

School News

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SUPERINTENDENTS



2025—2026

4th
Edition

REBUILDING FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

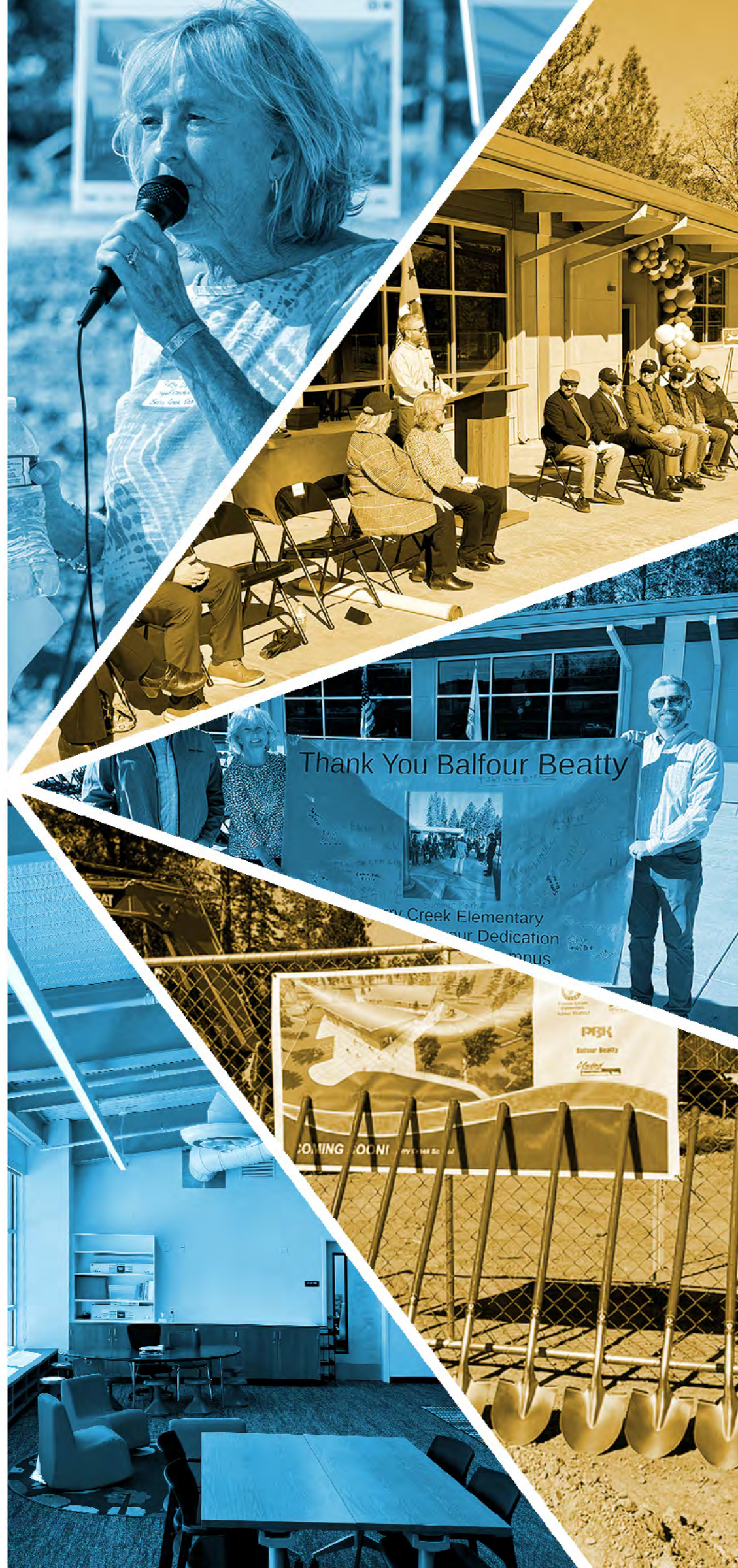
Balfour Beatty proudly partnered to rebuild Berry Creek Elementary School after the devastating Bear Fire in Northern California. The school's grand opening in November 2024 celebrated community strength and collaboration.

Our commitment to creating spaces for education, growth, and resilience throughout California remains at the forefront. Together, we will continue to support our communities in their journey toward building a brighter tomorrow.



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the inspiring story of
the Berry Creek rebuild.



Building School Communities Where Families Thrive



Dr. Gloria E. Ciriza
Superintendent

One thing that's become clear these past few years is that schools really are the heart of the community. They are an important space for students, families, and community members to access resources and support beyond the traditional school day.

There's an effort across the state and our county to increase belonging through community schools, where students have what they need to learn; families are partners and have what they need to thrive; and communities benefit from stronger, healthier, more connected citizens who care about one another.

The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) is leading an effort to assist existing and emerging community schools across Southern California with building their partnerships and plan for success.

Leading Regional Efforts

Designated by the State Board of Education, SDCOE with Orange County Department of Education, Imperial County Office of Education, and Community Schools Learning Exchange make up one of eight regional technical assistance centers for community schools.

SDCOE's work includes coordinating services across child-serving agencies, municipalities, governmental entities, and schools. In a partnership that's unique across the state, SDCOE and the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency have committed to a unified approach to build communities with healthy, safe, and thriving families.

This partnership leverages our joint expertise and expands our reach to have a greater impact. This past year, hundreds of school staff members have attended regional summits across the county connecting existing services to the unique needs of each community.

The San Diego County Grand Jury in a recent report commended SDCOE and several districts and charter schools for their collective efforts to establish and develop community schools.

After interviewing school district leaders about community schools and issues affecting students experiencing homelessness, as well as touring schools, the grand jury found that the San Diego County education community supports community schools and encouraged SDCOE to continue its efforts to establish and support community schools in the region.

Through this work, we envision the possibility of every school in each neighborhood to become hubs in the community where children and families feel seen, heard, and valued.

Focus on Belonging

SDCOE has set a bold goal of decreasing the number of families experiencing poverty. A cornerstone of this effort is transformational teaching and learning in community schools.

This transformational teaching and learning includes establishing a connection between classroom learning and real-world applications and careers. The SDCOE Linda Vista Innovation Center features multiple lab experiences where students from schools across the county can explore, create, and learn with hands-on interactive projects.

Students have an opportunity to learn and try their hand at podcasting, design thinking, laser engraving, LED lighting, 3D printing, coding, and robotics. They learn about related career opportunities in high-priority work sectors in San Diego County and begin to plan and dream based on their strengths and interests.

SDCOE is also focused on creating a culture of belonging both for our own staff and the students we serve in our SDCOE programs. We serve our county's most vulnerable students, including those experiencing homelessness, foster youth, wards of the court or referred by social services, probation, or one of the county's 42 school districts.

That's why we're actively working to identify and address barriers to success for all students. We're prioritizing initiatives and programs that create belonging for our most marginalized students and adjusting practices and systems to ensure that our students feel valued, and see their value in the community.

Belonging is more than inclusion; it's having a seat at the table where needs and solutions are discussed and determined together. It's going to take the entire community coming alongside schools to lift up our students in unity and ensure they have a solid foundation to succeed in school and in life.

We are stronger together, and the next generation is counting on us.



School News

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Alpine Union School District

2001 Tavern Rd., Alpine, CA 91901 • 619/445-3236 • www.alpineschools.net

Empowering Future Engineers and Innovators



Dr. Richard Newman
Superintendent

In the Alpine Union School District, we recognize that students must be prepared for an increasingly complex world. We are committed to equipping them with engineering, problem-solving, and technical skills to help them shape the future.

At AUSD, engineering is a mindset. From Transitional Kindergarten, students engage in hands-on learning through structured play, building activities, and design challenges that introduce key engineering concepts like balance, structure, and cause and effect. As they progress, they experiment with simple machines, structural engineering, and programming, applying the engineering design process—to identify, brainstorm, build, test, and refine. These early experiences develop perseverance,

analytical thinking, and teamwork.

By middle school, students advance into robotics, coding, and mechanical engineering. Our program challenges them to design, build, and program robots to complete complex tasks, integrating physics, mathematics, and computer science. They gain experience in CAD modeling, 3D printing, automation, and circuitry while coding in several languages.

Beyond the classroom, students apply their skills through competitive robotics teams. In fact, our robotics team placed 2nd overall out of 600 teams, earning a spot at the prestigious Western Edge Competition, where they will compete against the top 80 teams in the world. They explore career paths by collaborating with industry professionals and engaging in real-world problem-solving.

AUSD is dedicated to fostering the next generation of engineers, designers, and innovators. Through hands-on challenges, advanced technology, and real-world applications, we inspire young minds and equip students with the knowledge to build the future.

Cajon Valley Union School District

740 E. Main St., El Cajon, CA 92020 • 619/588-3000 • <https://www.cajonvalley.net>

Modern Practices and Curriculum



Dr. David Miyashiro
Superintendent

The Cajon Valley Union School District is recognized globally for its modern practices and curriculum beginning with their transition to a 1:1 technology ecosystem of blended and personalized learning in 2013. Closing the digital divide for students and teachers paved the way for modern curriculum and the development of “The World of Work”, a comprehensive K-12 Career Development, Financial Empowerment, and Social Emotional Learning solution.

The World of Work and TED Ed Presentation Literacy, another signature program, provide Cajon Valley Students with a distinct competitive advantage in the global economy.

Named a 2019 Top Workplace in San Diego, Cajon Valley Union School District focuses on the positivity of each student’s unique strengths, interests, and value with a deep commitment to service. Systemwide innovation in Cajon Valley was made possible by creating culture of engagement and tapping the creative genius of their team members. Cajon Valley’s achievements have been featured in The Brookings Institute, Forbes, The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, and the US Department of Education among others.

The 8 Promises complete the Cajon Valley MVP (Mission, Vision, and Promise). Our Mission to make Cajon Valley “The Best Place to Live, Work, Play, and Raise a Family” and our Vision of “Happy Kids, Engaged in Healthy Relationships, on a Path to Gainful Employment” are delivered through our 8 Promises (1) Be Cajon Valley (2) Empower Staff (3) Emphasize Relationships (4) Build Community (5) Communicate Positively (6) Deliver as a Team (7) Innovate and Develop (8) Deliver Impeccable Service.

For more detail visit us online at www.cajonvalley.net

Bonsall Unified School District

31505 Old River Rd., Bonsall, CA 92003 • 760/631-5200 • www.bonsallusd.com

Belong. Believe. Achieve.



Dr. Heather Golly
Interim Superintendent

At Bonsall Unified School District, we believe in the boundless potential of our students and the power of collective effort to shape a better future. Committed to empowering every learner, BUSD provides innovative, student-centered experiences that foster confidence, resilience, and a belief in one’s ability to succeed. Guided by our core values of Service, Innovation, Collaboration, and Integrity, BUSD is dedicated to preparing students for college, career, and life beyond the classroom.

Our primary schools lay a strong foundation for success, offering engaging programs such as music, arts, and movement education as well as hands-on learning at our state-of-the-art

Bonsall Farm, where students explore agriculture, sustainability, and outdoor learning. These opportunities spark curiosity and encourage students to believe in their abilities, nurturing creativity, leadership, and a lifelong love of learning.

At the secondary level, Bonsall High School’s small, close-knit environment ensures every student feels seen, valued, and supported. Through the Bonsall High School Early College Program, students can earn college credits during the school day at no cost, giving them a head start on their futures. In addition, CTE and AP courses, CIF athletics, dynamic mock trial, speech & debate, and theater programs provide diverse pathways for growth, empowering students to believe in their potential and take bold steps toward their aspirations.

Our dedicated staff (along with strong family and community partnerships) fosters a culture where innovative education meets small-town heart. BUSD’s Framework for the Future prioritizes instilling confidence and the critical thinking skills necessary for students to become engaged citizens and future leaders.

At Bonsall Unified, we know that every student has the potential to succeed. When students believe in themselves and know their educators believe in them, they gain the confidence to achieve anything.

Cardiff School District

1888 Montgomery Ave., Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007 • 760/632-5890 • www.cardiffschools.com

Compassionate, Global, and Innovative Learners



Jill Vinson
Superintendent

The Cardiff School District is committed to developing well-rounded students equipped for future success in a dynamic, interconnected world. As a learning community, we embody the tenets of our Lifelong Learner Profile, which emphasizes five key competencies: Compassionate Citizen, Global Thinker, Inspired Innovator, Mindful Learner, and Skillful Connector. These qualities are modeled and cultivated throughout the Cardiff Schools’ experience, fostering students who are not only academically strong but also socially and emotionally intelligent.

The “Compassionate Citizen” aspect encourages students to practice self-control, respect others, and build caring communities. Students learn to act with empathy and kindness, guided by “The Cardiff Way.” The “Global Thinker” profile promotes understanding and respect for diverse cultures and encourages decision-making that benefits both individuals and the wider world. Students are empowered to ask questions and explore various pathways to positively impact future generations.

Cardiff’s “Inspired Innovator” profile cultivates flexible and resourceful thinkers who persevere through challenges. Students are encouraged to contribute creative solutions, embrace new learning, and use technology responsibly, understanding their digital footprint. The “Mindful Learner” is characterized by curiosity, commitment to personal growth, and effective goal setting. Students learn to evaluate information critically and utilize diverse learning strategies.

Finally, the “Skillful Connector” is an active listener who fosters a sense of community. Students are encouraged to seek connections, consider diverse perspectives, and help create a culture of belonging. In Cardiff Schools, we believe that by actively modeling and facilitating personalized learning experiences to help our students develop these competencies, they will be empowered to thrive in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.



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Many Recent Accomplishments



Rick Schmitt
*Interim
Superintendent*

The Carlsbad Unified School District (CUSD) has so much to be proud of.

Some recent accomplishments include our students scoring in the “very high” category in English Language Arts on the California Schools dashboard. 100% of our CUSD schools have earned the “No Place for Hate” designation, which is an anti-bullying strategy intended to help students understand bias and combat its negative effects. For the first time in recent memory every elementary school has a full-time music teacher. Installation of STEAM Labs (for science, technology, engineering, arts and math) is underway at eight of our nine elementary schools with the ninth school construction beginning later this year.

Other accomplishments include student filmmakers at five schools were recognized as finalists at the 23rd Annual Innovation Video in Education (iVIE) Awards for their short films, public service announcements and animations. Five CUSD schools won a combined twenty awards at the National STN Awards for excellence in student broadcasting, film, and multimedia journalism.

The Carlsbad Unified Council of Partent-Teacher Associations (PTA) and the Carlsbad Education Foundation (CEF) approved and delivered thirty nine financial grants to all schools and grades to support science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics.

Portrait of a Graduate



Karl Mueller
Superintendent

Recognizing that although the future is inherently unknown, it remains our responsibility to prepare our students today for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow by creating a learning framework and spaces that proactively identify individual and system characteristics that will help them become confident to build their futures in a changing world.

Coronado Unified School District embarked on a year-long ‘Portrait of a Graduate’ strategic visioning project which resulted in a comprehensive blueprint for the future. Our final product includes a Graduate and Adult Portraits (eight characteristics outlining the knowledge, skills, and mindsets that we aspire to develop in all our graduates and adults), and a System Portrait (outlining seven characteristics that will ensure we develop the conditions, partnerships, and policies necessary to support both the Graduate and Adult portraits).

We know that education will need to adapt to evolving societal needs, technological advancements, and workforce demands in a global marketplace. While our students are at the center of everything we do, this wrap-around visioning process encompasses the adults and the system that supports students.

Our strategic visioning process was deliberate, thoughtful, and thorough. It was intentionally designed to include the voices and perspectives of our constituents; staff, students, parents, elected officials, community members, and business leaders. The final product reflects over 66,000 touchpoints with our partners while leveraging our regional resources (US Navy, Border, and Pacific Ocean) to prioritize student experiences in leadership, civics, commerce, cultural awareness, and environmental stewardship.

As we navigate current challenges and opportunities we act, with purpose, to ensure that we remain in alignment with our vision for the future.

A Transformative Approach



Dr. Eduardo Reyes
Superintendent

The Chula Vista Elementary School District (CVESD) is committed to creating a collaborative learning environment where families, educators, and the community work together to support student achievement. This dedication is embodied in Rigorous Learning for All, a five-year academic plan designed to promote continuous improvement, equity, and measurable student growth.

This initiative is informed by research from the National Center for Urban School Transformation, ensuring that best teaching practices align with California state standards and the district’s Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals. By integrating evidence-based strategies, CVESD is fostering high-quality instruction that meets the diverse needs of all students.

To drive instructional transformation, CVESD has adopted WestEd’s turnaround framework, which focuses on four essential domains: instructional transformation, turnaround leadership, high-quality professional learning, and cultural shifts. These pillars guide the district in enhancing professional development for educators while identifying and eliminating obstacles that hinder student success. Through targeted training and support, teachers are empowered to implement effective instructional strategies, ensuring that all students have access to rigorous and engaging learning opportunities.

At the core of Rigorous Learning for All is instructional leadership, which drives systemic improvements, reimagines outdated structures, and cultivates a culture centered on student achievement. By prioritizing innovation and equity, CVESD is reshaping education to prepare students for the demands of the 21st century. The district is confident that this transformative approach will not only elevate academic performance but also support the socio-emotional well-being of every student, paving the way for lifelong success.

Dehesa Expands, Innovates, and Thrives!



Bradley Johnson
Superintendent

The Dehesa School District is growing at an unprecedented pace, driven by the success of two innovative new partnership programs that are reshaping education in our community. Separate from our traditional education programs, our SoCal Scholars Academy has taken off, offering a dynamic and personalized learning experience tailored to homeschool students. With a focus on individualized instruction and enriching opportunities, this program empowers families to design an educational pathway that meets their child’s unique needs

Meanwhile, Dehesa Method Sports Academy (DMSA) is making waves in the athletic world, providing student-athletes with elite training from professional coaches in baseball, soccer, and other sports. The excitement surrounding DMSA has captured the attention of professional athletes, further solidifying its reputation as a premier training ground for the next generation of competitors. For more information please visit <https://www.mydmsa.com/>.

These programs have fueled a surge in enrollment, reinforcing our district’s commitment to providing diverse and high-quality educational opportunities. As we continue to grow, we remain steadfast in our mission to create meaningful learning experiences that inspire and challenge every student.

At Dehesa, we believe that education should be as unique as the students we serve. With innovation at our core and a strong community behind us, the future has never been brighter. We are proud to be a district that not only embraces change but leads the way in educational excellence!

Del Mar Union School District

11232 El Camino Real, San Diego, CA 92130 • 858/755-9301 • www.dmusd.org

Forward Momentum



Dr. Holly McClurg
Superintendent

We continue to advance our ambitious goals in the Del Mar Union School District with our strategic plan, Destination 2028! We are committed to providing a strong academic core, meaningful learning experiences, and environments that support both individual and collective growth.

DMUSD schools consistently earn national and regional recognition for excellence in education, a testament to our investment in our instructional program. We are honored to have hosted the Cultures of Thinking Summit, led by renowned researchers and authors Ron Ritchhart and Mark Church in February 2025. Additionally, the ASU+GSV Summit has selected

DMUSD for leaders and entrepreneurs to tour in April 2025 as an example of innovative school approaches to inspire attendees.

As an innovative and high-performing organization, we are always examining practices and asking the big questions to drive forward momentum. *What does it mean to be a “good student” in today’s world? What future skills will businesses prioritize in the workforce? How are the roles of teachers and students evolving to help learners become independent, and capable of critical thinking and creativity?*

We are proud that the learning and environments in our schools have changed significantly over the past 10 years. Today in our classrooms, known as learning studios, you see students asking questions, exploring ideas, and engaging in learning that sparks curiosity. In this interactive environment, a strong academic core and high-quality instruction has students think and learn across disciplines, connect multiple ideas, and engage in breakthrough thinking.

Together, we are not only preparing our students for the future, but we are empowering them to shape it.

Escondido Union School District

2310 Aldergrove Ave., Escondido, CA 92029 • 760/432-2110 • www.eusd.org

Every Day Counts in EUSD!



Dr. Luis Rankins-Ibarra
Superintendent

The Escondido Union School District (EUSD) continues its transformative journey guided by the Framework for the Future, a collaborative roadmap created by parents, teachers, support personnel, and administrators. This year, we are focusing on making every day count by delivering authentic and engaging learning experiences.

The Framework for the Future serves as EUSD’s North Star, emphasizing academic excellence, personal growth, and character development. It defines six essential whole-learner outcomes: Empowered Learner, Empathetic Collaborator, Ethical Scholar, Effective Communicator, Critical Thinker, and Creative Problem Solver.

Meaningful learning happens when students are engaged and inspired. Partnerships such as Junior Achievement provide unique learning opportunities. All 5th-grade EUSD students attend Biz Town in San Diego, where they take over a city and explore various careers, gaining hands-on insights into the world of work and responsibility. These experiences help develop essential skills such as critical thinking and collaboration, empowering students to become confident leaders and lifelong learners.

Guided by the EUSD Vision, “To actualize the unlimited potential of every learner,” we are committed to being the district of choice for the children of Escondido. By building on the strengths of the Framework for the Future, we are fostering an environment where students thrive.

Serving nearly 15,000 students from Transitional Kindergarten through 8th grade at 24 schools, as well as our youngest learners through the State Preschool Program, Everyday Counts in EUSD!

Encinitas Union School District

101 S. Rancho Santa Fe Rd., Encinitas, CA 92024 • 760/944-4300 • www.eusd.net

Core Values Foster Student Success



Dr. Andrée Grey
Superintendent

At Encinitas Union School District (EUSD), we started the year with a renewed focus on our core values of joy, belonging, service, integrity, and innovation. These values guide our work and form the foundation of our strategic plan and learner profile competencies, ensuring every student feels supported, engaged, and empowered in their learning.

Across all nine schools, these values have come to life through a range of programs that promote teamwork, celebrate diversity, and foster a sense of belonging. From school-wide service projects and the Kindness Week initiative to expanded lunch recess opportunities, we are cultivating a culture of joy and belonging in new and innovative ways.

At EUSD, we believe that when students feel valued and included, they are inspired to thrive both inside and outside the classroom. This focus provides meaningful learning experiences that build character, compassion, and community, while helping students align more fully to the competencies in our learner profile.

These values extend beyond our school walls and into the community. One example of this is our recent implementation of community liaisons at every school site. These advocates are dedicated to providing individualized support to families in need of additional resources. Their compassionate approach creates lasting connections and belonging for families who may otherwise feel isolated.

Programs such as these work to nurture a stronger, more inclusive district community and speak to the incredible ways our staff have embraced and emulate the EUSD values. Together, we are fostering a culture where all students can grow, succeed, and be prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

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Escondido Union High School District

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Empowering Generations of Students



Jon Peterson
Superintendent

As one of the county’s oldest cities, Escondido has a rich heritage. Likewise, the Escondido Union High School District (EUHSD) has proudly served North County for over 125 years. As a lifelong Escondido resident and EUHSD graduate, I am honored to be part of a district that has empowered generations of students with exemplary learning experiences that prepare them for college, career, and life.

While we cherish our traditions, EUHSD remains forward-thinking. Our goal is to equip students with real-world skills through innovative programs that bridge the classroom and the workforce. With 16 Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways, students engage in multi-year courses blending academics with technical expertise, earning industry certifications and even college credits through partnerships with local community colleges.

Beyond the classroom, students gain hands-on experience through organizations like DECA, FFA, FCCLA, and SkillsUSA, along with labs, projects, guest speakers, field trips, and career fairs that help them envision their future.

We also offer unique opportunities beyond comprehensive schools. Middle College at Orange Glen High School allows students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously through Palomar College. At Del Lago Academy, a STEM-focused, project-based curriculum connects scholars to real-world applications through junior-year internships with local businesses and agencies.

At EUHSD, we are committed to preparing students for success with tangible, real-world connections. We invite you to learn more about our programs and engage with us through our website and social media channels.

Fallbrook Union Elementary School District

321 N. Iowa St., Fallbrook, CA 92028 • 760/731-5400 • www.fuesd.org

Growth. Innovation. Student Success.



Monika Hazel
Superintendent

At Fallbrook Union Elementary School District (FUESD), we are committed to providing every student with an exceptional education in a nurturing and engaging environment. Under Superintendent Monika Hazel’s leadership, our district has made remarkable progress in two critical areas affecting students nationwide: reducing chronic absenteeism and advancing a district-wide reading initiative.

Recognizing that consistent attendance is vital to academic success, FUESD has implemented targeted interventions and strengthened family partnerships to combat chronic absenteeism. By utilizing data-driven strategies, early identification, and increased community outreach, we have significantly improved student attendance, ensuring more students are engaged in daily learning and on track for long-term success.

Equally transformative has been our district-wide literacy initiative, prioritizing structured, research-based reading instruction. Through a unified approach, we have strengthened early literacy development and improved reading outcomes across all grade levels. Teachers have embraced evidence-based practices, and students are benefiting from increased access to high-quality instructional materials, small-group interventions, and personalized support.

Beyond these key initiatives, FUESD continues to enhance student learning through STEAM programs, social-emotional development, and extended learning opportunities. Our schools are thriving hubs where students feel safe, valued, and inspired to learn.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on removing barriers to learning and fostering an environment where every student is present, engaged, and empowered. By strengthening collaboration among educators, families, and the community, we are building a foundation where every child can reach their full potential.

At FUESD, the future is bright, and under Monika Hazel’s leadership, we are committed to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

Fallbrook Union High School District

2234 S. Stage Coach Ln., Fallbrook, CA 92028 • 760/723-6332 • www.fuhdsd.net

College and Career Readiness



Ilsa Garza-Gonzalez
Superintendent

Fallbrook Union High School District (FUHSD) has made impressive strides in advancing educational access, engagement, and student outcomes, earning recognition for its commitment to excellence. Recently named in U.S. News & World Report’s Best High Schools list, FUHSD also received the AP College Board Silver Distinction and an Access Award, underscoring its dedication to providing equitable educational opportunities for all students.

A key focus is preparing students for success in both college and career. The district has raised its A-G completion rates, ensuring that more students meet the requirements for admission to California public universities. This achievement is a testament to the district’s strong academic foundation and commitment to preparing students for post-secondary options.

Engagement is also central to the district’s approach, with an emphasis on creating dynamic and inclusive learning environments. Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs play a vital role in this, offering students hands-on experience in high-demand industries. New CTE facilities are designed to provide students with the skills and credentials they need to enter the workforce directly after graduation.

Additionally, the district’s new Adult Transition Program building opening in Fall 2026 will support students with disabilities. This program ensures that all students, regardless of their challenges, have access to opportunities for growth, work readiness, and community integration.

Together, these efforts reflect the district’s unwavering commitment to improving student outcomes and providing an inclusive, future-ready education for every learner.

Grossmont Union High School District

1100 Murray Dr., El Cajon, CA 92020 • 619/644-8000 • www.guhdsd.net

Building on a Legacy



Sandra Huevo
Superintendent

GUHSD Superintendent Mike Fowler recently concluded his tenure as he seeks additional treatment for his illness. I was appointed to serve for the remainder of 24-25.

Our Governing Board President, Dr. Gary Woods, expressed deep appreciation for Superintendent Fowler’s service and immeasurable contributions to our District, saying “Superintendent Fowler’s nearly three-decade career with the Grossmont Union High School District has profoundly shaped the lives of our students, staff, and families. On behalf of our Governing Board, I want to express our deep gratitude for his service. As he continues his courageous fight, we stand beside him and his family.”

Superintendent Fowler began his 29-year career in education as an English and Accounting teacher before advancing through leadership roles as Assistant Principal, Principal, and Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services. As Principal of Granite Hills High School, he helped the school earn recognition as a California Distinguished School and achieve national rankings on U.S. News & World Report’s “Best American High Schools” list.

We honor Superintendent Fowler for his extraordinary service to our District. The Board is searching for a new Superintendent for 25-26, looking for a leader to build on GUHSD’s century-long tradition of excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts.

Preparing Students for Lifelone Success



Elizabeth Bystedt
Superintendent

The Jamul-Dulzura School District is dedicated to fostering the well-rounded development of its students, ensuring they thrive academically while also building essential social and emotional skills. Through a supportive and inclusive environment, the district provides students with the tools they need to succeed in school and beyond.

At the heart of the district’s approach is its commitment to creating a school culture that emphasizes inclusivity, respect, and cooperation. Teachers and staff work closely with students and families, fostering strong relationships and providing encouragement and guidance to support their growth inside and outside the classroom.

Academically, the district offers a diverse and challenging curriculum designed to engage students at every level. From early childhood through middle school, students have access to a broad range of courses and extracurricular activities that cater to their interests and talents. Whether through STEM programs, arts education, or afterschool athletics, students are encouraged to explore their passions while developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Recognizing the importance of social and emotional development, the district provides a strong support system for students. A dedicated team—including a school psychologist, social worker, and support staff—offers resources to help students navigate challenges and build resilience. Initiatives such as anti-bullying campaigns, peer mentoring programs, the Leader in Me program, Kindness Challenges, and mindfulness practices contribute to a safe and supportive school environment where every child feels valued and empowered. We are also proud to partner with the Cook Center for Human Connection and Care Solace to support our students and their families in these endeavors.

By prioritizing academic excellence, fostering a positive school culture, and emphasizing students’ social and emotional well-being, the Jamul-Dulzura Union School District is committed to preparing students for lifelong success.

A Micro but Mighty District



Yvonne Fleet
Superintendent

Nestled in the scenic San Diego Mountains, Julian High School has proudly served our community for generations. Founded to meet the needs of Julian’s rural families, our school provides a personalized and impactful educational experience for students in grades 9-12 across over 600 square miles of San Diego County’s backcountry.

Julian High School is more than a school—it is a vital part of our community’s history. With an enrollment of just 115 students, we embody the “micro” in our motto, offering a uniquely close-knit and supportive environment. The first school in Julian opened in 1870, laying the foundation for a long tradition of education. Generations of families have walked our halls, forging a legacy of pride and achievement. Our staff nurtures students’ unique potential, building a foundation for lifelong success.

Julian High offers small class sizes and personalized instruction, fostering academic and personal growth. Students benefit from programs like Future Farmers of America (FFA), Robotics, Drama, Music, and Career Technical Education (CTE), which develop real-world skills and leadership. Additionally, 15 after-school programs engage students in arts, athletics, academics, and community service.

Each year, Julian High School celebrates the remarkable achievements of its graduates, who embark on diverse paths. Our alumni have earned acceptance to Ivy League universities, U.S. Military Academies, and renowned state colleges. In contrast, others dedicate themselves to serving their country in the armed forces or stepping directly into careers that strengthen local and global communities.

Julian High School’s leadership and staff are dedicated to growth, innovation, and community engagement. By honoring our rich heritage while embracing new opportunities, we empower students to achieve their dreams. Julian High School is “Micro but Mighty,” proving that small beginnings lead to extraordinary achievements.





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La Mesa-Spring Valley School District

4750 Date Ave., La Mesa, CA 91942 • 619/668-5700 • www.lmsvschools.org

LMSV has a Heart for Children!



David Feliciano
Superintendent

The La Mesa-Spring Valley School District is committed to transforming the lives of our students. We live this commitment through our focus on the whole child and as we strive for social-emotional health as well as academic success. We recognize that children's lives are shaped by how they are treated as much as by what they have learned. Our commitment to supporting each and every student is at the core of the decisions we make, from the boardroom to the classroom.

Our incredible teachers, staff, and administrators ensure that each and every child has the support needed to be successful and engaged at school. This is done through a commitment

to academic excellence and a strong focus on social-emotional learning and school connectedness. In fact, every school in the district employs a full time social worker and/or counselor trained in evidence-based strategies to provide foundational support for our students' social-emotional health.

At LMSV, we believe that love is at the root of everything we do. Our hashtag is #LMSVHeart because we believe that having a heart for children is what education is all about. Learn more on our website or come by and visit us in person. We offer regular school tours and would love to welcome you to the community!

You can find us online and on social media here:

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Lakeside Union School District

12335 Woodside Ave., Lakeside, CA 92040 • 619/390-2600 • www.lsusd.net

Shaping the Future One Student At a Time



Dr. Rhonda L. Taylor
Superintendent

The Lakeside Union School District remains committed to providing students quality educational experiences focused on engagement, language, the arts, and practical applications.

Across our classrooms, teachers embrace strategies that place students at the center of learning. Our site Instructional Leadership walks focus on discourse-driven lessons that encourage thoughtful dialogue, critical thinking, and collaboration. Hands-on activities bring abstract concepts to life, helping students connect their learning to real-world problems.

Our district's STEM programs include technology like robotics and 3D printing, sparking excitement and curiosity in learners of all ages. We also boast a project-based learning school that encourages students to explore topics they are passionate about, culminating in presentations that showcase their ingenuity and drive.

We are one of the very few school districts that maintain a Woodshop program, where students use tools to build and design. Lakeside continues to lead the way for our Middle -School students by hosting an award winning FFA program. We also include a robust Mandarin and Spanish Immersion program and offer many opportunities for students to participate in the Arts.

We work very closely with our local High Schools to ensure that our students can continue to follow their passion for learning moving forward whether it be in Spanish, Mandarin, Project Lead the Way, or FFA.

As we look forward to the 2025-2026 school year, we remain committed to nurturing every student's potential. Together, we are shaping the future, one student at a time.

Lemon Grove School District

8025 Lincoln St., Lemon Grove, CA 91945 • 619/825-5600 • www.lemongrovesd.net

Excellence In Education



Marianna Vinson
Superintendent

The Lemon Grove School District is dedicated to elevating student learning, achievement, and well-being, ensuring that every child receives a world-class education in a supportive and enriching environment. Our commitment to academic excellence is reflected in the steady increase in student achievement over the last three years in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. This continued progress demonstrates the effectiveness of our educators, innovative programs, and the unwavering support of our community.

One of the district's standout schools, Mt. Vernon Dual Immersion School, is among a select few across San Diego County that have exceeded pre-pandemic academic performance levels.

This remarkable achievement showcases the success of our dual immersion program and the hard work of our students, teachers, and families in fostering bilingual proficiency and academic excellence.

Additionally, San Miguel Elementary has earned national recognition as a Leader in Me Lighthouse School, a distinction that highlights its exceptional focus on student leadership and empowerment. For the past two years, educators from across the country have visited San Miguel to learn firsthand how the school cultivates student voice, confidence, and leadership skills, preparing young learners for lifelong success.

Our investment in top-tier learning environments is exemplified by the brand-new, state-of-the-art Early Childhood Education facility. Designed with our youngest learners in mind, this warm and welcoming space ensures that our Little Lemons have the best possible start to their educational journey, laying a strong foundation for future success.

Lemon Grove School District is proud to offer an unparalleled education in an inclusive and nurturing community. Enroll now and become part of a district that is shaping the leaders of tomorrow!

Mountain Empire Unified School District

3291 Buckman Springs Rd., Pine Valley, CA 91962 • 619/473-9022 • www.meusd.org

Embracing Innovation – The Senior Project



Dr. Patrick Keeley
Superintendent

The past few years in the Mountain Empire Unified School District (MEUSD) have been marked by exciting new programs and initiatives including our Early Literacy Program, Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP), Senior Project Development, expanded Adult School offerings, the opening of Pine Valley Preschool, a Community Schools Grant, and the consolidation and restoration of Mountain Empire Junior High.

This year, we are proud to introduce an exciting addition to our graduation requirements (board approved in 2019): the Senior Project. This initiative, starting with the Class of 2024, embodies our dedication to holistic education and readiness for life beyond school.

Each Senior Project is a unique endeavor, reflecting the individual passions and career aspirations of our students. It offers seniors the chance to engage deeply in community service or internships, applying their academic knowledge in real-world contexts. This hands-on experience is crucial in bridging the gap between classroom learning and practical application.

Guided by our senior seminar class, students are supported from planning to execution and final presentation. This process not only fosters innovation and exploration but also hones essential skills like project management, critical thinking, and effective communication.

More than an academic requirement, the Senior Project empowers students to take ownership of their learning, explore their interests, and contribute positively to the community. It's an opportunity for them to showcase their knowledge and skills in a meaningful, impactful way.

We are excited to see our students embrace this challenge and are confident in their ability to excel, demonstrating their preparedness for the future.

National School District

1500 N Ave., National City, CA 91950 • 619/336-7500 • www.nsd.us

Shining Brighter Together



Dr. Leighangela Brady
Superintendent

In National School District, we illuminate human potential by developing *Exceptionally Prepared Learners; Innovative and Compassionate World Citizens*.

Exceptionally Prepared Learners: Our students act confidently, think critically, and research with purpose. Through hands-on STEM and VAPA experiences, they engineer solutions, explore environmental stewardship, and engage in coding and animation projects. Learning extends beyond the classroom. Whether investigating ocean conservation, composting in the school garden, or presenting real-world solutions on the big screen; they are scholarly, self-directed, and ready to succeed.

Innovative and Compassionate: Creativity and curiosity drive our students to question, challenge, and continuously improve. They apply innovative thinking to real-world problems, learning that failure is simply a stepping stone to success. As part of our focus on good health and well-being, we became a heart safe district, installing multiple accessible AEDs per campus and integrating cardiac preparedness into safety drills—aiming to make life-saving skills as routine as fire drills.

World Citizen: Our students actively listen, respect diverse perspectives, and strive to create a sense of belonging. Their work aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, reinforcing their role as responsible, equity-driven advocates. This past year, our commitment to Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) earned us five platinum, two gold, and three bronze recognitions, while our commitment to sustainability earned us recognition as a California Green Ribbon School District for the second year in a row.

From academic excellence to global citizenship, our district continues to shine. Together, we illuminate the future—one learner, one act of kindness, and one innovative idea at a time.

Oceanside Unified School District

2111 Mission Ave., Oceanside, CA 92058 • 760/966-4000 • www.oside.us

An Exceptional Place for Learning



Dr. Julie Vitale
Superintendent

The new year is a time to reflect on past successes and look forward to growth and innovation. I am grateful for the dedication of our staff, the support of our families, and the determination of our students. Together, we make OUSD an exceptional place for learning and achievement.

This is an important time for our high school students to plan for the future. Course selection season is upon us, and I am thrilled to share new opportunities available for the 2025-2026 school year. OUSD is broadening our already robust Career Technical Education (CTE) program with exciting new offerings in cybersecurity and biotechnology. These additions will provide students with valuable, hands-on experiences that prepare them for high-demand careers in cutting-edge fields.

Thanks to the Border Region Talent Pipeline K-16 Collaborative Grant, OUSD has been awarded \$97,467 to enhance our CTE programs. This funding will support career panels, organizational tours for students and educators, and professional development for teachers. Four of our OUSD teachers will soon become certified evaluators of biotechnology microcredentials. This means students will have the opportunity to earn industry-recognized biotechnology certifications while still in high school, giving them a significant advantage as they enter the workforce.

Additionally, now is a great time for high school students to take advantage of the college for free opportunity by enrolling in one of the MiraCosta College courses offered on our campuses. These dual enrollment classes, taught by college professors, allow students to earn college credits before graduating high school. With 611 students currently participating, this program is an excellent way to jumpstart their higher education journey.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead, filled with learning, growth, and success!

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San Diego County Superintendents 4th Edition

2025 — 2026 11

Empowering World-Class Learners



Dr. Benjamin Churchill
Superintendent

The Poway Unified School District (PUSD) empowers world-class learners by creating an environment that ignites passion and equips every student for success in college, career, and life. Serving more than 34,000 students across 41 schools, our District provides personalized, rigorous learning experiences that address the distinct needs of each student. Our students experience a variety of innovative programs and pathways designed to foster academic excellence, social-emotional development, and future readiness.

Our students exemplify what it means to be world-class learners and continually represent PUSD on local, statewide, and national levels. Within the last year, eight of our high school students were recognized among the 25 Most Remarkable Teens in San Diego County; 62 elementary, middle, and high school students performed with the All-Southern Honor Ensembles of the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association; and PUSD middle schooler Ben Evans represented all of San Diego County at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. These are just a handful of many examples of what it means to be a world-class learner in Poway Unified.

Behind each world-class learner are the dedicated, award-winning PUSD staff whose passion and commitment ensure our schools thrive. Staff like Jason Schafer, who was named San Diego County’s Middle School Counselor of the Year; or Karen Wytman, given the Outstanding Educator Award by the San Diego County Engineering Council; or Brittanie Arnett, recognized by the National School Public Relations Association as an Emerging Leader for the Southwest Region.

The people — the students, staff, and community — are what make Poway Unified outstanding!

A Wealth of Opportunities



Dr. Brian Thurman
Superintendent

RUSD’s commitment to “Preparing Today’s Learners for Tomorrow’s World” ensures that every student graduates with a wealth of opportunities. Whether pursuing a university degree, community college, trade school, military service, or entering the workforce directly, we equip students with the necessary skills for success.

Our 10 CTE Pathways — Construction, Emergency Response, Engineering, Hospitality, Software, Media Arts, Welding, System Diagnostics, Agriscience, and Agriculture Mechanics — offer hands-on experiences and industry-relevant skills. Regional competitions are currently underway, with students preparing for the state competition in April. We proudly celebrate our National Gold Medal Winner in Principles of Engineering from the Skills USA National Competition in Atlanta last summer, a testament to the dedication and excellence of our students and educators.

Many of our school sites have made significant progress, surpassing pre-COVID student achievement levels, showing positive strides in addressing learning loss. The remaining sites are on track to meet or exceed pre-COVID achievement, highlighting the effectiveness of our ongoing efforts. Additionally, all school sites continue to provide leadership opportunities, exposure to the performing arts, and ongoing socio-emotional supports for our students throughout their time in RUSD.

At RUSD, we are proud of the contributions made by our staff, students, and community, from transportation and food services to technology and paraprofessionals. Our focus remains constant: “Preparing Today’s Learners for Tomorrow’s World.”

To stay informed, visit our quarterly “RUSD Roundup” on our website or access it directly here: <https://secure.smores.com/n/52srx>.

Learning Thrives When Relationships Lead



Kim Pinkerton
Superintendent

As Superintendent of the Rancho Santa Fe School District, I am privileged to serve a community so strongly invested in educational excellence. In our special and tight-knit district, we do more than teach—we inspire. We encourage curiosity, welcome innovation, and honor achievement, guiding each child to reach his or her highest potential.

For the 2024-2025 academic year, RSFSD will experience a facilitated elevation of its vision and mission. Learning thrives when students, teachers, families, and the community unite in trust, respect, and partnership. With renewed focus, we will remain the model of excellence, promoting every student ready for a successful and bright future.

Belonging is the cornerstone of relevant learning. When students feel connected and valued, their confidence increases, engagement becomes deeper, and learning flourishes. At RSFSD, we’re committed to developing an environment where all students feel welcome to contribute and succeed. Recently, we teamed up with Leader In Me to develop and enhance our positive school culture. Our students are shining throughout the district. Where Everyone Belongs (W.E.B.) Leaders pair older students with their younger middle school peers to welcome them into the upper school. Additionally, whether students are involved in Green Architecture, Engineering, Ceramics, Athletics, or Drama, they choose extracurricular activities that link them with peers while expanding on their strengths.

With belonging comes belief—the confidence to achieve greatness. Our staff instills this belief by setting high expectations and providing guidance, encouragement, and resources for every student to excel academically and personally. This culture of confidence and resilience fuels academic excellence and personal growth, preparing students to thrive in an ever-changing world.

In Pursuit of Excellence and Wellness



Dr. Fabi Bagula
Interim Superintendent

San Diego stands as a city defined by its coastlines and culture, but also by the richness of our students and families. As the state’s second-largest school district, we welcome students and families from more than 160 countries, representing a variety of backgrounds and beliefs.

Our mission extends beyond academic excellence. We are committed to creating spaces of belonging, where every student feels seen, valued, and empowered. By nurturing wellness, fostering hope, and cultivating opportunity, we honor the lived experiences of our students and help them build a future filled with possibility.

And their success speaks for itself. San Diego Unified has been recognized as one of the nation’s top urban school districts based on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Our fourth-grade students made significant gains in mathematics, with progress reflected across key student groups. Meanwhile, our eighth graders remained steady in reading and math—defying national trends of decline. These achievements are a testament to student resilience and the unwavering support of families and educators.

This success is intentional. When the School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) flows into the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), which shapes our district’s goals, we create a powerful alignment. And when we move forward together with clarity and purpose, beautiful things happen for our students and our community.

We recognize there is still more collective work to be done. We will keep progressing together, drawing strength from our differences, just as San Diego itself and San Diego Unified have done for more than 170 years.

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Advancing Student Success



Dr. Anne Staffieri
Superintendent

In the San Dieguito Union High School District, we remain dedicated to providing a high-quality education that fosters academic growth and optimizes individual potential for each and every student. Our commitment to student success is reflected in three key goal areas of increasing and enhancing student access, belonging, and achievement across the district.

We are proud of our broad course offerings including the expansion of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) program which offers access to 34 career pathways. All of these pathways include local industry partners that support student internships and other work-based learning experiences. By providing diverse academic and career-focused opportunities, we empower students to explore their passions and be equipped for life after graduation.

Building on our One San Dieguito Initiative, we continue to strengthen a sense of belonging by fostering inclusive environments where every student feels valued, supported, and empowered. Through our partnership with the National Conflict Resolution Center, all staff within the district have engaged in inclusive communication training that promotes understanding and community building districtwide.

Maintaining high levels of academic achievement is a top priority as evidenced by strong student performance in ELA, Mathematics, and graduation rates. Our district remains a leader in academic excellence, with an impressive 87.4% pass rate on 10,459 AP exams administered last year. This achievement places SDUHSD among the top 50 largest AP Exam administering districts in the nation, reinforcing our dedication to rigorous academic opportunities that prepare students for college, career, and beyond.

By prioritizing student access, sense of belonging, and achievement, SDUHSD continues to cultivate a learning environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive.

Becoming Future Ready




Dr. Andrew S. Johnsen
Superintendent

Our district is committed to preparing students for success beyond the classroom by creating Future Ready learning opportunities through our robust Career Technical Education (CTE) programs. We believe that by integrating real-world career exploration into every aspect of a student's education, we can equip them with the skills, knowledge, and experiences they need to thrive in an ever-changing workforce.

Through our CTE programs, students have access to a wide range of career pathways, from healthcare and engineering to digital media and skilled trades. These hands-on experiences allow students to explore their interests, gain industry certifications, and develop critical skills that align with high-demand careers. Partnerships with local businesses and industry leaders provide valuable mentorship and internship opportunities, ensuring our students are well-prepared for the next step in their journey—whether that be higher education, entering the workforce, or pursuing entrepreneurship.

We are also proud to begin the work of embedding CTE principles into our core academic courses, reinforcing the connection between classroom learning and real-world applications. For example, math lessons may incorporate financial literacy concepts, while science classes explore innovations in biotechnology. This interdisciplinary approach not only enhances student engagement but also helps them understand how their education directly applies to future career opportunities.

By focusing on developing Future Ready students, in our courses we are fostering a culture of innovation, critical thinking, and career readiness. Our goal is to ensure that every student graduates with a clear vision for their future, or as we call Future Ready, and the tools they need to achieve their dreams. Together, we are helping pursue their interests and passions today while helping create a more prepared workforce for tomorrow.



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The Morning Dove is a madcap satire set in a small beach town. When an early morning small fire breaks out in a vacant theater, Mabel, the town gossip, starts a chain of events that has local, state, and federal governments in a state of panic. The fire is a catalyst for Mabel's colorful imagination. As the hysteria spreads, some of the politicians use the news reporters to promote their personal agendas. Not one to shy from the spotlight, Mabel seems to be everywhere the cameras are.

The fire inspector, C. E. Hall, arrives upon the chaotic scene to investigate and separate fact from fiction. During his investigation, C. E. learns more about the residents' characteristics and often odd behaviors that make for a hilarious story.

Preparing Students for Success



Mark Burroughs
Superintendent

At San Pasqual Union School, we are proud of our collaborative efforts which have led to meaningful improvements in student engagement and academic achievement. Implementing Kagan Learning structures in the classroom has fostered a more interactive and cooperative learning environment, encouraging student voice and helping to build critical thinking and teamwork skills. We have also introduced robust Response to Intervention (RTI) that effectively combines support within and beyond the classroom, ensuring that all students receive the appropriate level of instruction to reach their full potential.

Our commitment to enhancing student wellness and behavior has led to the introduction and implementation of several initiatives, including a phone-free campus and an award-winning Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. These measures have resulted in a more focused, respectful, and positive school atmosphere. Additionally, we recently improved upon our school wellness plan to address the negative effects of sugar on student health and academic achievement.

The educational experience at San Pasqual Union extends well beyond the classroom and is enhanced through community engagement and global awareness. Art Day, Lunch on the Lawn, and Cinco de Mayo celebrations honor our community’s diversity and richness. At the same time, our ongoing partnership with the Emmaus School in Uganda promotes global interconnectedness and strengthens compassion and global responsibility within our school community.

Through these efforts, San Pasqual Union School prides itself on an environment that supports academic growth, emotional well-being, and a sense of community. This ensures that our students are well-prepared for success in the classroom and beyond.

Santee School District

9625 Cuyamaca St., Santee, CA 92071 • 619/258-2300 • santeesd.net

Engagement



Dr. Kristin Baranski
Superintendent

As we welcome a new school year, we are filled with excitement and anticipation for the opportunities that lie ahead. Every year is a chance to create meaningful experiences for our students and strengthen the connection within our school communities. Last year, we focused on fostering a deep sense of belonging for every student, and we will continue to prioritize this as we move forward. This year, we’re adding an important new element to our work — engagement.

Belonging is foundational to a thriving school environment. It’s essential that every student feels valued, respected, and included. But our work does not stop there. Now, we must take the next step: engaging our students and families in deeper, more active ways. How can we not only make our schools welcoming places, but also inspire students to participate fully in their learning and in the life of the school? How can we create opportunities for families to be partners in their child’s education? These are the questions we will continue to explore this year as we work together to build a more connected, dynamic, and supportive learning community for all. I am excited for what we can accomplish and for the growth we have already seen in our students, staff, and families.

“Transcend/iTrascender!”



Dr. Gina Potter
Superintendent

Our San Ysidro School District’s theme this year is “Transcend/iTrascender!” This inspiring theme embodies our district’s enhanced commitment to breaking through barriers and achieving new heights in academic performance, socioemotional well-being, and infinite possibilities for student success! It emphasizes our dedication to celebrating the cultural richness of our binational region while amplifying our collective strengths to create a brighter future for our students and community.

Through more than forty strategic partnerships with local, city, county, state, and federal organizations, we have built a robust ecosystem of support to ensure our students and families thrive. As proud recipients of the prestigious California School Boards Association Golden Bell Award and numerous statewide and national honors, our district continues to demonstrate its dedication to educational excellence through innovative educational programs.

As Superintendent of the San Ysidro School District, I am filled with immense joy and pride as I reflect on the dedication of our entire district family. Together, we have made our students the heart and soul of our mission—a true labor of love and a higher calling: educating others. We are deeply committed to empowering our students as we strongly believe in their ability to transcend and reach remarkable levels of success. It is an honor to work alongside our team of visionary Board leaders and dedicated educators, all of whom share in the responsibility of inspiring, uplifting, and shaping the future of our community and nation.



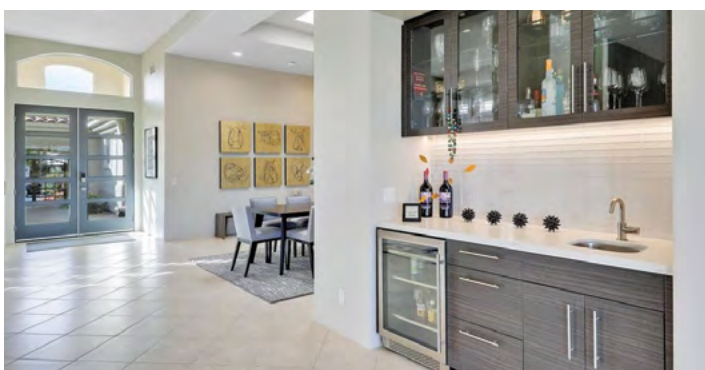
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A Century of Excellence



Dr. Jennifer Burks
Superintendent

As Solana Beach School District (SBSD) marks its 100th anniversary, we celebrate a century of excellence in education and a deep-rooted commitment to students, families, and the community. Since our founding in 1925, SBSB has been dedicated to providing learning experiences that inspire curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning in each and every student.

Throughout the years, SBSB has upheld a strong tradition of academic achievement, student-centered learning, and community engagement. Generations of educators, families, and community partners have helped shape a district that values collaboration, inclusion, and a shared commitment to student success. From cutting-edge instructional programs to a focus on social-emotional well-being, SBSB continues to evolve while honoring the core values that have defined us for a century.

As we celebrate this milestone, we also look toward the future—driving innovation, championing sustainability, and fostering creative learning experiences that meet the needs of today’s learners. SBSB is committed to creating dynamic learning environments where students explore their strengths, discover their passions, and develop the skills needed to lead and innovate. By integrating modern resources and hands-on learning opportunities, we empower students to think critically, solve real-world problems, and engage in their education. Our focus on sustainability extends beyond the classroom through eco-literacy programs, waste reduction efforts, and green initiatives that inspire students to take an active role in shaping a more sustainable future. Honoring a legacy behind us, we move forward with purpose, ensuring that every student in SBSB is equipped to lead, create, and make a lasting impact on the world.

Tradition, Innovation, and Community



Kelly Baas
Superintendent

Nestled in the scenic Wynola Valley at the foot of Volcan Mountain in northeast San Diego County, Spencer Valley School combines the timeless values of a 19th-century schoolhouse with modern educational practices and technology. Established in 1876, this one-school district has long served as a cornerstone of education for the local community, offering a personalized learning environment for students in preschool through 8th grade.

Spencer Valley Elementary School serves a small, close-knit student population, typically fluctuating between 30 and 60 students. The school is renowned for its unique multi-grade classrooms, where students receive individualized attention from a dedicated staff. Students thrive in a supportive learning environment where independence, responsibility, and community are central to the educational philosophy. This blend of traditional values and modern educational strategies creates a powerful model for small, personalized education in the 21st century, ensuring that every student is seen and supported.

This year, Spencer Valley School introduced the “House” system, inspired by the Ron Clark Method, to further strengthen the sense of community and belonging among students and staff. The system was implemented to foster a fun, collaborative environment that emphasizes character building, teamwork, and personal growth.

The House system encourages positive behavior and fosters friendly competition among students. By demonstrating good character, exceeding expectations, collaborating effectively, and practicing excellent behavior, students earn points for their houses. This exciting new tradition has quickly become a beloved aspect of Spencer Valley School, strengthening students’ sense of belonging and making them feel more connected to the school community.

Facility Improvements



Jose Espinoza
Superintendent

In November, our bond measures PP and QQ were approved by 66% and 67% of voters respectively. This is an amazing statement from our community that they value public education and want to make South Bay the best it can be!

Measure PP will authorize \$67 million of bonds and Measure QQ will authorize \$58 million. In addition, the passage of these measures allows the district to qualify for state matching funds from the state.

We have many exciting projects planned over the next ten years, including:

- Creating greater accessibility to classrooms, restrooms, walkways and playgrounds.
- Replacing leaky pipes, roofs and plumbing, upgrading wiring, and replacing aging electrical, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems.
- Providing modern technology and learning environments by renovating libraries and expanding internet networks and infrastructure in classrooms.
- Renovating existing classrooms/restrooms and replacing portable classrooms.
- Improving security with new systems and increasing student safety by updating play structures and playgrounds.
- Enabling teachers and staff to live in the community in which they work by constructing teacher-staff housing.
- Expanding Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) classrooms and labs.

We are very excited to get started! Thank you to everyone that supported these measures and for putting kids first in South Bay!

Elevating Learning: Modernization



Dr. Moisés G. Aguirre
Superintendent

The Sweetwater Union High School District (SUHSD) is committed to enhancing the educational experiences of our students, and our ongoing modernization efforts across multiple campuses reflect this dedication. Thanks to community support for passing the bond, we are creating environments that prioritize student well-being, engagement, and success.

For example, Olympian High School students will benefit from a new two-story, 12-classroom building and landscape improvements, enhancing both functionality and aesthetic appeal. A welcoming and well-equipped environment contributes to a positive learning experience.

Castle Park High School is undergoing construction of a new stadium project and soon a new two-story building. These modern facilities will support academic excellence and foster a vibrant school spirit, cultivating a sense of belonging among students.

Mar Vista Academy and Eastlake High School will receive significant upgrades, including a new single-story multipurpose building for Career and Technical Education (CTE) and special education classrooms. These enhancements aim to create a more inclusive environment, ensuring all students feel valued and empowered during their time with us.

Bonita Vista High School will develop a new CTE building, providing essential resources and hands-on learning opportunities that prepare students for future careers. We are dedicated to equipping our students with the skills they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

As these projects and several others progress, the Sweetwater District remains committed to improving our facilities and educational offerings. With all these projects, we aim to enrich students’ experiences and foster a lifelong love for learning.

Vallecitos School District

5211 Fifth St., Fallbrook, CA 92028 • 760/728-8229 • www.vallecitosd.net

Giving Gratitude



Meliton Sanchez
Superintendent

Vallecitos School District is a close-knit educational community with an unwavering commitment to student success. Our small but mighty district serves 195 students and their families. On behalf of our Board of Trustees, we wish to take this opportunity to extend our deepest gratitude to our supporters. Due to the efforts of our incredible faculty, staff, and a small volunteer corp., we are making a notable improvement in our students' lives. Our team goes above and beyond to create a nurturing and engaging learning environment. Their passion, resilience, and commitment to excellence make a profound difference for all. I am grateful for their hard work and proud to be a part of our team.

Our Vallecitos Elementary PTO is another vital partner that we are grateful for. They support our field trips, and the community anticipates their annual Fall Festival, Santa's Workshop, and Yard Sale events. I encourage more of our families to support the great work of this wonderful team. The support of community partners is essential to our success. The Boys & Girls Club of North County leads our ASES program, which features learning centers in robotics, e-sports, music, gardening, and visual arts. The Rainbow Valley Grange supports us with an annual toy drive and allows use of their facilities for activities. The Vista Community Clinic, Fallbrook Regional Health Care District, San Diego Food Bank, and the San Diego County Sheriff's Department provide access to programs that promote wellness and a safe, supportive environment. Lastly, the San Diego County Office of Education provides substantial support to help facilitate much of our great work.

Vista Unified School District

1234 Arcadia Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-2170 • vistausd.org

Compassionate Champions of Hope and Joy



Dr. Matt Doyle
Superintendent

In Vista Unified, we are committed to ensuring that all students have compassionate champions of Hope and Joy in classrooms, on the athletic field, on the stage, and in our community. This theme is taken from our Adult Portrait, and recognizes the power of teachers and staff building positive, empathetic relationships with students. When all students have adults on their side listening, encouraging, supporting, and challenging their learning, student achievement rises and each student develops a genuine feeling of hope, joy, belonging, and engagement. As a district, our vision remains steadfast — Every student graduates from Vista Unified as a resilient, agile learner and creative problem solver who navigates the world with confidence and kindness and eagerly embraces local and global challenges. We are committed to working with parents as partners in education, dedicated to support for the arts, athletics, extracurricular programs, and clubs, and we take seriously our obligation to students and parents to provide positive behavior interventions and support. Students deserve a safe, accepting, and respectful learning environment inside and outside of the classroom. The Vista Unified team is working tirelessly to become compassionate champions of hope and joy for all students.

Valley Center-Pauma Unified School District

28751 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center, CA 92082 • 760/749-0464 • <https://www.vcpusd.org>

Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders



Ron McCowan
Superintendent

Nestled in the scenic valleys and mountains of northern San Diego County, Valley Center-Pauma Unified School District (VCPUSD) spans 300 square miles and serves a diverse community, including five Tribal Indian Reservations and many migrant families, the district embraces a rich blend of heritage and tradition. VCPUSD offers students a supportive foundation for success in a comprehensive TK–12 educational system. For the past seven years, I have had the honor of serving as the Superintendent of VCPUSD. Throughout my 34-year career in the district, I have witnessed the deep-rooted connections that make our community truly special. Many alumni return to VCPUSD to raise their families and work as educators and staff, reinforcing the district's commitment to excellence and community. Our schools—four elementary campuses, a middle school, a high school, an alternative high school, and an independent study program—provide a well-rounded education, emphasizing both academic success and personal growth. We take pride in offering state-of-the-art technology and Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways in fields like culinary arts, woodworking, auto shop, music, and agriculture, giving students hands-on skills for college and career readiness. Our smaller district size allows students to fully immerse themselves in extracurricular activities. It's not uncommon for a high school student to play multiple sports while also participating in performing arts and student-led clubs. This well-rounded approach to education reflects our commitment to fostering leadership, teamwork, and resilience. At VCPUSD, we're committed to shaping future leaders. By instilling values of responsibility, integrity, and community engagement, we empower students to become changemakers. Valley Center-Pauma Unified is a thriving community where families, educators, and students unite in pursuit of excellence. It is a privilege to lead this district, and I take pride in the work that shapes our students' futures. Until the last moment, until the last child, we serve, we lead, we grow.

Warner Unified School District

30951 Highway 79, Warner Springs, CA 92086 • 760/782-3517 • www.warnerusd.net

A Tiny District – New Opportunities



Andrea Sissons
Superintendent

Warner Unified School District has proudly been serving the students in our community since 1938. Our District was formed to provide education to three local Native American Tribes and other small neighborhoods over 430 square miles of San Diego County's backcountry. At the heart of our District lies our capable students and our outstanding staff. Our students attend Preschool to 12th Grade on one beautiful campus and in many cases, their parents and grandparents did the same. Warner staff members are here to provide a unique and individually tailored education for each of our 240 students. We proudly serve scratch cooked meals for breakfast and lunch every day in our cafeteria. As we look to future, we are making vast improvements in the areas of Wi-Fi technology and CTE. We have recently been granted three CTE grants and a large technology infrastructure grant from SD County. We are designing a program to provide our Middle and High students with exposure to various career opportunities as they head out into the world. I have worked at Warner USD for nine years in the Chief Business Role and proudly accepted the opportunity to move into a combined Superintendent/CBO role starting last year. Warner now has a full time Principal for the first time in over a decade. Our new Principal provides expertise and an active presence on campus. He works to support and mentor both staff and students. We are beginning the work to improve our academic results. At Warner, the opportunity for growth and progress are immeasurable and I'm proud to be a part of what's to come.

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