



BUCKEYE UNION DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

2025-2026

JANUARY 2026

From the Superintendent

Happy New Year! As we turn the calendar, we're starting 2026 focused on the resolutions that matter most, strong academics, thoughtful budgeting, meaningful community engagement, and supporting the whole child.

David Roth, Ph.D.
Superintendent



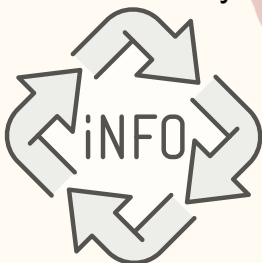
*We are
Buckeye!*

District Mission

Working together with families, the community, and highly-qualified staff, the Buckeye Union School District ensures that each student masters the knowledge and skills needed to maximize their academic and personal success in a global society.

District Vision

It is the Vision of the Buckeye Union School District to provide the highest quality educational program for all students, so that they fulfill their innate potential, become lifelong learners, and contribute to society as responsible citizens.



If you would like to invite a community member to join our District-Wide mailing list, they may subscribe [HERE](#).

If you would like to give us an idea for future Buckeye Union District Highlights, please email us at ksellwood@buckeyeusd.org

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Superintendent's Community Update: Budget & Academics

At a Glance: Key Highlights

- **Budget Outlook:** The Governor's 2026 proposal offers a 2.41% COLA. However, Buckeye Union remains funded significantly below the state average, requiring creative solutions to protect student programs.
- **Strategic Planning:** The District is exploring a multi-disciplinary PE and Arts model to utilize restricted state funding, sustaining our current programs for the next 1–2 years without immediate cuts.
- **Top-Tier Performance:** Buckeye Union ranks **#2 in the Sacramento region** for ELA, Math, and Science (2025 State Assessments).
- **Curriculum Review:** Middle School English language arts materials are under review and available for the public to examine at the District Office.
- **Record Attendance:** Chronic absenteeism has dropped to **under 6%**, a tremendous improvement that boosts both student success and district revenue.

Budget Update

Last week, the Governor released the 2026 budget proposal, marking the first step in the state's budget development process that typically concludes in June or July. The proposal includes a **2.41% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA)** and **\$2 billion** in one-time discretionary funds for public schools.

For several months, the District has been navigating the impacts of a decade of inflation and a state funding formula that leaves Buckeye Union's revenue nearly **20% (\$3,175 per pupil) below the state average** for elementary districts. When federal revenue is included, our relative funding falls to approximately **30% below the state average**.

While the state refers to its funding model as the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), these funds have become increasingly restricted. This loss of local control makes maintaining our current "program footprint" all the more challenging.

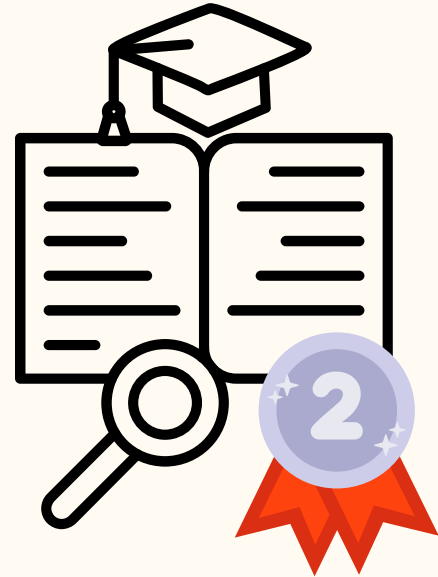
Sustaining Our Programs

Should the final state budget fall short of supporting our current operations, we have identified a strategy to sustain our programs through next year, and potentially the next two. To accomplish this, we would modify our Physical Education (PE) instruction to incorporate arts standards related to **dance, rhythm, and movement**. By designing a multi-disciplinary PE program, we can utilize arts funding that is restricted to activities addressing those specific standards.

While this approach avoids the need to reduce programs and services for next year, a long-term solution requires the state to improve our district's base funding. Without such a fix, we will eventually face difficult decisions regarding student resources. We will continue to keep parents and employees informed through the Budget Advisory Committee, Superintendent updates to Parent-Teacher groups, and periodic communications.

Academics

Our academic performance remains exceptionally strong. On the **2025 State Assessments**, the District ranked **2nd in the greater Sacramento region** (among districts with more than 150 test-takers) in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. We remain committed to further growth through teacher development, student support, and rigorous, standards-aligned instruction.



Curriculum Updates

A cohort of middle school teachers, in partnership with the **Instructional Materials Adoption Committee (IMAC)**, is currently reviewing potential updates to the middle school English Language Arts program. The materials under review are Common Lit 360 and My Perspectives.

- **Review Materials:** The public may review these materials at the District Office (5049 Robert J. Mathews Parkway).
- **More Information:** Please contact Rachelle Ball, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, at rball@buckeyeusd.org.

Reading Screeners

We have launched a state-mandated reading difficulty screener for grades K–2. This tool complements teacher observations to track development in emergent readers. Parents of K–2 students can expect a progress report with the results of the screener in the coming weeks.

Community Engagement

We are expecting to receive the **Environmental Impact Report (EIR)** shortly regarding the proposed Costco warehouse and gas station at the Silva Valley Parkway exit, adjacent to Oak Meadow School. The Board has previously shared concerns with Costco representatives; District leadership and parent representatives will communicate further once the report is reviewed.

Whole Child

Student attendance has improved dramatically. We ended the 2024–2025 school year with chronic absenteeism just under **6%** — a **67% improvement since 2021–2022**. **Currently, chronic absenteeism is under 5%, and average daily attendance is near 97%.**

This is outstanding! While high attendance is vital for social, emotional, and academic wellness, it is also the single most important contributor to our state funding entitlements.

Funding = Student Opportunity

Thank you for your partnership in reaching these improved levels.

