



Superintendent's Report to the Board of Trustees

November 6, 2025
Virginia Castro, Superintendent



Smith Blue Ribbon Celebration

Superintendent's Office

Lucille Smith Elementary

National Blue Ribbon Nomination Celebration

Smith Elementary School was celebrated for receiving a National Blue Ribbon School nomination and being recognized as a California Blue Ribbon school. We were honored to have Trustees Bonnie Coronado and Cathy Burris in attendance, along with several dignitaries, including Mayor Pro Team Pat Kearney, Councilmember Francisco Talavera - and representatives for Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Senator Richardson, Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, and Supervisor Holly Mitchell.



Congratulations to our 2025 California Blue Ribbon Recipients!

*Pine Elementary School,
Holtville Unified*

*Chamlan Armenian
School, Glendale Unified*

*Willowbrook Middle
School, Compton Unified*

*Anderson W. Clark
Magnet High School,
Glendale Unified*

*Lucille J. Smith Elementary
School, Lawndale Elementary
School District*

*Clover Avenue
Elementary School,
Los Angeles Unified*

*Third Street
Elementary School,
Los Angeles Unified*

*Pantera Elementary School,
Pomona Unified*

Superintendent's Office

LAist Recognizes Smith Elementary

We were honored to have LAist reporter, Mariana Dale, attend Lucille Smith's National Blue Ribbon Nomination Celebration and feature the school in her article about how schools are standing proud of their tremendous achievements, despite the current government administration shutting down the program. The publication highlighted the excellence and resilience of our students, who are leading the way to equitable opportunities and closing achievement gaps.



Visit [LAist.com](https://www.laist.com) to view the full article

EDUCATION

The Trump administration canceled a top education award. This LA school is celebrating anyway



Lucille J. Smith Elementary was one of 31 California schools to be nominated as a 2025 National Blue Ribbon School.
(Mariana Dale / LAist)

Superintendent's Office

Billy Mitchell and Mark Twain Elementary Schools Día de los Muertos Celebrations

These are just a few of the beautiful pieces of artwork our students created to celebrate Dia de Los Muertos and honor their loved ones.



Superintendent's Office

Rogers Middle School and ESMoA

Rogers Middle School partnered with ESMoA for Dia de Los Muertos to give students the opportunity to create their own art, and develop skills.



Superintendent's Office

Dr. Maria Ruelas was formally recognized as the 2025 Social Worker of the Year by the Los Angeles County Office of Education





Human Resources

Current LESD Employment Opportunities

Certificated	Classified
Visual Arts Teacher Music Teacher Drama Teacher	Student Supervision Assistant



Please Apply @ [EDJOIN.ORG](https://edjoin.org)
OR
@ www.lawndalesd.net "Career" Tab



Business- Digital Marquees

1. FRD: Start Date 10/27 – 10/31 - Complete trenching, electrical pathways, and landscape patch back.
2. William Green ES: Start Date 10/29-11/3 – Complete Electrical pathways
3. **Twain ES: Start Date 11/3-11/6 - Complete trenching, electrical pathways, and landscape patch back.**
4. **Mitchell ES: Start Date 11/5 – 11/11 - Complete trenching, electrical pathways, and asphalt patch back.**
5. Smith ES: Start Date 11/11 – 11/14 – Complete Electrical Pathways, Trenching, and patch back.



Business- Audit Extension

- The federal government shutdown has delayed release of the 2025 Compliance Supplement, impacting audit timelines.
- LEAs should request extensions through their county offices.
- It is recommended to proactively request a 45-day extension (to January 31) from LACOE to avoid delays.



Business- Fire Alarm Testing



- Fire alarm testing will occur district-wide during Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks.
- Part of annual preventive maintenance and safety compliance.
- Scheduled during breaks to avoid disrupting instruction.
- Any issues found will be corrected before students return.

Educational Services

Growth in GATE Identification

- LESD has seen **significant growth** in GATE identification over the past two years.
- After updating the identification process in 2023, the number of GATE-identified students increased from **115 to 271**, with the **largest gains in middle school**.
- This growth is driven by our **revised point-based identification system**, which uses multiple measures:
 - Naglieri (NNAT3)
 - SBAC performance
 - Teacher recommendations
 - Student status
- By broadening eligibility criteria, we are recognizing a **wider range of student strengths and potential**, leading to a more **inclusive and robust GATE program** across LESD.



Educational Services

Advancing Responsible AI Use in LESD

2024-25 Recap

- In 2024-25, LESD's **AI Task Force** created districtwide AI Guiding Principles, Teacher AI Guidelines, and Student Technology & AI Guidelines (all posted on our website and shared with teachers/students).

2025-26 Update

- This year, **Digital Citizenship lessons** now include an introduction to AI and responsible use for all students.
- We offered **asynchronous AI training** for teachers over the summer and fall.
- A cohort of **AI Pilot Teachers** is now piloting **MagicSchool AI**, providing feedback on instructional impact, student learning, safety/privacy, logistics, and effective prompt writing.
- Key resources will be shared with families via ParentSquare.



The collage features several key documents and logos:

- LES Guiding Principles for AI Use:** A document with two main sections: "Basic Understanding of AI Concepts" (Define AI and understand its basic principles. Differentiate between AI, machine learning, and data science.) and "Awareness of AI Applications" (Identify various AI tools and applications used in education. Understand how AI can enhance teaching and learning experiences.)
- STUDENT TECHNOLOGY & AI GUIDELINES:** A comprehensive guide divided into "RESPONSIBILITY & SECURITY" and "HONESTY AND INTEGRITY". It includes icons and text for: "Responsibility: I will charge my device every night.", "Security: I will keep my login and other personal information private.", "Responsibility: I will keep my device safe by putting away outside of class.", "Security: I will only use a device that is checked out to me.", "Responsibility: I will keep my device clean and dry at all times.", "Responsibility: I will keep my device away from my device.", "Honesty: I never my online/AI activity will be monitored.", "Honesty: I will only use technology/AI to support my learning.", "Integrity: It will be a responsible digital citizen when working online or using AI tools.", "Integrity: If I'm not sure if I can use certain technology or AI, I will ask my teacher first."
- AI Educator Guidelines:** A central document with six surrounding boxes: "PROMOTE AI LITERACY", "ENGAGE IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT", "BALANCE AI USE WITH HUMAN INTERACTION", "REGULARLY EVALUATE AI TOOLS", "FOSTER MEDIA LITERACY", and "ENSURE DATA PRIVACY & SECURITY".
- MAGIC SCHOOL:** A stylized logo in purple and blue.