



UPLAND UNIFIED

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SEPTEMBER 2025 SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dear Upland Unified School District Community,

The school year is in full swing, and it has been inspiring to witness the depth of learning taking place on each of our campuses. Our educators are sparking curiosity, creativity, and collaboration in classrooms, helping students grow academically, emotionally, and socially. This important work is supported by our dedicated support staff and administrators who, alongside our teachers, prioritize a safe and engaging atmosphere for every student.

In September, our District emphasized the importance of daily attendance. When students are present every day, they build strong learning habits that set them up for long-term success. Thank you to our families for making attendance a daily priority and to our community partners who sponsor incentives for our schools' friendly attendance competitions.

Our Parent Teacher Associations have also been hard at work, leading membership drives, organizing spirit wear sales, and hosting family events, including Family Movie Nights and cultural celebrations. These gatherings provide meaningful opportunities for families to celebrate together and strengthen school connections.

I would also like to take a moment to highlight our StepUp Preschool program. Designed for children beginning at age three, StepUp offers a nurturing, inclusive environment that welcomes diverse learners and helps prepare every student for transitional kindergarten and beyond. Enrollment remains open throughout the year at our Sierra Vista and Sycamore campuses, providing families with access to this unique early learning opportunity.

As the pace of the school year increases, it is important to remember the value of caring for our emotional well-being. At Upland Unified, student mental health remains a top priority. Each of our 14 campuses now has a wellness center, offering safe spaces where students can access support. In addition, we provide social skills groups, counseling services, and partner with Care Solace, a mental health concierge service that helps families navigate the process of connecting with private or community-based providers.

Together, we are building more than strong schools; we are building a community that celebrates learning, values well-being, and supports one another. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in helping us fulfill our mission of Creating Excellence for All. I look forward to the months ahead as we continue this journey together.

With gratitude,

Lynn J. Carmen Day, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools
Upland Unified School District





Upland Unified's StepUp Preschool Sets Foundation for Lifelong Learning Through Inclusive Model

Upland Unified School District's StepUp Preschool prepares its youngest learners for school and life through an inclusive introduction to education. StepUp offers an innovative learning environment to students and families, with approximately 150 spaces available each year.

StepUp Preschool is designed for three-year-olds and serves as a bridge into California's universal transitional kindergarten for four-year-olds. Students are eligible to begin on their third birthday, and families may choose between morning (8:30 to 11:30 a.m.) or afternoon (noon to 3:30 p.m.) sessions, Monday through Thursday.

StepUp distinguishes itself through its commitment to inclusion. By creating classrooms that reflect the diversity of learners in the world, children gain early exposure to different perspectives, strengths, and needs. This helps all students develop empathy, social skills, and a strong sense of community while building the skills needed for future success.

"StepUp is not just a preschool program. It is a community where every child feels seen, valued, and

supported," Coordinator Mathew Kodama said. "Our inclusive model benefits every child in the classroom. Students are able to develop compassion, leadership, and an understanding of diversity that stays with them. This approach creates a culture of acceptance and belonging that truly prepares them for life beyond preschool." [Read more](#)



Family Event Celebrates Culture, Community

Baldy View Dual Language Immersion Academy came alive with the vibrant sounds of mariachi, the rhythm of cultural dancers, and the flavors of traditional foods during its Corazones y Canciones celebration on September 18. The event drew families and students together for an evening honoring the importance of culture, community, and connection.

The event was part of a larger wave of family engagement opportunities led by school sites and parent teacher associations across the District, including the recent Family Movie Night at Sierra Vista Sports Academy.



Upland Unified Provides Student Wellness Supports with Dedicated Centers Across All 14 Campuses



Upland Unified School District is transforming student wellness with dedicated wellness centers on all 14 campuses, providing safe and welcoming spaces that nurture mental health, foster connection, and ensure every student feels seen and supported, all through a bold initiative funded by District resources and grants.

Each wellness center is tailored to meet the unique needs of its school community, but all share a calming atmosphere and dedicated staff who provide individualized and group support.

Beginning in elementary school, students can visit centers to practice calming strategies such as deep breathing, light yoga stretches, or taking a short break with a book. At the middle school level, counselors lead proactive social skills groups and teach stress management strategies. High school wellness centers focus on student check-ins, emotional regulation, and quick “brain breaks” that allow students to reset and return to class ready to learn.

“We believe in meeting the social and emotional needs of our students so they are better prepared to thrive academically,” Director of Support Services Mario Jacquez said. “By expanding our wellness centers, we have reduced wait times for students and brought essential services directly onto campuses. What once required referrals to outside providers can now often be handled in-house, which means students get help more quickly.” [Read more.](#)