PASADENA
Unified School District



Community Schools in PUSD

Impact Report 2025



2025 Year in Review

Our Community Schools strengthen relationships among students, staff, families, and community partners to promote student wellness and academic success. This 2025 Impact Report highlights key achievements across our schools and reflects PUSD's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality, whole-child educational experiences. Guided by the four Community Schools pillars—Integrated Student Support, Expanded Learning Opportunities, Collaborative Leadership, and Family Engagement—these efforts demonstrate the power of partnership in supporting every student's success.



PILLAR 1

Integrated Student Support: Eaton Fire Relief Efforts

PILLAR 2

Expanded and Enriched Learning Time and Opportunities

PILLAR 3

Active Family and Community Engagement

PILLAR 4

Collaborative Leadership and Practices



PILLAR 1

Integrated Student Support: Eaton Fire Relief Efforts

Community Schools offered increased support to students, families, and staff in response to the devastating impacts of the Eaton Fire. Staff worked in collaboration with community partners, including Pasadena Educational Foundation, Day One, Young and Healthy, Uniqlo, Smart & Final, Kids in Need Donate (KIND), and the Wrapped Project to coordinate several distribution events to support the PUSD community's road to recovery. Community Advocates leveraged community partnerships to shift from routine case management to direct emergency relief for families. These integrated supports helped stabilize student attendance and reestablish routines, creating a foundation for academic and emotional recovery.

5k

5,000 ITEMS OF CLOTHING
donated by UNIQLO

500

500 THANKSGIVING MEALS
donated by Smart and Final Foundation

100

100 FREE WARDROBE SHOPPING APPOINTMENTS
for PUSD families and employees, sponsored by the Wrapped Project

2k

2,000 DONATIONS TO PUSD FAMILIES
from Kids In Needs Donate (KIND), including gift cards, toys, air purifiers, and basic necesseties



PILLAR 2

Expanded & Enriched Learning Time and Opportunities

PUSD Community Schools expanded opportunities for enrichment during the school day and beyond the classroom, contributing to improved student attendance and engagement. Students gained increased access to arts education, STEM and coding experiences, mentoring and leadership development, and career certification pathways, creating opportunities for joyful learning and meaningful exposure to future career possibilities.





1k+

OVER 1,000 STUDENTS TUTORED
Across our community schools, hundreds of students received additional academic support through our trusted tutoring partners, including Mathnasium, One on One Learning, Tutor Me LA, Sylvan Learning, Roses Tutoring, and more!

450+

450+ STUDENTS RECEIVED SUPPLEMENTAL ARTS INSTRUCTION
Through partnerships with organizations such as The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company, Harambee, and the Harmony Project, students accessed high-quality supplemental arts instruction that fostered creativity, collaboration, and creative problem-solving. These programs also provided meaningful outlets for student expression and connection. Over the past year, participating schools offered a diverse range of arts experiences, including instrumental music (rock band and mariachi), majorette, folklórico, fine arts, and specialized dance.

STEM

AWARD-WINNING STEM EXPERIENCES
PUSD Community Schools sponsored competitive STEM enrichment opportunities that engaged students in Esports and robotics. Pasadena High School's Bulldogs Esports team demonstrated strong participation and success while building teamwork, strategic thinking, digital literacy, and skills aligned to pathways in STEM, media, and the arts. At Octavia E. Butler Magnet, three competitive robotics teams earned two 1st Place trophies in the Spring 2025 FIRST LEGO League competition. Offerings also included VEX robotics, drone building, coding, and flight, providing hands-on experiences that inspired innovation and prepared students for future STEM careers.





PILLAR 3

Active Family and Community Engagement

PUSD's Family Engagement Plan is grounded in the belief that strong partnerships with families are essential to student success. The plan emphasizes inclusive, relationship-centered engagement through family focus groups that elevate voice and inform decision-making, as well as Community Schools events that create welcoming spaces for connection and belonging. Opportunities such as parent wellness activities and English and GED classes further strengthen family confidence and participation. Together, these efforts reflect PUSD's commitment to meaningful family engagement as a foundation for thriving school communities.

18

18 FOCUS GROUPS WERE CONDUCTED WITH PARENTS TO INFORM SCHOOL PLANS

PUSD convened focus groups with families to gather input, elevate lived experiences, and inform Community Schools planning, ensuring programs and supports reflect community needs and priorities.

17,073

17,073 VOLUNTEER HOURS

500+

500+ ATTENDEES AT HARVESTING CONNECTIONS, A COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CELEBRATION

In November, PUSD hosted its annual Community Schools Kick-Off event, welcoming families, students, staff, and community partners to come together in celebration and connection. The event featured student performances that highlighted the talents of our school communities, creating a welcoming space for families to engage meaningfully with their schools. By centering family participation and shared experiences, the kick-off strengthened relationships and reinforced the Community Schools commitment to partnership, belonging, and collective support for student success.

PILLAR 4

Collaborative Leadership and Practices

PUSD fosters collaborative leadership by creating meaningful structures for shared decision-making and student voice. Through an active steering committee, families, staff, community partners, and district leaders collaborate to inform priorities, guide implementation, and strengthen school–community partnerships. At the same time, PUSD invests in student leadership and training opportunities that build confidence, advocacy skills, and civic engagement, ensuring students are active contributors to their schools and communities. Together, these efforts reflect a commitment to inclusive leadership and collective responsibility for student success.



25

25 MEMBERS ENGAGED ON OUR STEERING COMMITTEE

This committee expanded access to Community-Based Learning by collaborating across departments to support the implementation of activities aligned with the State Seal of Civic Engagement. Through this work, the committee also advanced practices that strengthen collaborative leadership and elevate student voice and advocacy.



75

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR 75 STUDENTS

Students from Octavia E. Butler Magnet, Eliot Arts Magnet, and Rose City High School received leadership development training through participation in the California Association of Student Leaders (CASL) Conference that strengthened their public speaking skills and confidence.

200+

GUIDED MENTORSHIP FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT

At John Muir High School, students participated in Social Impact Firm, where they explored real-world social challenges and designed solutions to create positive change in their communities. Through this work, students strengthened skills in research, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking while addressing issues such as equity, sustainability, and community well-being. In addition, mentoring programs such as LifeBuilders at Pasadena High School provided students with guidance, encouragement, and leadership development, reinforcing purpose-driven learning and empowering students to see themselves as confident problem-solvers and emerging leaders.



“Every child in PUSD feels a strong sense of belonging to a community that supports their academic, physical, social, and emotional growth to achieve excellence in an ever-changing world.”

OUR VISION

The 4 Key Conditions for Learning

Community Schools focus on creating the conditions students need to feel supported, connected, and ready to learn.

1

A SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Students learn best when they feel safe, welcomed, and known.

Community Schools build a strong school community through:

- School traditions and shared experiences
- Wellness and connection activities during lunch and the school day
- Positive relationships between students and adults

Staff receive training to support relationship-based classrooms, including strategies from **Capturing Kids' Hearts**, which emphasize respect, trust, and student voice.

2

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SKILLS

School is not just about academics. Students also need skills to manage challenges and work well with others.

Community Schools help students build skills such as:

- Managing emotions and stress
- Staying organized and focused
- Believing they can improve with effort
- Asking for help and setting goals

These skills are supported through:

- Community circles and group discussions
- Peer mentoring and leadership opportunities
- Feedback tools, including **Panorama Education**, that help schools understand student needs

3

ENGAGING TEACHING AND LEARNING

Students are more engaged when learning feels meaningful and supportive.

Community Schools support teaching that:

- Explains learning in clear, manageable steps
- Connects lessons to students' experiences
- Provides the right level of challenge with support
- Uses regular check-ins so students know how they are doing

This work is supported through training in:

- Community-based learning
- **AVID** strategies
- Extra learning opportunities in the arts, STEM, reading, and math

4

SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

When students face challenges, they need timely and coordinated support.

Community Advocates work as part of a school team to provide:

- Academic, health, and social supports
- Schoolwide activities that support all students
- Individual support for students who need additional help

These systems are designed to identify concerns early and respond in ways that support students through stress, trauma, or other challenges.

Source: **Learning Policy Institute**, Community Schools: An Evidence-Based Strategy for Equitable School Improvement [with PUSD-adopted strategies]



> Community Schools grant funding has been instrumental in helping Eliot Arts Magnet continue to thrive. By bringing valuable resources and partnerships from across our community into our school, we are able to strengthen our arts-centered programming and ensure our students are supported academically, socially, and creatively."
>
> — Principal **LANISHA MCKENZIE,** Eliot Arts Magnet

Grad Rate

The graduation rate across PUSD's Community Schools has been steadily increasing throughout the past three years.

	2022–2023	2023–2024	2024–2025
JOHN MUIR HIGH SCHOOL	92.4%	96.5%	95.5%
PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL	93.5%	94.4%	94.8%
ROSE CITY HIGH SCHOOL (continuation)	47.3%	70.3%	69.1%



Test Scores

Community Schools grant implementation has contributed to overall academic stabilization and incremental growth across PUSD's 10 community schools.

↑ **2.96%**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
Increase among all PUSD Community Schools from 2024 to 2025



↑ **2.08%**

MATHEMATICS
Increase among all PUSD Community Schools from 2024 to 2025



Absenteeism

Most Community Schools continued their multi-year trends to reduce chronic absenteeism.

	2022–2023	2023–2024	2024–2025
CHARLES W. ELIOT MIDDLE	32.7%	32.8%	31.7%
JOHN MUIR HIGH SCHOOL	23.0%	18.3%	20.4%
LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY	16.3%	25.0%	26.2%
MADISON ELEMENTARY	29.1%	25.5%	31.7%
MCKINLEY	32.6%	30.8%	31.3%
OCTAVIA E. BUTLER MAGNET	29.3%	25.8%	24.9%
PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL	28.2%	24.6%	26.0%
ROSE CITY HIGH (continuation)	84.7%	88.3%	91.9%
WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY STEM MAGNET	41.0%	35.0%	39.1%

Suspension

Through restorative practices and targeted interventions, most Community Schools also continued to see notable declines in suspension rates.

	2022–2023	2023–2024	2024–2025
CHARLES W. ELIOT MIDDLE	9.1%	13.9%	13.7%
JOHN MUIR HIGH SCHOOL	0.0%	2.9%	1.9%
LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY	4.3%	0.2%	0.0%
MADISON ELEMENTARY	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
MCKINLEY	6.3%	5.2%	5.5%
OCTAVIA E. BUTLER MAGNET	8.9%	13.5%	5.0%
PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL	3.9%	4.0%	2.0%
ROSE CITY HIGH (continuation)	10.7%	6.7%	6.1%
WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY STEM MAGNET	2.0%	3.1%	2.1%



DESIGNED BY KILTER

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