San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

Transforming lives through education

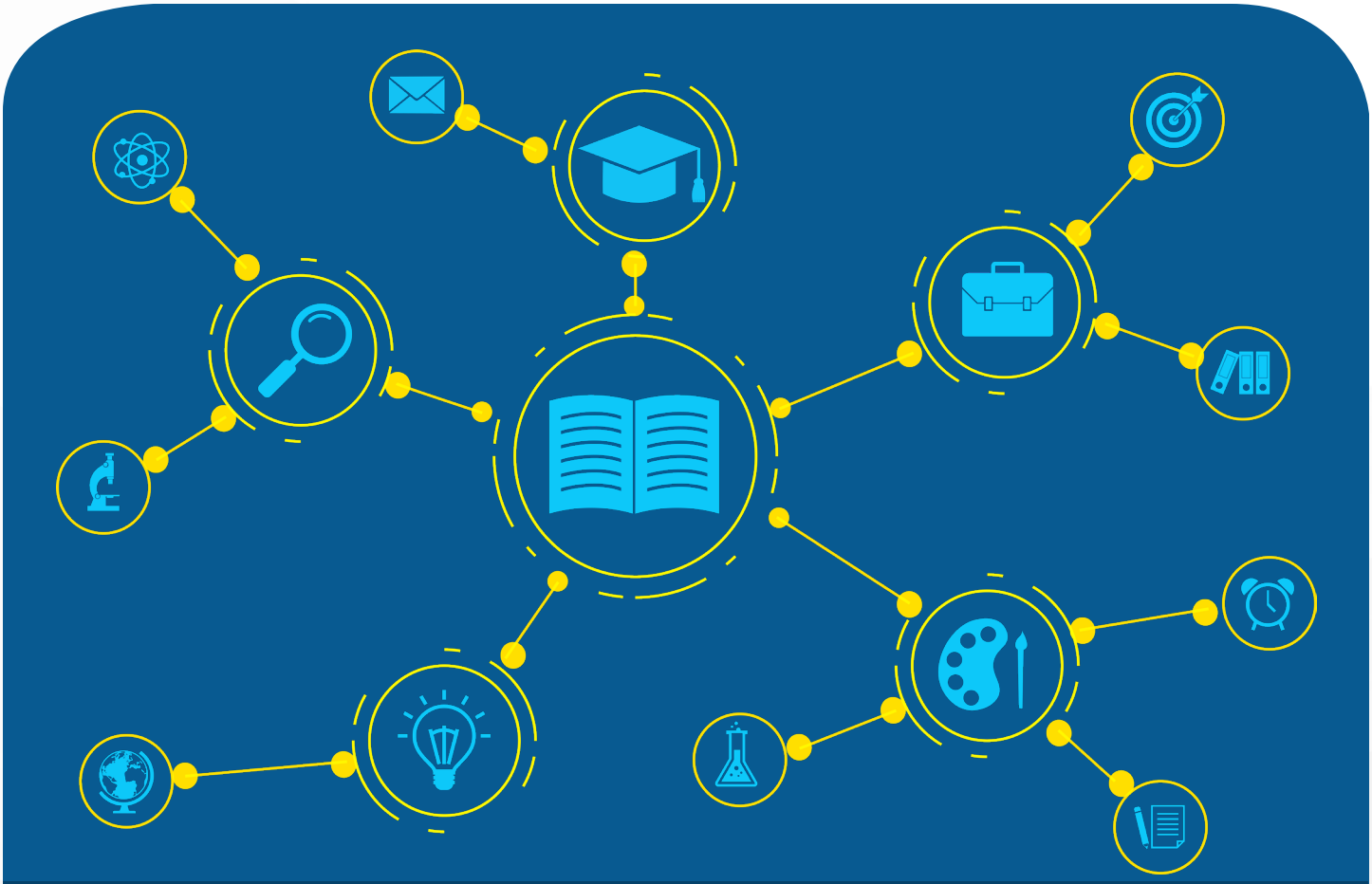
2025
2026

Academic Student Events

Education Support Services

Leadership and Outreach





ACADEMIC STUDENT EVENTS

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS) supports nearly 400,000 students who display exceptional dedication to academic and extracurricular excellence. Their success makes us incredibly proud.

Leadership and Outreach recognizes these amazing students through impactful programs. We offer educational exploration beyond the traditional classroom, celebrate memorable academic student events, and are honored to be a part of our education community's journey. There are several opportunities to support these academic student events that transform lives through education.

Dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Information for competition orientations, registration, and fee deadlines are listed on each Key Date form by event. Please contact our office for the most up-to-date information.

Contact Academic Student Events at:
studentevents@sbcss.net or 909.386.2630

Celebrating SBCSS 2024-25 Champions

County | State | National | International

California Academic Decathlon

After competing regionally among 281 decathletes, the champion, second, and third place teams, each comprised of nine students, advanced to the state competition. Their teams faced 54 competitors over three days of academic testing, essays, speeches, interviews, and a Super Quiz.



Chaffey High School, 2025 SBCSS Academic Decathlon champion, placed 6th in Division 1 at the California State Competition and 2nd Nationally, in the virtual competition, becoming the first San Bernardino County team to compete at the National Academic Decathlon.

California Science and Engineering Fair

Twenty-nine San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Science and Engineering Fair (SIMSEF) champions advanced to the competition. They participated in-person at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, among 900 participants from 400 schools in 22 categories, this competition event has awards totaling over $40,000.

SBCSS CSEF winners include first-place recipient Parthvi Naswa of Canyon Hills Junior High School; second-place recipient Aanya Garg of Edwin Rhodes Elementary; and fifth-place recipients Stephanie Lee of Canyon Hills Junior High School, Ruiee Shih of Los Osos High School, and Tyler Kalanjian, Zackary Lewis, and Michael Stodelle of Redlands East Valley High School.

International Science and Engineering Fair

The Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair is the world's largest pre-college science competition, hosting 2,000 students from over 70 countries competing for nearly $9 million in prizes. SIMSEF advanced one individual and three group projects (eight students) to the 2025 International The 2025 winners, Leila Maleki, Tyler Kalanjian, Zachary Lewis and Michael Stodelle, each earned Arizona State University (ASU) tuition scholarships valued at $59,000 for their projects.



From left to right, Tyler Kalanjian, Michael Stodelle, and Zackary Lewis from Redlands Unified School District; Danaya Figueroa and Priscilla Munoz from Colton Joint Unified School District; and Leila Maleki from Chino Valley Unified School District. Not pictured: Ethan Chang and Gabrielle Williamson from Upland Unified School District.

Celebrating SBCSS 2024–25 Champions

National History Day - California
May 1-4, 2025

Following success at the regional level, top students advanced to the state finals, where they competed alongside more than 1,500 participants from 248 schools across 25 counties. Over the course of the event, students presented their research, participated in interviews, and showcased their projects to judges at California State University, Sacramento.

NHD-CA honorees include champions from Ray Wiltsey MS and Summit HS; runner-up awardees from Baldy Mesa ES, Magnolia ES, and Oak Hills HS; and honorable mentions from Ray Wiltsey MS and Upland HS. Special awards included the California History Prize (Magnolia ES) and the Friends of NHD Performance Award (Ray Wiltsey MS).



County Elementary Individual Podcast Champions
Ida B. Wells: A Courageous Fighter
Brown v. Board of Education

Scripps National Spelling Bee
May 25–31, 2025

Two SBCSS Spelling Bee champions advanced to the national spelling bee competition in National Harbor, Maryland, competing with 243 school bee champions from across the United States, U.S. territories (such as Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the Navajo Nation, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and overseas military bases in Germany and South Korea for a chance to win the $50,000 championship. This year marked the 100th anniversary of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Fifth grader Angeline Wang advanced to round three, while seventh grader Hannah Kuo tied for 10th place.



2025 SBCSS Spelling Bee champions, 7th grader Hannah Kuo from Granite Mountain Charter School and 5th grader Angeline Wang from Caryn Elementary School, Etiwanda School District.

2024–25 County Participant Data

Student Demographics*

Grade Level

Elementary (grades TK–6)
2,459 student participants

Middle (grades 7–8)
277 student participants

High School (grades 9–12)
520 student participants

Student Participation*

Academic Decathlon	Reading Rally
9th-12th grade	TK-2nd grade
281 students	2,160 students

Discovery Day	Science and Engineering Fair
4th-12th grade	4th-12th grade
84 students	277 students

History Day	Spelling Bee
4th-12th grade	Up to 8th grade
250 students	185 students

Volunteer and Judge Data*

Total Volunteers Needed

318 volunteers

Total Volunteers Signed Up

290 volunteers

Total Participating Volunteers

249 volunteers

Volunteers are needed at each SBCSS hosted academic student event. Without the dedication of our volunteers, we would not be successful in operating these student events and academic competitions.



*Demographics and data are based on the total number of students and volunteers who participated in countywide student events during the 2024/25 school year.

Dates at a Glance
(All dates are subject to change)

Academic Decathlon

Monday - Saturday
November 3-8, 2025
Online Scrimmage

Thursday
January 15, 2026
Essay Competition

Saturday
January 31, 2026
Objective Testing Competition

Saturday
February 7, 2026
Speech and Interview
Competition and Super Quiz

Thursday
February 12, 2026
Awards Ceremony

History Day

Friday
November 14, 2025
Discovery Day

Saturday
March 7, 2026
Competition and Awards Ceremony

School Recognition

Wednesday
May 20, 2026

San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Science and Engineering Fair

Friday - Wednesday
February 13-18, 2026
Elementary Pre-Judging

Saturday - Thursday
February 21-26, 2026
Pre-Judging

Thursday - Wednesday
February 19-25, 2026
Junior/Senior Pre-Judging

Thursday
February 26, 2026
Competition

Thursday
March 5, 2026
Awards Ceremony

Friday
May 1, 2026
Elementary Science Discovery Day

Tuesday
May 5, 2026
ISEF Send-Off Celebration

Spelling Bee

February 24-25, 2026
Preliminary Round

Wednesday
March 11, 2026
Competition and Awards Ceremony

School Recognition

California Department of Education (CDE) administers and oversees school recognition programs that honor schools demonstrating excellence in academic achievement, innovation, and equity. Through state and federally aligned recognition processes, CDE identifies and formally awards schools that exhibit strong instructional practices, effective leadership, positive school climate, and a commitment to continuous improvement. As California's official awarding authority, CDE validates school performance and elevates exemplary practices that can be replicated across districts and communities statewide.

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools produces an annual recognition honoring schools and districts across the region for academic excellence, student support, and overall achievement, as reflected in state and national benchmarks. Recognition includes a virtual presentation, along with a commemorative certificate plaque provided to each school. The recognition highlights recipients of the California Distinguished Schools, California Schools to Watch, and California Blue Ribbon Schools awards.

The California Distinguished Schools Award honors California middle and high schools that demonstrate excellence in implementing the academic content and performance standards adopted by the California State Board of Education for all students. Schools are recognized in the areas of Closing the Achievement Gap, which focuses on supporting socioeconomically disadvantaged students through strong performance in English language arts and mathematics, improved suspension rates, and reduced chronic absenteeism, as well as Exceptional Student Performance, which highlights high achievement in English language arts and mathematics alongside positive suspension and attendance indicators.

The California Blue Ribbon Schools Award, formerly the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, honors schools that exemplify academic excellence and success in closing achievement gaps. This prestigious recognition celebrates the collective efforts of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe, welcoming environments where students master challenging content and achieve at high levels. Schools are recognized as Exemplary High-Performing Schools for outstanding achievement on state or nationally normed assessments, or as Exemplary Achievement Gap–Closing Schools for exceptional progress in closing gaps among student groups. In California, eligible schools are nominated through the California Department of Education and serve as models of effective education nationwide.

California Schools to Watch recognizes high-performing middle schools that demonstrate academic excellence, social equity, and responsiveness to the needs of young adolescents through strong instruction, data-driven decision-making, and effective systems of support. These model schools foster positive learning environments, high student engagement, and sustained improvement over time. They provide comprehensive academic supports, including daily afterschool tutoring, intersessions, individual monitoring plans, and targeted English and math support classes to help all students succeed.

2025-26 Volunteer/Judging Opportunities and Event Logistics

Academic Decathlon
Saturday
January 31, 2026

Proctor high school decathletes during online subject testing. Assist coaches with keeping decathletes on a structured schedule, help with any technical issues, and closely monitor decathletes to deter cheating.

Academic Decathlon
Saturday
February 7, 2026

Judge speeches or interviews and proctor high school decathletes in the Super Quiz portion of this competition. Training on judging procedures will be provided.

San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono Science and Engineering Fair
Saturday -Thursday
February 21-26, 2026

Judge elementary, middle school, junior high, and high school science and engineering projects. Training on judging procedures will be provided.

History Day
Saturday
March 7, 2026

Judge elementary, middle school, junior high, and high school historical projects. Training on judging procedures will be provided.

Spelling Bee
Wednesday
March 11, 2026

Community leaders are needed to serve as judges and officials on a small panel for this competition. Procedural training will be provided.

Student Events Volunteer/Judge Links and QR Codes

Academic Decathlon

bit.ly/Student_Events

History Day

bit.ly/42lECeD

SIMSEF

bit.ly/Jud24

Spelling Bee
For more information on how to become a Spelling Bee official, please contact Dr. Fermín Jaramillo at fermin.jaramillo@sbcss.net.

To volunteer, use the links or QR codes above. For details, email studentevents@sbcss.net.
Flyers available upon request.

2025-26 Academic Student Events

Academic Decathlon
Theme: The Roaring Twenties
Scrimmage, Essay, Objective Testing, Speech and Interview, Super Quiz, Awards
November 2025 - February 2026

The Academic Decathlon is a countywide team competition that promotes an educational experience providing a format in which teams of high school students compete in ten academic events and a super quiz all centered around a competition theme.

Participating schools send a team of decathletes, teams, and/or individuals to the County regional competition. A team consists of a combination of high school students from 9th-12th grades. Each full team includes at minimum two Varsity (0.00—3.39 GPA), two Scholastic (3.40—3.89 GPA), and two Honor students (3.90+ GPA). The winning team will advance to the California State Academic Decathlon.

Who might participate? Students in 9th-12th grades

SBCSS Website: https://bit.ly/SBCSSAcaDec
State Website: http://academicdecathlon.org
National Website: https://usad.org

History Day
Theme: Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History
Discovery Day, Competition and Awards
November 2025 - March 2026

History Day is an interdisciplinary program that encourages students to research and prepare exhibits, performances, documentary presentations, websites, poster displays and podcasts on an annual historical theme. Projects will be judged by educators, professionals and community members. Students increase their knowledge of history through classroom activities within the content and process of social studies, language arts, literature, and the arts.

Who might participate? Students in 4th-12th grades

SBCSS Website: https://bit.ly/SBCSSHistoryDay
State Website: https://www.nhdca.org/
National Website: https://www.nhd.org/

San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono Science and Engineering Fair
Discovery Day, Judging and Interviews, Awards
February - May 2026

The San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Science and Engineering Fair (SIMSEF) brings students, teachers, and science experts together in a competition that helps develop an awareness of the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Who might participate? Students in 4th-12th grades

SBCSS Website: https://bit.ly/SBCSSSIMSEF
SIMSEF Website: https://simsef.zfairs.com
State Website: https://csef.usc.edu/
International Website: https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/

Spelling Bee
Preliminary Round, Competition and Awards
February - March 2026

The Spelling Bee is an annual contest in which students are challenged to spell words from a given list, as well as more challenging words that require students to have an in-depth knowledge of word morphology. The winners will move on to represent San Bernardino County in the Scripps National Spelling Bee competition.

Who might participate? Elementary, middle and junior high school students

SBCSS Website: https://bit.ly/SBCSSSpellBee
National Website: https://spellingbee.com



SPELLING BEE

Academic Student Events Team

Our team strives to provide standards aligned academic competitive events that enable students to rise to a higher level of excellence. We collaborate with districts, charter, private, home schools, school staff, families, students, and community members. The Leadership and Outreach Department and our team look forward to supporting student events at the local and county levels.

Dr. Robin McIver-Brown
Director
alma.hernandez@sbcss.net | 909.386.2956

Dr. Fermín Jaramillo
Coordinator, Diverse Student Learners
fermin.jaramillo@sbcss.net | 909.386.2630



HISTORY DAY

San Bernardino County Academic Decathlon

Sarah Lawhorn
Project and Activities Technician
sarah.lawhorn@sbcss.net | 909.386.2640

San Bernardino County History Day

Nour Batarseh
Project and Activities Technician
nour.batarseh@sbcss.net | 909.386.2910

San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono Science and Engineering Fair

Nancy Ibrahimi
Project and Activities Technician
nancy.ibrahimi@sbcss.net | 909.386.2740

San Bernardino County School Recognition and Spelling Bee

Ashantee Zamora-Erickson
Project and Activities Technician
ashantee.zamora-erickson@sbcss.net
909.386.2630



ACADEMIC DECATHLON

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

Transforming lives through education

The mission of San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools is to transform lives through education. Working in collaboration with school districts, families, community partners and other agencies, we provide leadership, advocacy and services to ensure equitable, innovative and inspiring educational practices. This endeavor is essential to the quality of life and economic vitality of our communities.

601 North E Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0020
P. 909.386.2956 | F. 909.757.6200 | studentevents@sbcss.net | www.sbcss.net

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