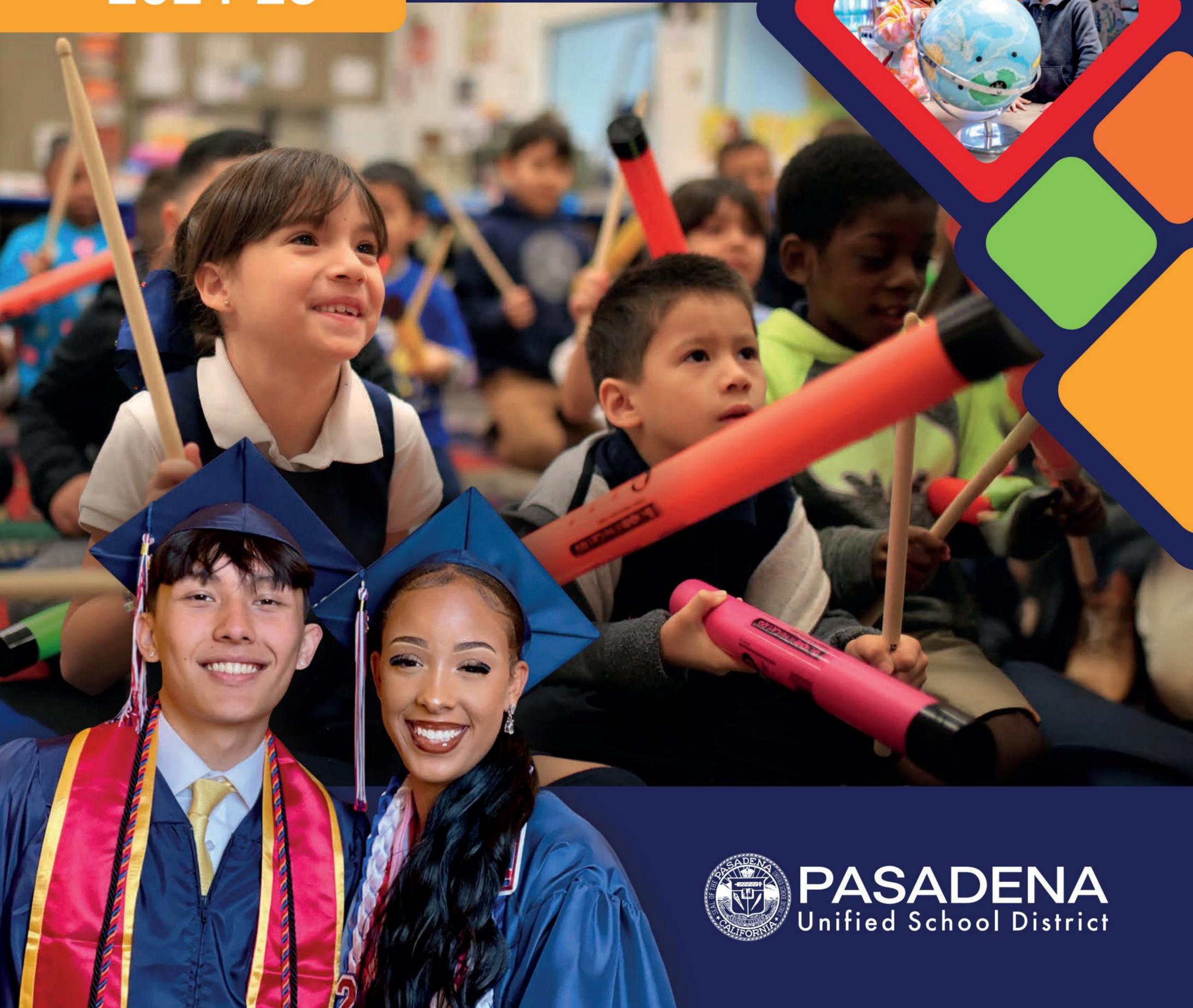


Report to the Community

2024-25



PASADENA
Unified School District

Superintendent's Message



Dear Pasadena Unified School District Community,

The start of 2025 has challenged our community in unimaginable ways. The devastation of the Eaton Fire displaced countless students, employees, and families - many losing their homes. Our district felt the impact deeply, with five school sites sustaining damage. Yet, amid these challenges, the strength, resilience, and compassion of this community have been nothing short of extraordinary.

PUSD employees continue to work tirelessly to pull together resources and tools to support our community, and donations are pouring in to aid those who lost homes and belongings, also helping us rebuild what was lost in our schools. This incredible generosity has been a powerful reminder of what makes Pasadena Unified, and our communities, so special.

Now, as we continue to recover, our district remains strong and dedicated to our students. PUSD is committed to providing the best possible education in modern, inspiring learning environments. The following report highlights programs, student achievement data, fiscal stability reporting, and ongoing facilities improvements made possible through Measures O and R - demonstrating the progress and promise of our district.

In times of hardship, this community comes together, emerging stronger than ever. Thank you for being part of Pasadena Unified School District.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elizabeth J. Blanco
Superintendent

Board of Education Message



Dear Pasadena Unified School District Community,

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the entire Pasadena Unified community for your compassion, empathy, and support for one another during this challenging time.

The last few months have tested us, but they have also shown the strength of our unity. As we move forward, we are committed to rebuilding not just our campuses, but our collective spirit - rising together with resilience, determination, and hope.

Thank you for your continued trust and support as we rebuild a safer, stronger Pasadena Unified.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hall Lee
Board of Education President

Eaton Fire: Facts at a Glance

- ▶ More than **10,000 students** and **1,387 employees** lived in evacuation zones, many of whom lost their homes
- ▶ More than **17,761 grab-and-go meals** served to the community during the fire
- ▶ More than **174 tons of debris** removed from district sites
- ▶ **Five school sites sustained significant damage:** Eliot Arts Magnet Middle School, Franklin Elementary (closed in 2020), and three sites occupied by charter schools—Edison (Odyssey Charter School - South), Loma Alta (Pasadena Rosebud Academy), and Noyes (Aveson School of Leaders)
- ▶ **Altadena Arts Magnet Elementary has been relocated** and will return to its campus in Altadena in 2026.

Moving Forward, Together

The Eaton Fire profoundly impacted the Pasadena Unified community, causing extensive damage to several campuses and displacing numerous families and staff members. Despite these challenges, the community has demonstrated remarkable resilience, compassion, and unity throughout the recovery process.

PUSD employees, alongside 1,500 remediation contractors, worked tirelessly to clean and sanitize each campus, both inside and outside. Every site underwent extensive environmental testing to ensure safety before welcoming back students and staff. The district implemented a phased reopening plan over two weeks, prioritizing the campuses least affected by the fire while carefully preparing others for a safe return.

With five campuses severely damaged, PUSD is actively developing a long-term rebuilding plan. Meanwhile, resources are still available on the PUSD Fire Relief website to assist impacted students, families, and staff in their recovery.

As the district moves forward with recovery efforts, its unwavering commitment to student success and well-being remains at the forefront of every decision.



Pasadena Unified held a Community Connector Event on January 17 to bring together students, families, employees, and community members to re-connect and provide support after the Eaton Fire.



Scan the QR code for fire relief resources.



2023-24: Pasadena Unified Student Success Data

88%

Graduation Rate

70%

Career Technical Education (CTE) Completion Rate

48%

A-G Course Completion Rate



Innovative Programs Empowering Students for Academic Excellence

Pasadena Unified provides a diverse range of innovative programs designed to foster academic excellence, college and career readiness, and artistic development. Beginning as early as elementary school, these opportunities equip students with the knowledge and skills to become lifelong learners, preparing them to thrive in an ever-changing world.



Rigorous academic pathways, such as the International Baccalaureate program and Early College opportunities,

enable students to earn college credit while still in high school, ensuring they are well-prepared for postsecondary success. PUSD's College and Career Academies offer immersive, hands-on experiences in fields such as business and entrepreneurship, engineering, health, law and public service, and creative arts, media, and design, allowing students to explore potential career paths while in high school.

The district's arts magnet schools inspire creativity through comprehensive instruction in music, dance, visual arts, theater, and media arts, helping students discover and develop their passions from an early age. Additionally, the Advancement Via Individual Determination program equips students with essential success skills, offers college campus

tours, and provides valuable academic support.

PUSD also fosters global awareness and cultural competency through its dual language immersion programs in Spanish, Mandarin, Armenian, and French. These programs enable students to become bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural, cultivating well-rounded individuals who are prepared to engage in a diverse and interconnected world.



A Standout District

Pasadena Unified School District schools, programs, and staff have earned numerous accolades and awards, highlighting the district's commitment to academic excellence and innovation. These recognitions set PUSD apart as a standout district in Southern California.

✔ 2025 Model Continuation School

- Rose City High School

✔ Nationally Certified Magnet Demonstration Schools

- Altadena Arts Magnet
- Octavia E. Butler Magnet

✔ Association of California School Administrators Region XV Superintendent of the Year

- Dr. Elizabeth Blanco

✔ California Distinguished Schools

- Altadena Arts Magnet, 2025
- Field Elementary School, 2025
- Sierra Madre Elementary School, 2025
- Sierra Madre Middle School, 2024
- Sierra Madre Elementary School, 2023
- Field Elementary School, 2018
- Hamilton Elementary School, 2018

Student Leadership Spotlight

The Pasadena Unified Student Think Tank (STT) is a student-led initiative established in spring 2021 to foster a safe space for students to connect across campuses, share their stories, and advocate for representation in district decision-making. Having grown significantly since its inception, the STT has undertaken various projects to amplify student voices.

The STT launched "The Learning Curve," an annual publication showcasing student-authored stories of personal success and challenges they experienced within Pasadena Unified and beyond. Through these firsthand accounts, staff and community members gain a deeper insight into the experience of students, fostering a greater understanding of their needs. By amplifying student voices, "The Learning Curve" helps shape a more inclusive and supportive educational environment.

In the 2023-24 school year, the STT held its first election for the PUSD Student Assembly and Council, a representative body that ensures student voices are heard in district decision-making. Composed of students from each high school, the Council meets monthly to discuss key issues, provide feedback to district leaders, and advocate for their peers. The Council also works closely with the Board of Education, strengthening the connection between students and district leadership.



(From top to bottom) Pasadena High student JP Ramirez, Blair High's Lesley Chee, and John Muir High student Terra Bondsmith are the 2024-25 Student Council members, who work closely with the Board of Education to strengthen the connection between students and district leadership.

District Financials:

Ensuring a Strong Future for Pasadena Unified

Pasadena Unified School District is committed to making budget decisions that best serve students. Through ongoing reviews, careful planning, and transparent communication with the PUSD community, the district prioritizes fiscal stability while ensuring high-quality education for all students.

Like many California school districts, PUSD is navigating the challenges of declining enrollment, rising costs, and the expiration of one-time COVID relief funds. To safeguard students' education

and the district's long-term future, measures are being taken to align resources with student needs.

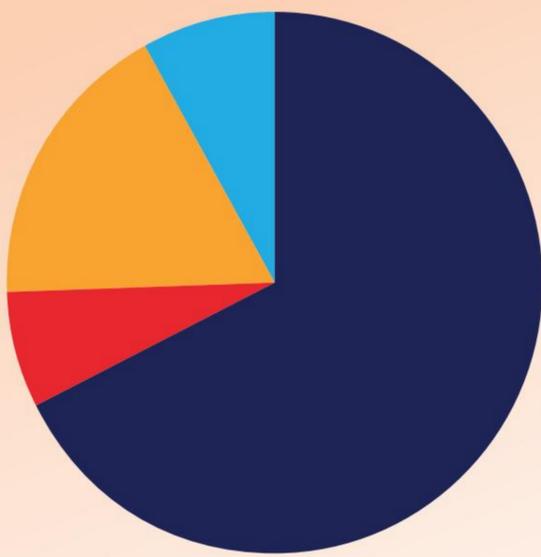
Following the Eaton Fire, PUSD consulted with the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), and the State Board of Education on budget planning. All three agencies advised moving forward with previously planned reductions to demonstrate fiscal responsibility - an important step in securing additional state relief.

With guidance from the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee and a comprehensive planning process, PUSD remains focused on financial sustainability while keeping students at the forefront of every decision.

Thanks to the support of voters who passed Measures EE and J, PUSD can mitigate larger reductions for the 2025-26 school year while continuing to prioritize student success.

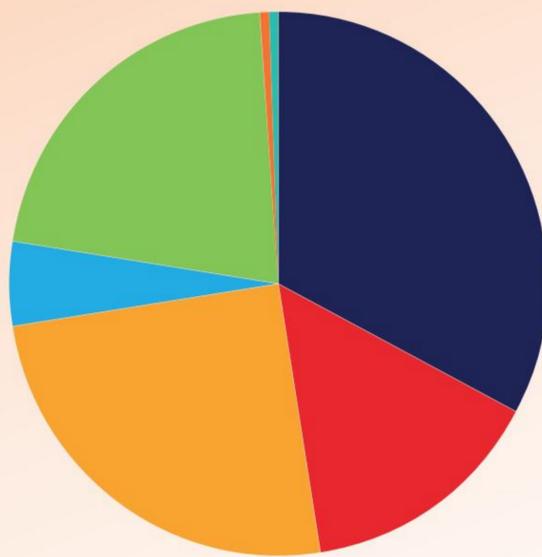
2024-25 Adopted Budget Breakdown

Total General Fund (Restricted and Unrestricted)



Revenue

- LCFF Revenues.....\$192,637,845
- Federal Revenues \$19,577,766
- State Revenues.....\$49,483,181
- Local Revenues\$22,653,314



Expenditure

- Certificated Salaries\$111,005,445
- Classified Salaries..... \$48,950,043
- Employee Benefits \$84,193,464
- Materials and Supplies .. \$17,021,139
- Contracted Services \$71,771,865
- Capital Outlay \$1,864,426
- Other Outgo..... \$1,291,777



State-of-the-Art Facilities

Measures R and EE

Pasadena Unified is committed to providing students with modern, innovative spaces that support academic and extracurricular success. Major projects funded by Measure O are currently underway, and in November 2024, the community approved Measure R to support additional facility upgrades across the district.

Measure R, a general obligation bond, allocates \$900 million in

locally controlled funds for critical renovations, while Measure EE, a parcel tax, will generate approximately \$5 million annually for eight years to support essential programs and services. Measure R funds will be used for repairing roofs, plumbing, electrical, and heating systems; expanding science, technology, engineering, and mathematics classrooms; modernizing career technical

education facilities; and more. These funds cannot be taken by the state and can be used solely for their approved purposes.

Thank you to voters for supporting Measures R and EE, ensuring Pasadena Unified can continue investing in safe, modern, and high-quality learning environments for students.

Measure O Projects

Scan the QR code to learn more about past, current, and upcoming Measure O projects.



Completed

- ▶ Marshall Fundamental softball field renovations
- ▶ Willard Elementary School restrooms and field renovations
- ▶ Pasadena High School asphalt renovations, beautification efforts
- ▶ Sierra Madre Elementary School asphalt repairs, installation of new playground structure, replacement of chain link fence

Ongoing

- ▶ Districtwide Front Entry Security Upgrades

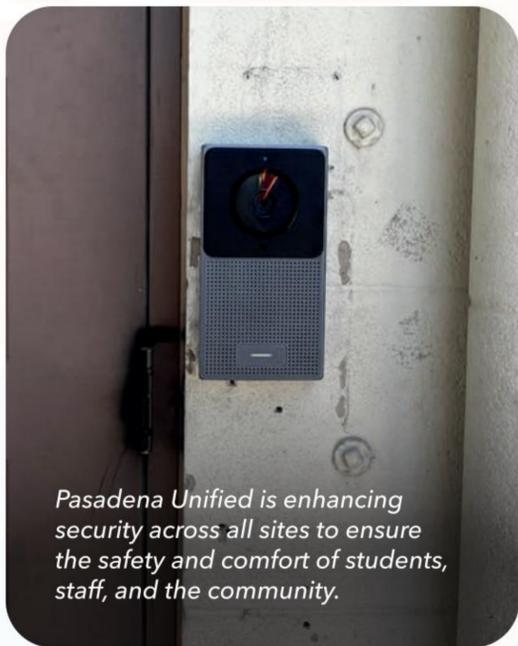
Upcoming

- ▶ John Muir High School major renovation
- ▶ Longfellow Magnet Elementary major renovation
- ▶ Madison Elementary School major renovation



A new playground structure and restrooms at Willard Elementary, softball field dugout installation at Marshall Fundamental, and new concrete and beautification efforts at Pasadena High were brought to PUSD thanks to Measure O funding.

Pasadena Unified Advances Safety and Facilities Improvements with Measure O



Pasadena Unified is enhancing security across all sites to ensure the safety and comfort of students, staff, and the community.

Schools across Pasadena Unified have enhanced campus safety with the installation of state-of-the-art, front-entry security systems, funded by Measure O, underscoring the district's commitment to the safety and well-being of students and staff.

To date, front-entry security systems have been installed at nine locations, including Sierra Madre, Washington, and Willard elementary schools; McKinley K-8 School; Wilson Middle School; and John Muir and Rose City high schools, with plans to complete installations at all district sites.

The system functions like a doorbell, allowing office personnel to see and communicate with individuals at the front door through live video and audio. Staff can then remotely grant access without leaving their desks, streamlining operations and enhancing security.

As part of Pasadena Unified's commitment to campus safety, locksets have been replaced at 23 locations, with the remaining replacements set for completion in the coming weeks. Additionally, 13 campuses will receive upgraded surveillance cameras to strengthen security measures.

PUSD Develops Workforce Housing to Support Employees

Pasadena Unified is transforming the former Roosevelt Elementary School site, which closed in 2020, into workforce housing to support district employees. The development will feature homes in a mix of one-, two-, three-, and four-bedroom layouts, along with parking.

With 51 percent of PUSD employees unable to afford housing within district boundaries, this initiative provides an opportunity for staff to live and work in the same community, strengthening connections between educators, students, and families.



PASADENA
Unified School District

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Vice President

Dr. Yarma Velázquez
Clerk

Scott Harden
Member

Kimberly Kenne
Member

Patrice Marshall McKenzie
Member

Michelle Richardson Bailey
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Superintendent

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