



*Volume 6, Issue 1*



## Educational Equity Remains Top Priority for Districts in 2020

The beginning of a new year, and particularly a new decade, provides opportunity to celebrate successes and achievements, take stock of areas still in need of improvement and renew important commitments to purposeful work. One of the ongoing priorities among the 33 school districts in San Bernardino County is ensuring equity and access to high quality education for all students.

A focus on educational equity was key to the passage of the Local Control Funding Formula and related education reforms in 2013 when California made substantial changes to how it funds public schools by allocating more resources toward students with the greatest need- English language learners, foster youth and students of low socio-economic status. The reforms provided a framework to improve student outcomes and equity, while increasing community engagement and local decision-making.

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools has been at the forefront of efforts to address educational equity and access. One of those key efforts has the potential to impact public schools and their communities statewide. Our office has taken a statewide leadership position with a consortium that is focused on developing stronger family and community engagement across California schools, districts and county offices of education.

County Schools was the sole county office of education in the state to be awarded a \$13.2-million grant - along with the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE), Los Angeles-based Families in Schools and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence - to lead the statewide Community Engagement Initiative. The initiative is part of California's statewide System of Support to build capacity in school districts and their communities for meaningful engagement that supports the continuous improvement of students and schools. Currently, six pilot districts across the state are participating, including Ontario-Montclair School District.

As a result of the strong focus on educational equity in our region, we've seen our countywide high school five-year cohort graduation rate rise to 86.1 percent - better than the state average of 85.5 percent for the first time ever! Impressively, 19 of the 22 districts with high schools in San Bernardino County have graduation rates higher than the state average as well.

Our County Schools' office remains committed to working with our school districts and educational partners to continue these positive trends and provide excellent educational opportunities for all students. Given the pivotal role of education in California's economy, improving the academic outcomes of all of our students requires continued focus and investment, and deeper engagement of all with a stake in our public schools.

I appreciate your commitment to the 406,000 students in San Bernardino County public schools and encourage your continued involvement with our local schools and districts. Together, we can transform lives through education!

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## Newsroom Spotlights:

### Children Deserve Success Holds Holiday Celebration for 165 Students

The Children Deserve Success program for the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools office held its annual holiday celebration for 165 students from four surrounding school districts on December 11 at the Elks Lodge in San Bernardino.

[Read more here.](#)

[View the photos.](#)



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### 19 County Elementary Schools Earn Distinguished School Status

Nineteen elementary schools from 10 San Bernardino County districts have been named California Distinguished Schools, according to a news release from the California Department of Education.

[Read more here.](#)

# California School Dashboard Data Released

The California Department of Education released its second fully comprehensive California School Dashboard in December as part of its accountability system for the state's public schools. With multiple measurements highlighting key areas, the Dashboard provides an update of how local schools and districts are progressing.

[Read more here.](#)

**SB County School Districts 2019 Dashboard Summary**

San Bernardino County School Districts	Red			Orange			Yellow			Green			Blue		
*State indicators are not applicable to all districts	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Percent of Districts in Each Performance Level	6%	5%	6%	15%	35%	39%	43%	33%	28%	30%	23%	23%	6%	4%	4%
College/Career Readiness (*20/33)	N/A	0	0	N/A	8	7	N/A	7	5	N/A	5	6	N/A	0	2
Chronic Absenteeism (*32/33)	N/A	4	4	N/A	16	16	N/A	9	9	N/A	2	3	N/A	1	0
Suspension Rate (33/33)	4	2	6	5	10	16	10	10	4	13	8	5	1	3	2
Graduation Rate (*20/33)	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	6	4	12	10	12	6	2	2
English Language Arts (33/33)	1	1	0	10	12	12	10	10	12	5	10	8	2	0	1
Mathematics (33/33)	2	2	0	4	12	13	21	14	14	5	5	6	0	0	0

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