendent William Spalding joined in 2020, the Board of Education expressed the need for a strategic blueprint outlining our direction and charting the course for the organization's future.

Our strategic plan serves as the cornerstone, unifying the district's endeavors under a joint mission and vision guiding our pursuit of improvement. It delineates resource priorities, fortifies operations, fosters organizational cohesion, and brings clarity and focus to our envisioned path. Additionally, the plan will promote community understanding of our initiatives to reach our objectives and establish a framework for attracting, retaining, and supporting a diverse, exceptional staff dedicated to our students and families.

VISION

To be the schools that are the pride of the community, the envy of the region, and the launch pad of bright and amazing futures and productive and fulfilling lives for all our Vallejo students.

MISSION

To meet our students and families where they are and to provide a high-quality, rich educational experience that seeks to elevate each student's potential and connect to each student's passion providing a strong foundation for a productive and fulfilling future on the pathway of their choice.

PILLAR 1

EQUITABLE
OPPORTUNITIES,
EQUITABLE
OUTCOMES

PILLAR 2

SAFE AND
SUPPORTIVE
LEARNING
ENVIRONMENTS


PILLAR 3

VIBRANT
CULTURE
OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING

PILLAR 4

COMMUNITY-
CENTERED
EDUCATION





THE PORTRAIT OF A VCUSD GRADUATE encapsulates the skills our students will embody as they proudly stride across the stage to claim their diplomas. However, these skills aren't cultivated solely in high school; they are sown and nurtured throughout our educational system, starting as early as pre-kindergarten. Here are the five essential characteristics our students will proudly exhibit:

- 1. Communicate effectively by listening, speaking and writing**
- 2. Think critically using analysis, creativity and finding solutions**
- 3. Collaborate skillfully with cultural competence, teamwork and empathy**
- 4. Contribute to the community with healthy independence, civic engagement and future readiness**
- 5. Adapt to change by having initiative, persistence and resilience**

CORE BELIEFS AND VALUES

All students will learn in a safe, inclusive, and equitable environment that validates, respects, and honors their unique backgrounds, interests, and identities.

WE BELIEVE:

That the crippling effects of systemic racism, discrimination, and marginalization have negatively impacted our students, our families, and our community.

WE STAND FOR universal respect, full inclusion and full equity in our schools and practices.

That every child is gifted and every child is a gift, and that every student is worthy and capable of learning and achieving in a rigorous, world-class learning environment.

WE STAND FOR the highest standards and expected efforts from all students, teachers, and staff.

That schools are the center of community life and community aspirations, and that schools are established in service to the community and its families.

WE STAND FOR community-responsive, community-centered, and community-enhancing schooling and service for the city of Vallejo.

That the conditions of learning and allocation of resources must reflect the values and aspirations we hold, the imperatives of student learning and support, and the sustainability of our efforts on behalf of our students.

WE STAND FOR quality and excellence in our learning environments and responsible and accountable stewardship of our resources.

That the world of the future will demand thoughtful, inquisitive, learned, engaged, literate, eloquent, compassionate, courageous, and creative citizens and contributors to an ever-changing society.

WE STAND FOR a well-rounded, inquiry-based, culturally-responsive, and intellectually-rigorous course of study delivered by expert educators dedicated to developing these traits and caring for their students.

That our people—students, teachers, staff, and leaders—are our greatest resource.

WE STAND FOR developing and equipping our people to be the best they can be for our students.

OUR SCHOOLS

1 **Cave Language Academy**
TK-8
770 Tregaskis Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94591
707-556-8410
vcusd.org/cave

2 **Cooper Elementary**
TK-5
612 Del Mar Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94589
707-556-8420
vcusd.org/cooper

3 **Dan Mini Elementary**
TK-5
1530 Lorenzo Drive
Vallejo, CA 94589
707-556-8570
vcusd.org/danmini

4 **Federal Terrace Elementary**
TK-6
415 Daniels Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94590
707-556-8460
vcusd.org/ftes

5 **Glen Cove Elementary**
TK-5
501 Glen Cove Parkway
Vallejo, CA 94591
707-556-8491
vcusd.org/glencove

6 **Highland Elementary**
TK-6
1309 Ensign Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94590
707-556-8500
vcusd.org/highland

7 **Hogan Middle School**
6-8
850 Rosewood Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94591
707-556-3510
vcusd.org/hogan

8 **Jesse Bethel High School**
High School
1800 Ascot Parkway
Vallejo, CA 94591
707-556-5700
vcusd.org/jbhs

9 **John Finney Education Complex**
Alternative School
1347 Amador Street
Vallejo, CA 94590
707-556-8670
vcusd.org/jfec

10 **Lincoln Elementary**
TK-2
620 Carolina Street
Vallejo, CA 94590
707-556-8540
vcusd.org/lincoln

11 **Loma Vista Environmental Science Academy**
TK-8
146 Rainier Street
Vallejo, CA 94589
707-556-8550
vcusd.org/lvesa

12 **Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy**
TK-8
400 Rickover Street
Vallejo, CA 94592
707-556-8560
vcusd.org/mihfa

13 **Patterson Elementary**
TK-6
1080 Porter Street
Vallejo, CA 94590
707-556-8580
vcusd.org/patterson

14 **Pennycook Elementary**
TK-6
3620 Fernwood Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94591
707-556-8590
vcusd.org/pennycook

15 **Solano Widenmann Leadership Academy**
TK-8
1025 Corcoran Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94589
707-556-8600
vcusd.org/swla

16 **Steffan Manor Elementary**
TK-5
815 Cedar Street
Vallejo, CA 94591
707-556-8640
vcusd.org/steffan

17 **Vallejo Adult School at Al Berenguer Educational Center**
Adult School
436 Del Sur Street
Vallejo, CA 94591
707-556-8850
vcusd.org/vrec

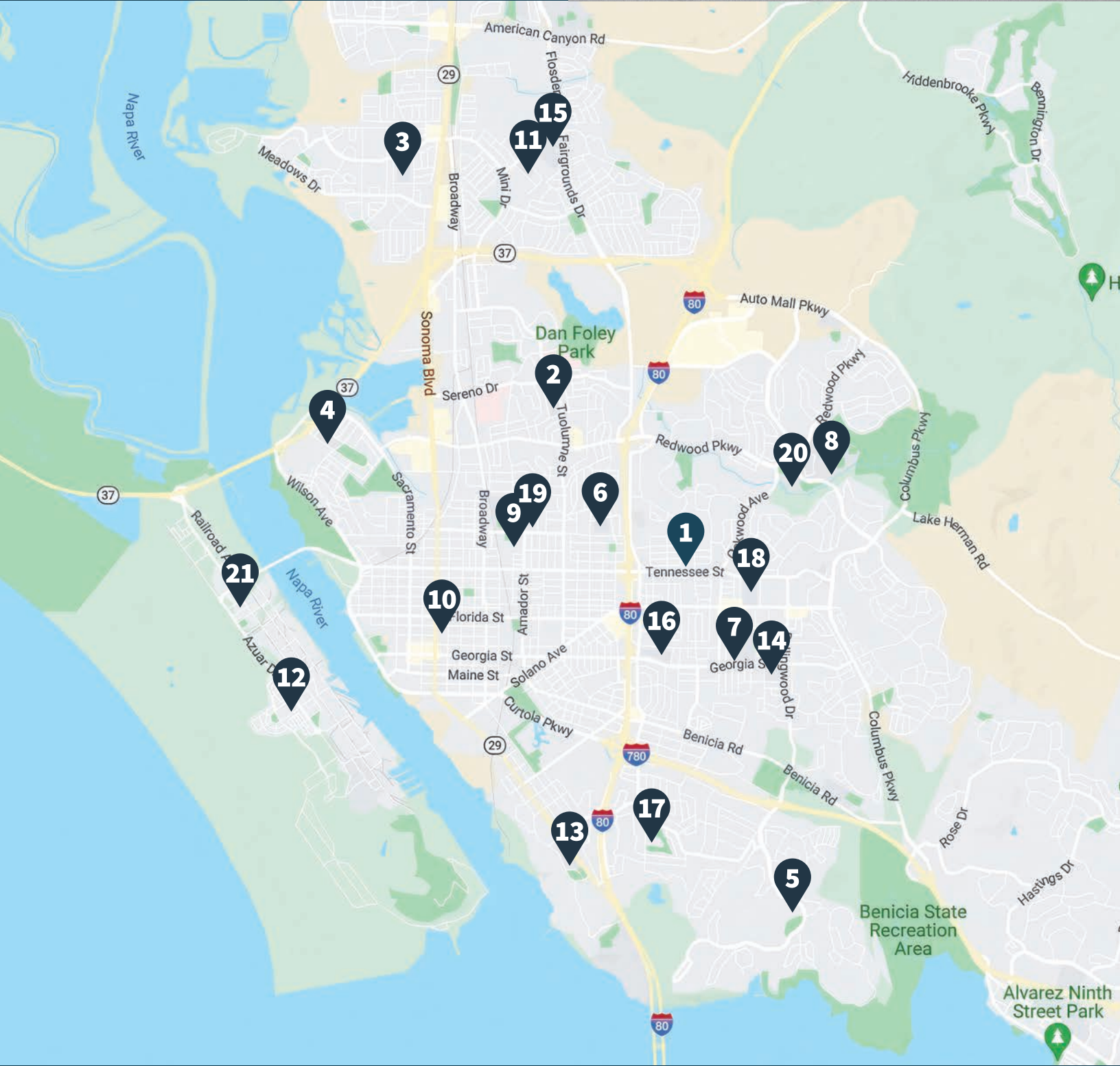
18 **Vallejo Charter School**
TK-8
2833 Tennessee Street
Vallejo, CA 94591
707-556-8620
vcusd.org/vcs

19 **Vallejo High School**
High School
840 Nebraska Street
Vallejo, CA 94590
707-556-1700
vcusd.org/vhs

20 **Wardlaw Elementary**
TK-6
1698 Oakwood Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94591
707-556-8730
vcusd.org/wardlaw

21 **District Offices**
Administrative Departments
665 Walnut Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94592
707-556-8921
vcusd.org

Did you know... in the academic year 2022-23, VCUSD buses covered a distance of 187,040 miles, equivalent to over 487 one-way trips from Vallejo to Los Angeles, while ensuring the safe transportation of nearly 400 students to and from school daily.



2022-23 VCUSD AT A GLANCE

TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 9,916

26.6%

English
Learners

0.5%

Foster
Youth

1.2%

Homeless

79.6%

Socioeconomically
Disadvantaged

12.8%

Students with
Disabilities

79.3%

Graduation
Rate

OUR SCHOOLS

10

Elementary
Schools

5

TK-8
Schools

1

Middle
School

2

High
Schools

1

Alternative
High
School

1

Adult
School

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

25

Elementary
(TK-5)

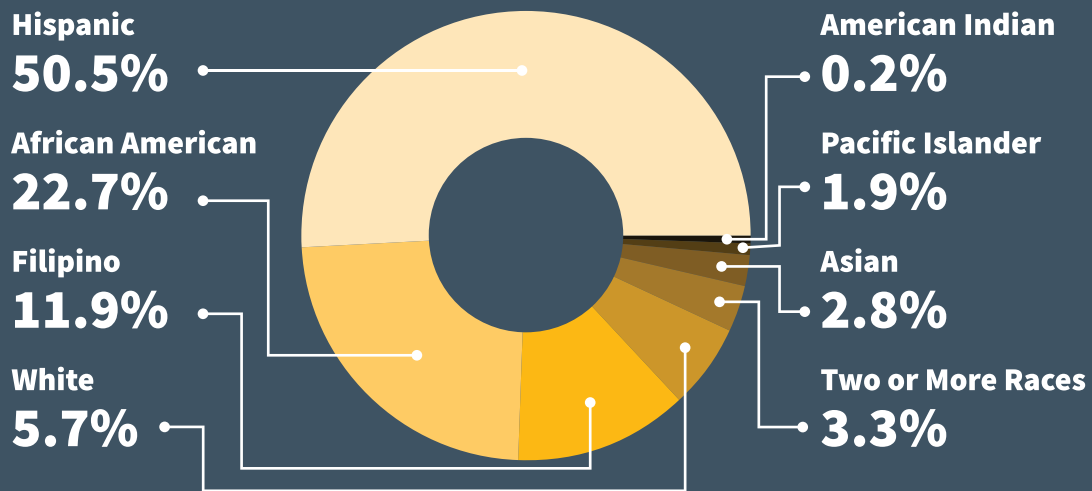
27

Middle School
(7-8)

25

High School
(9-12)

STUDENT RACE DEMOGRAPHICS 2022-23



According to the California Department of Education

HIGHLY-QUALIFIED STAFF

Number of Employees
Certificated: 576
Classified: 651

Average Years of Experience
Certificated: 10.04
Classified: 9.77

Percent of Staff with Bachelor's Degree
Certificated: 100%
Classified: 8.45%

Percent of Staff with Master's Degree
Certificated: 46.18%
Classified: 1.54%

Percent of Staff with PhD
Certificated: 3.65%

2022-23 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



Certificated Employee of the Year
 Amber Chatterjee
 Kindergarten/First Grade Teacher
 Glen Cove Elementary



Classified Employee of the Year
 Terry Cheeseman
 Custodian
 Hogan Middle School



Administrator of the Year
 Heather Topacio
 Director of Elementary Education
 District Office

2022-23 ACHIEVEMENTS

VCUSD is committed to its mission to meet our students and families where they are and to provide a high-quality, rich educational experience that seeks to elevate each student's potential and connect to each student's passion, providing a solid foundation for a productive and fulfilling future on the pathway of their choice. Here are some of our accomplishments from the 2022-23 school year.



Student Board Member Ronnie Taylor.

Ronnie Taylor Becomes First Student Board Member

During the Vallejo City Unified School District Board of Education meeting on Jan. 18, 2023, the board warmly welcomed their newly appointed Student Trustee, Ronnie Taylor. Taylor marked a significant milestone as the first student trustee in recent memory. A sophomore from Jesse Bethel High School, Taylor serves as the representative for all students and has become an active participant in our biweekly Board meetings.

National League of Cities

In March of 2023, the City of Vallejo and VCUSD jointly organized their second excursion, the Vallejo Youth Delegation trip to Washington, DC. The delegation comprised four outstanding students: Jessalyn Tan, an 11th grader from Vallejo High School; Julio Vasquez, also in the 11th grade at Jesse Bethel High School; Adena Rodriguez, an 11th grader from John Finney Education Complex; and Ronnie Taylor, a 10th grader and VCUSD student board member. The primary goals of this youth delegation were to nurture leadership skills, introduce diverse aspects of civic education, and facilitate networking opportunities with fellow youth, elected officials, and government personnel.

Vallejo Wrestler Makes History at State Tournament

Senior Independent Study Academy student Rayhan Jaleel wrestled on the Vallejo High School team and finished sixth place at the CIF Boys State Championship in the 220 weight class. Jaleel is the

first wrestler to place in the state tournament since Bobby Gonzalez in 2003.

VCUSD Places First in the Regional Competition, Eighth in State

VCUSD achieved an impressive first-place victory at the 2023 SkillsUSA regional competition this past spring. Subsequently, the team advanced to the state-level competition, securing an eighth-place finish in the challenging field of medical terminology.

Vallejo Adult School Renamed After Beloved Filipino Teacher

The Vallejo Regional Education Center was renamed the Vallejo Adult School at Al Berenguer Educational Center on Saturday, April 22, 2023, after former Filipino-American teacher Adolph "Al" Berenguer. The name change was granted on Nov. 16, 2022, after the Vallejo City Unified School District Board of Education approved the school's designation.

Vallejo High School Students Win Big At Solano County Science and Engineering Fair

A group of Vallejo High School High School students swept the Seniors Life Science Category Research at the 2023 Solano County Science and Engineer Fair.

First place: Joselito Gregorio and Damien Rosas-Analysis of Different Sugar Content Effects on Bread Making

Second Place: John Sandoval, Mirabelle Miraflor and Kristamae Dylan Flores-Comparative Analysis of Antibiotic Effectiveness in Gram-Negative and Gram-Positive Bacterial Types

Third Place: Leonardo Robles III, Ariana Mendez Bejar and Andrea Ramirez Franco-Analysis on the Effects of Air in the Production of Kimchi

Jesse Bethel Girl's Basketball Team Wins First Ever Conference Title

The Jesse Bethel High School varsity girl's basketball squad achieved a historic victory, securing their inaugural Tri-County Athletic League, Stone Division, championship. The team boasted an impressive 14-8 overall record, dominating league play with an 11-1 performance. Senior guard Ameera Musleh emerged as the team's top scorer, averaging 12.0 points per game.



2022-23 Jesse Bethel girl's basketball team.

Recognition Granted to Three VCUSD Schools for Their Contributions to Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

The California Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Coalition acknowledged the outstanding efforts of three VCUSD institutions for their work during the 2022-23 school year. Vallejo High School was honored with a Silver PBIS designation, while Cooper Elementary and Mare Island Fitness Academy received well-deserved Bronze distinctions.

Three VCUSD Schools Receive Notable Accreditation Distinctions

Three schools in the Vallejo City Unified School District—Vallejo Adult School at Al Berenguer Educational Center, Jesse Bethel High School, and Vallejo High School—received six-year accreditation statuses from the Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges this year. WASC accreditation validates the integrity of a school's program and assures a community that the school's goals are appropriate and accomplished through a viable education program.

DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENTS

The preceding three academic years have proven to be challenging for all. The pandemic has led to educational setbacks as households transformed dining tables into makeshift classrooms. The resilience exhibited by our community was truly remarkable. Even with most of us working remotely, the District remained dedicated to serving our students and the community. Here are some noteworthy achievements from the past three school years.

District Navigates COVID-19 Pandemic

VCUSD effectively managed the turbulent health and safety challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring continuous remote instruction for all students, establishing and enforcing comprehensive safety and instructional guidelines, responding to spikes in the epidemic, and maintaining clean and secure environments through a range of initiatives, equipment installations, and materials distribution across the district, conducting weekly testing for employees and athletes, and diligently monitoring infection rates.

VCUSD Creates a Strategic Plan for the Future

During the autumn of 2021, the Vallejo City Unified School District Board of Education initiated a request for the District to embark on a strategic planning process, aiming to provide clear direction for enhancing VCUSD. Their directive emphasized community-driven development, the involvement of community leaders, and the establishment of actionable goals.

In August 2022, the Vallejo City Unified School District Board of Education officially endorsed and adopted the

strategic plan, encompassing four primary focus areas. This approved plan also incorporated updates to the District's vision, mission, and core beliefs and values.

The Road to Improvement

As a part of our commitment to enhance our students' educational experience, we have implemented a comprehensive staff training program. This initiative commenced with the introduction of a forward-thinking three-year master professional learning plan and the establishment of an Aspiring Administrators' Academy aimed at cultivating local leadership talent within our schools and district.

Focus on Mental Health

With the growing concern for the mental well-being of our community, the district has undertaken dedicated and substantial endeavors to offer comprehensive solutions for enhancing student mental health and overall wellness. These initiatives involve increased staffing, training, programs, and support, encompassing district-wide efforts in Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).

CURRICULUM

The Vallejo City Unified School District is dedicated to fostering excellence in each student's education by providing a robust standards-based curriculum, utilizing data-driven progress tracking, accelerating academic progress, and ensuring high-quality professional learning opportunities for all staff.

We focus on enhancing literacy skills across subjects, including reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, and the arts. The principles of literacy, grounded in the Science of Reading, hold a significant role in our educational priorities. We commit to instilling a passion for learning, fostering critical thinking, and cultivating a growth-oriented mindset to support every learner on their journey toward academic excellence.

We are preparing our students for success beyond high school graduation. We commit to educating students about the range of opportunities available—college, trades preparation, service, or a career—and ensuring their preparedness for all these options. VCUSD creates an inclusive environment where students can access the resources and opportunities to pursue their dreams and aspirations. We are committed to ensuring a seamless transition from the classroom to a world full of boundless possibilities, where students have discovered their passions and are prepared to embark on rewarding careers. We aim to serve as a shining example of innovation, inclusivity, and excellence in nurturing the leaders and trailblazers of tomorrow.

2023 California School Dashboard

The California School Dashboard is crucial to the California State Department of Education's accountability system. The Dashboard, an online tool, presents the performance of schools, districts, county offices, and the state based on state and local priorities. Its purpose is to provide parents and the public with a comprehensive view of the performance of districts and schools aligned with state priorities. The state bases performance on both current status and growth. State indicators categorize schools and districts into five color-coded levels: blue, green, yellow, orange, and red. Blue signifies the highest performance, while red indicates the lowest.

The results for VCUSD in the 2022-23 school year indicated positive strides in all academic areas. Notably, students demonstrated the most significant improvement in mathematics, marking a 16.3-point increase in Distance from Standard and a 14.3-point rise in English language arts. Progress among English learners remained consistent. We recognize the need to make improvements and will continue to do so.

English Language Arts



Increased 14.3 Points

Mathematics



Increased 16.3 Points

English Learner Progress



Maintained 1.1%



VCUSD'S ACADEMIC PATHWAY FORWARD

The district has implemented a proactive and rigorous strategy to enhance student outcomes. Discover our approach to achieving the ambitious objectives of raising the academic standing of our entire community.

Core Curriculum: Every VCUSD student has the right to a grade-level curriculum

We are emphasizing the utilization of our California Common Core Standards, which align with VCUSD's adopted curriculum. Any additional programs will undergo a stringent approval process to verify their alignment with grade-level standards and their necessity in addressing gaps within the adopted materials.

Staff Professional Learning: The continued growth of every adult in our system is critical to improving student learning

In the 2023-2024 school year, professional development opportunities will be geared toward assisting TK-12 grade teachers in mastering the most extensively researched and effective methods for bolstering literacy levels. We will integrate these strategies into our VCUSD-adopted curriculum as well. Teachers and administrative leaders have joined forces to enhance dedicated professional learning time tailored explicitly to instructional practices that promote improved student literacy outcomes.

Student and Staff Progress Monitoring: We can't improve what is not measured

We have revised our student academic assessment schedules to capture data at earlier and more frequent intervals to address students' needs better. Every school site has formulated quarterly progress monitoring objectives, which district-level personnel will oversee and assist.

We have introduced learning walks to assess the implementation of our instructional priorities and their effect on student learning. We examine the outcomes and take appropriate measures if needed. Classroom walkthroughs align with instructional priorities and provide teachers with weekly feedback.

Learning Acceleration: We have shifted our practice from student intervention to student progress acceleration

The programs supporting this acceleration were piloted and extended throughout the district. We designed these initiatives to enhance existing programs for students with specific educational requirements.

MEASURE S

In the summer of 2023, Measure S funds were allocated for facility improvements at Cooper Elementary, Dan Mini Elementary, Federal Terrace Elementary, Hogan Middle School, and Lincoln Elementary. Measure S, a \$194 million bond, was approved by Vallejo City voters in November 2018 to support the Vallejo City Unified School District in acquiring, constructing, renovating, furnishing, and equipping school facilities.

COOPER ELEMENTARY



Two phases divide the Cooper Elementary project. Phase one has finished, and phase two will focus on enhancing restrooms, installing HVAC systems, and replacing the roof.

DAN MINI ELEMENTARY



Dan Mini Elementary also follows a two-phase plan. The first phase is complete, and phase two will involve refurbishing restrooms, setting up HVAC systems, introducing new marquee signage, and replacing the roofing.

FEDERAL TERRACE ELEMENTARY



At Federal Terrace Elementary, phase one brought accessibility upgrades, new walkways, and front-entrance canopies. The upcoming phase, scheduled for the summer of 2024, will encompass restroom upgrades, HVAC installations, and a roof overhaul.

DAN MINI ELEMENTARY



Hogan Middle School's phase one included accessibility improvements, asphalt repairs, restroom enhancements, and the modernization of its auditorium. Phase two, set for summer 2024, will introduce a new HVAC system, roof repairs and replacements, and locker upgrades.

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY



For Lincoln Elementary, phase one comprised accessibility updates and asphalt repairs. The forthcoming summer 2024 work will involve HVAC installation and roofing repairs.

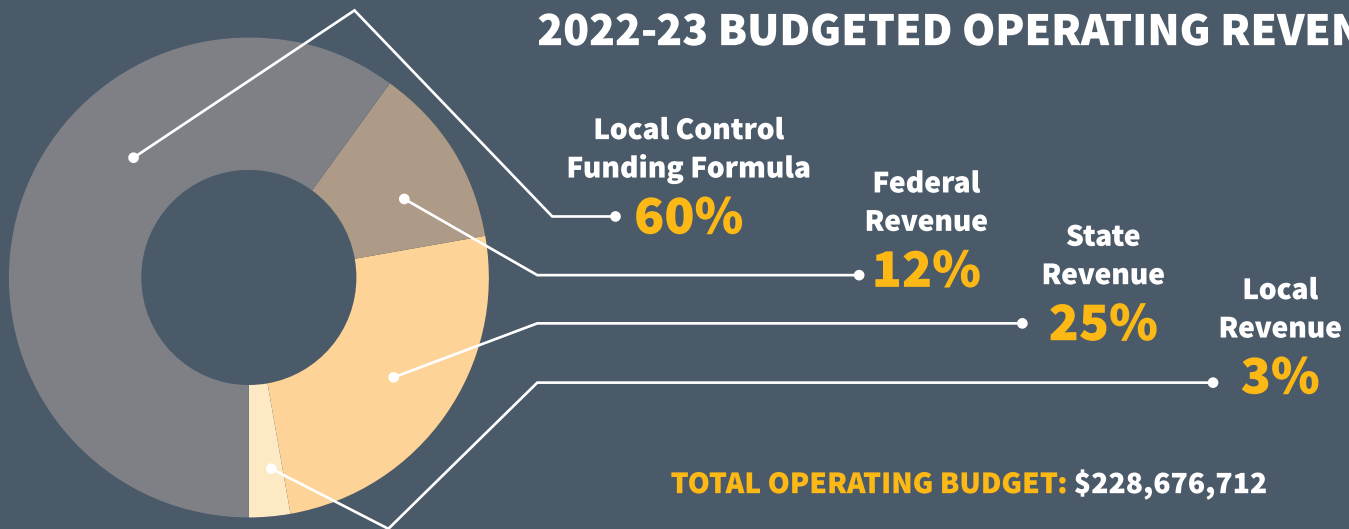
2022-23 FINANCIALS

Vallejo City Unified School District is funded primarily through local sources, average daily attendance, and property taxes.

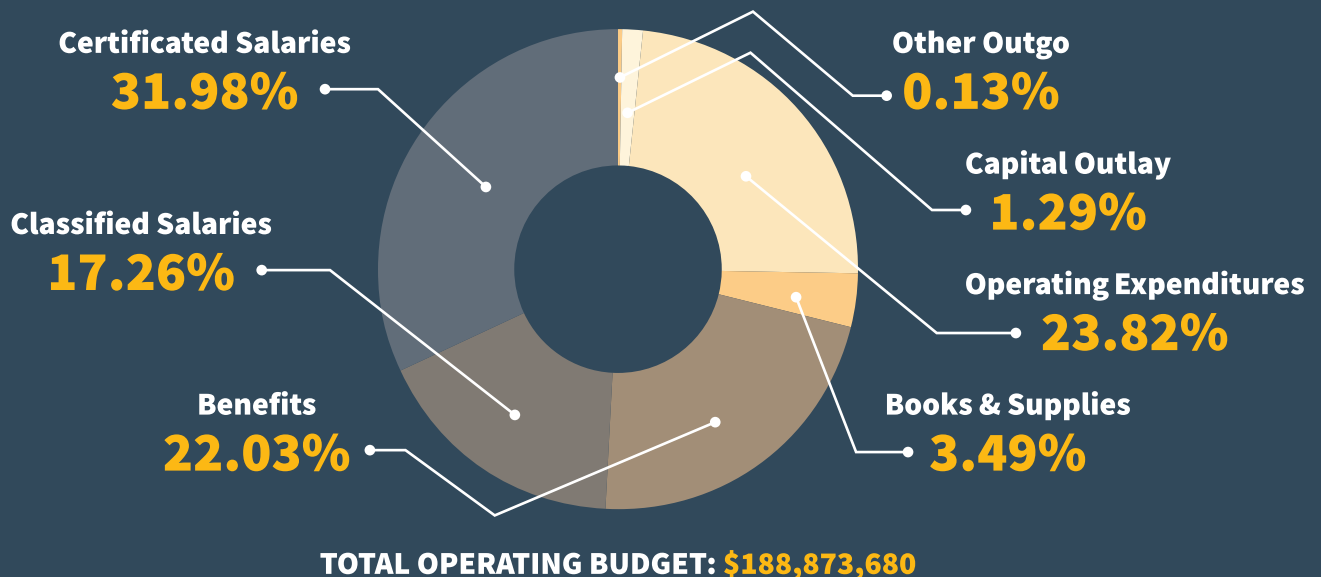
DISTRICT WORKS TOWARDS PAYING OFF LOAN

In 2004, Vallejo City Unified School District entered into a state receivership due to unsound fiscal practices by more than \$60 million, effectively declaring fiscal insolvency. The state provided a loan that necessitated full repayment over a 20-year amortization schedule to address this financial crisis. Diligent and concentrated efforts have been undertaken to guide the district toward the conclusion of its two-decade-long period of fiscal receivership, debt settlement, ongoing budget cuts, and the prudent management of resources. The objective is to enable VCUSD to attain financial independence and operational sustainability, ultimately emerging from receivership status. The loan is set to be fully paid off in 2024.

2022-23 BUDGETED OPERATING REVENUE



2022-23 BUDGETING OPERATING EXPENDITURES





VALLEJO CITY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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