

SAN LUIS COASTAL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNUAL *Community Update*

ATHLETICS FOR ACHIEVEMENT

TRANSPORTATION: GOING GREEN

ELECTION 2026: KNOW YOUR
TRUSTEE AREAS

HEALTHY MEALS, BRIGHT
FUTURES

HEADING INTO

2026-2027

WHERE ALL MEANS ALL

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ANNUAL BOARD PRIORITIES

Looking toward the 2026-27 School Year

Academic Achievement

- Continue evidence-based, data-informed strategies to close the achievement gap, with a focused emphasis on targeted student groups, using data tools to monitor performance and drive targeted instructional interventions to ensure equitable access to rigorous coursework for every student.

Culture of Care

- Continue cross-departmental coordination between Instructional Services and Student Services staff to address the whole child, treating student mental and emotional health as foundational to academic success.
- Modernize the Student Services delivery model and respond intentionally to elevated mental health and behavioral needs by developing updated protocols, staffing models, and tiered support systems that reflect current student needs and ensure equitable, accessible, and efficient support for all students across the district.

Meaningful Partnerships

- Maintain proactive, transparent communication with families and continue efforts to build trust, improve accessibility of information, and create inclusive engagement opportunities.
- Sustain community engagement structures that invite parental voice, particularly those from underrepresented communities, into district decision-making to ensure their input actively shapes programs and priorities.
- Develop a shared, cohesive vision with the San Luis Coastal Education Foundation (SLCEF) that clarifies communication, collaborations, and transparency.

Transition, Talent Development & Staff Support

- During the superintendent transition year, prioritize thoughtful succession planning by documenting and preserving institutional knowledge ensuring systems, routines, and professional expectations carry forward effectively.
- Continue diversifying workforce that reflects and serves the district's student community while supporting their professional capacities.

Operational Effectiveness, Fiscal Responsibility & Facilities

- Continue rebuilding fiscal reserves and practice disciplined budget management while sustaining long-term revenue advocacy efforts, including DCNPP unitary tax negotiations and TK state funding access.
- Maintain responsible stewardship of Measure C funds.
- Develop a strategic framework for District surplus properties, including exploring a needs assessment for workforce housing.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRUSTEE AREA 1:

MARILYN RODGER

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TRUSTEE AREA 2:

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TRUSTEE AREA 3:

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TRUSTEE AREA 6:

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TRUSTEE AREA 7:

BRIAN CLAUSEN

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San Luis Coastal Unified is recognized as one of the finest districts in California, thanks to the efforts of our students, staff, and community. We are proud of the District's accomplishments, and we look forward to sharing them with you. We welcome your comments directly or invite you to join us at one of our open meetings. For more information on the Board and meetings go to: <https://slcUSD.org/about/board-of-trustees>

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

This school year marks my final one as Superintendent of San Luis Coastal Unified School District.

By the time I conclude my service, I will have had the tremendous honor of spending 17 years in San Luis Coastal and 34 years serving students and families in California public education. These years have been among the most meaningful of my life, and I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated educators, staff, families, trustees, and community partners in support of our students.

Together, we have accomplished so much. We have expanded opportunities for students, strengthened systems of wellness and belonging, invested responsibly in our schools and facilities, and remained grounded in our shared belief that “All Means All.” Most importantly, we have continued striving to ensure every student is known, supported, and prepared for their future.

I also want to express my sincere appreciation to our Board of Education for their continued leadership and support. In recent discussions regarding the district’s progress and future direction, the Board reaffirmed several important priorities, including:

- Closing the Achievement Gap through targeted supports, high-quality instruction, and data-informed practices.
- Continuing to prioritize Student Wellness and a Culture of Care.
- Strengthening Transparency, Communication, and Community Engagement.
- Maintaining Fiscal Responsibility while advocating for sustainable long-term funding.
- Supporting Personnel and Workforce Development to recruit and retain outstanding staff.

The Board also emphasized the importance of a thoughtful leadership transition while sustaining the strong momentum underway across the district.

Over the next year, I remain fully committed to our students, staff, and families. I will continue working closely with district leadership, the Board, and our community to ensure San Luis Coastal Unified remains well-positioned for continued success in the years ahead.

Serving this community has been the greatest professional honor of my career. I am especially grateful, not only as superintendent, but also as a parent. This district helped shape and support my three sons through caring teachers, coaches, counselors, and administrators, making my connection to San Luis Coastal deeply personal and profoundly meaningful.

Thank you for the trust, partnership, and support you continue to show our schools and our students each day.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Eric



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Meet the SAN LUIS COASTAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

 DR. ERIC PRATER SUPERINTENDENT	 RYAN PINKERTON ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, BUSINESS SERVICES	 LISA YAMASHITA ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	 DR. GREG PUCCIA ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, HUMAN RESOURCES
 AARON BLACK ELEMENTARY DIRECTOR, INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT	 CHRIS BONIN DIRECTOR, BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & TRANSPORTATION	 CATY ECKLUND DIRECTOR, FISCAL SERVICES	 JEREMY KOELLISH DIRECTOR, INFORMATION SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY
 DAN NEFF SECONDARY DIRECTOR, INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT	 ERIN PRIMER DIRECTOR, FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES	 PETRA REYNOLDS DIRECTOR, STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES	 CHRISTINE ROBERTSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SAN LUIS COASTAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

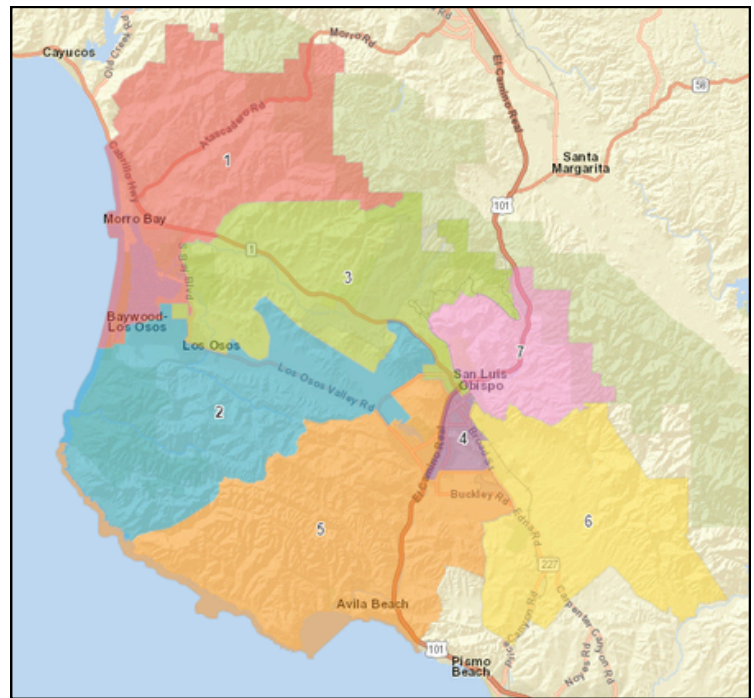
THE 2026 ELECTION CYCLE: UNDERSTANDING TRUSTEE AREAS

The San Luis Coastal Unified School District (SLCUSD) operates under a by-trustee area election system, a model adopted to ensure representation across its diverse coastal and inland communities. As the 2026 election cycle approaches, four of the seven seats on the Board of Education are scheduled for the ballot.

The district is divided into seven distinct trustee areas covering San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay, Los Osos, Avila Beach, part of Shell Beach, and surrounding unincorporated regions. Under this system, candidates must reside in the specific area they wish to represent, and only voters living within those boundaries may participate in that specific area's election. This transition from "at-large" voting was designed to comply with the California Voting Rights Act and to provide each neighborhood with a dedicated voice on the Board.

For the upcoming November 2026 election, the seats currently held by trustees in Areas 1, 2, 4, and 5 are scheduled to be contested. These areas represent a broad cross-section of the district:

- Area 1: Portions of San Luis Obispo and southern coastal areas
- Area 2: Neighborhoods within Los Osos and northwest San Luis Obispo
- Area 4: Central residential corridor of San Luis Obispo
- Area 5: The southwestern residential area of San Luis Obispo, Avila Beach, and north Shell Beach.



TO FIND YOUR TRUSTEE AREA, VISIT
WWW.SLCUSD.ORG

The four individuals elected in 2026 will join three other trustees (from Areas 3, 6, and 7, whose terms expire in 2028) to oversee a district serving approximately 7,500 students. The Board is responsible for critical governance tasks, including managing the district's multi-million dollar budget, overseeing the implementation of facilities bonds like Measure C-22, and setting long-term educational policies.

LOCAL VOICES, LASTING IMPACT

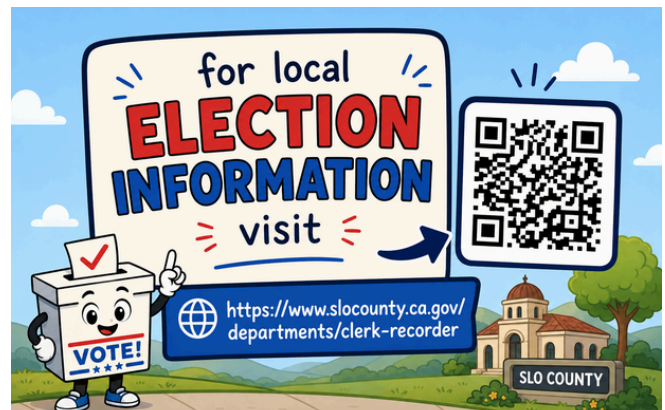
Community participation is one of the foundations of a healthy democracy, and local elections are often where that participation matters most. While national races tend to receive the most attention, school board elections directly impact students, families, teachers, and the future of public education in the community.

School board members help guide important decisions involving academic programs, school safety, budgeting, facilities, and long-term planning. The individuals elected to these positions influence the educational experiences of local students and help shape the direction of schools for years to come. Because of this, school board elections deserve thoughtful attention and strong voter participation.

Voting in local elections allows community members to have their voices heard and to support leaders who reflect the community's values and priorities. Strong voter turnout also helps ensure that decisions are made with broad public input and representation.

An engaged community creates stronger schools. When residents take time to learn about the candidates, ask questions, and participate in elections, they help strengthen both public education and the democratic process itself.

By staying informed and participating in the voting process, communities continue the important work of strengthening democracy one election at a time.



SLCUSD

BY THE NUMBERS

Preparing Every Student for Success

7,654

TK-12 STUDENTS SERVED



67%

Students Meeting or Exceeding
State ELA Standards
California Average - 49%



56%

Students Meeting or Exceeding
State Math Standards
California Average - 40%



97%

Graduation Rate
Preparing Students for College,
Career, and Life

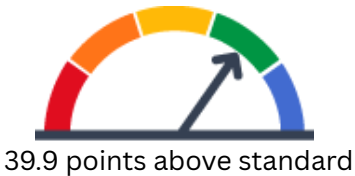


A+

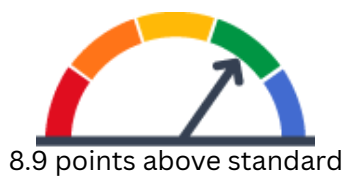
Overall Niche Grade
One of California's Highest-Rated
School Districts

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DASHBOARD

English Language Arts



Mathematics



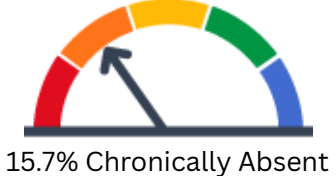
English Learner
Progress



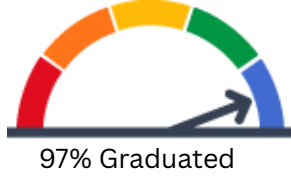
College/Career



Chronic Absenteeism



Graduation Rate



Science



HIGH-WATER MARKS

In the past decade, SLCUSD has hit the mark both state and nationwide.



2

National Blue Ribbon Schools



4

CSBA Golden Bell Awards



2

National Middle Schools to Watch



6

California Distinguished Schools Awards



1

California Pivotal Practice District

WHY FAMILIES LOVE SLCUSD



Excellence Across Every School.
Opportunity for Every Student.
Pride for Every Community.

From the Coast to the City, students learn, grow, and thrive in one of California's highest performing public school districts.

BUDGET AT-A-GLANCE

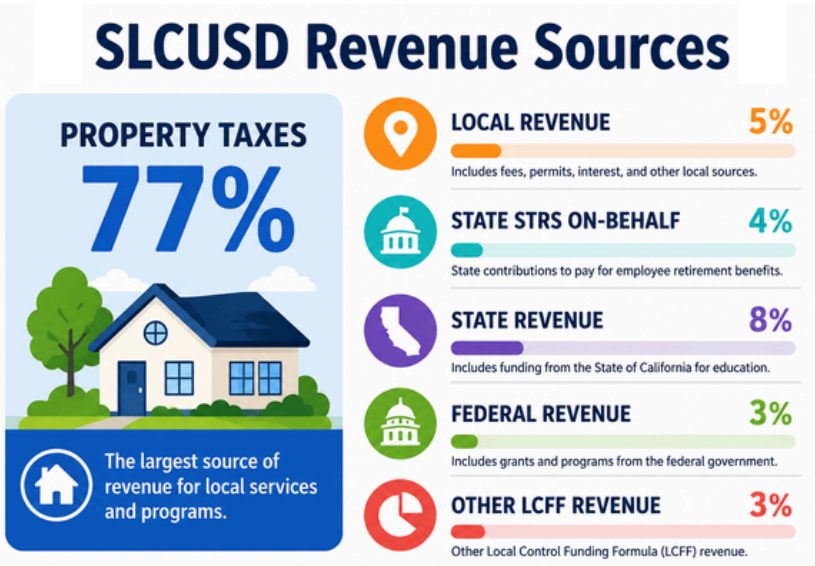
Ensuring responsible fiscal stewardship is one of the Board's most important responsibilities. Over the past two years, the SLCUSD Board of Trustees has engaged in an extensive process to address the district's structural budget deficit by making necessary reductions in spending. These decisions were difficult, but essential, as the district was not on track to meet the state-required reserve levels without taking corrective action.

As outlined on the district's budget webpage, several factors contributed to the structural deficit, including the expiration of one-time COVID and state funding, the addition of Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) without ongoing full funding, the loss of unitary tax/SB1090 revenue, and rising employee salary and benefit costs.

Following COVID, the district added intervention staff, classroom teachers to reduce class sizes, counselors, aides, and other support positions to help address the academic and social-emotional needs of students. While these investments were important and beneficial for students, much of the funding that supported these positions was temporary.

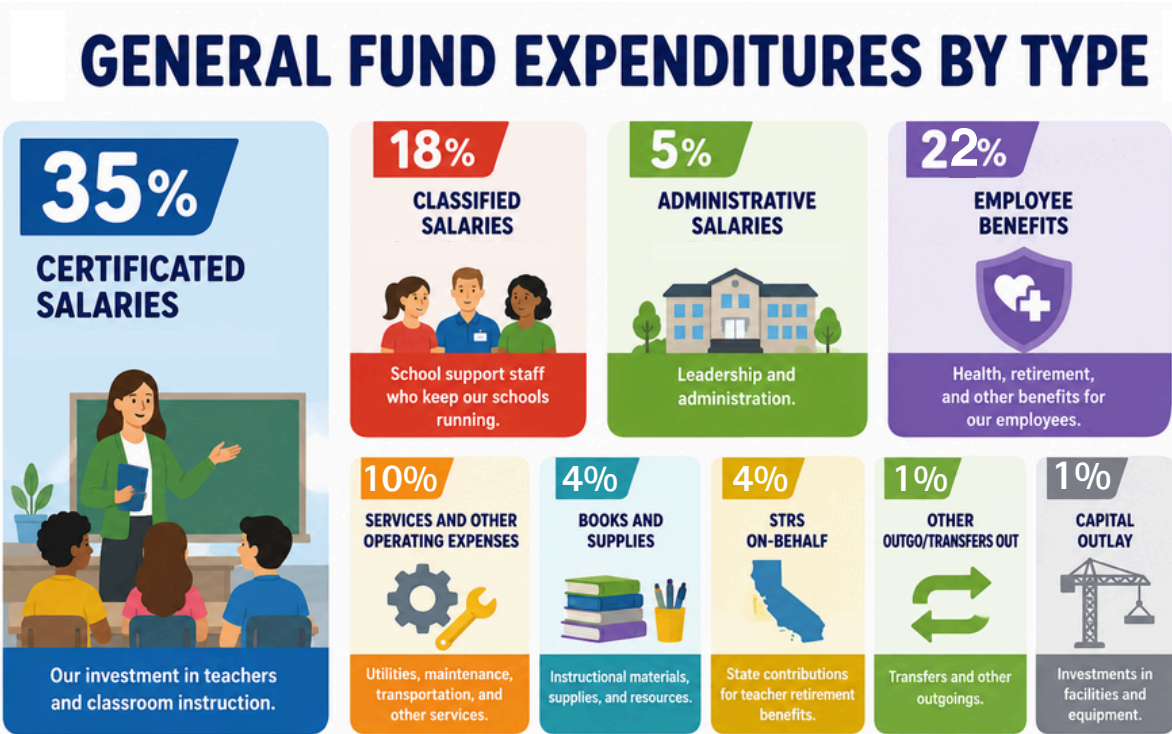
Because more than 85% of the district's budget is dedicated to personnel costs, budget reductions often result in the loss of positions and programs. The district worked to make as many reductions as possible through attrition, but some employees and services were still impacted. Every reduction affecting students and staff is deeply felt, and the district worked carefully to balance impacts across schools and programs.

With the reductions approved by the School Board, the district is now positioned to meet state fiscal requirements and



receive budget approval from the County Office of Education. At the same time, the district continues advocating for renewed unitary tax funding tied to the continued operation of Diablo Canyon Power Plant, as well as increased funding support for Transitional Kindergarten programs.

Until additional revenue sources are secured, SLCUSD must continue operating within its financial means. Even amid these challenges, the district remains proud of its outstanding schools, student-centered programs, dedicated staff, strong working conditions, and the exceptional students and families we serve.



DISTRICT AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

BAYWOOD

- California PBIS 2024-2025 Recognized Schools: Bronze

BISHOP'S PEAK

- America's Healthiest School Award 2025 by Alliance for a Healthier Generation
- California PBIS 2024-2025 Recognized Schools: Silver

DEL MAR

- California PBIS 2024-2025 Recognized Schools: Bronze

HAWTHORNE

- Teach Kindness 2025-2026 Kind School
- California PBIS 2024-2025 Recognized Schools: Silver

LOS OSOS MIDDLE SCHOOL

- 2025 Educational Results Partnership (ERP) Honor Roll School

LOS RANCHOS

- California PBIS 2025-2026 Recognized Schools: Bronze

MONARCH GROVE

- 2025 California Honor Roll by Educational Results Partnership

MORRO BAY HIGH SCHOOL

- AP Honor Roll Silver Recognition from College Board

PACHECO

- 2025 Educational Results Partnership (ERP) Honor Roll School

SAN LUIS OBISPO HIGH SCHOOL

- Best of the Central Coast

SINSHEIMER

- California PBIS 2025-2026 Recognized Schools: Silver

CL SMITH

- California PBIS 2025-2026 Recognized Schools: Silver

TEACH

- US News and World Report #50 in California Public Schools



PACHECO WINS STATE RECOGNITION

Innovate Public Schools recognized Pacheco Elementary as one of California's 2025 Top Public Schools, a prestigious distinction awarded to schools that are successfully closing opportunity gaps for Black and Latino students.

Out of more than 9,100 public schools statewide, only 6% earned this recognition in 2025. The report highlights schools demonstrating strong academic outcomes in English Language Arts and Mathematics, while advancing educational equity for historically underserved student groups.

The recognition reflects the dedication of Pacheco Elementary's teachers, staff, students, and families, whose collective efforts continue to foster a supportive and high-achieving learning environment. The honor also underscores the school's commitment to ensuring every student has access to opportunities that promote academic growth, confidence, and future success. Congratulations, Panteras!

CELEBRATING A VIVID VISION

SLCUSD's Food & Nutrition Services Team Wins Their Second Golden Bell

San Luis Coastal Unified School District's Food & Nutrition Services program has transformed school meals into an innovative, student-centered model focused on nutrition, sustainability, and community connection. Guided by the Farm to School approach, the district emphasizes scratch cooking, local sourcing, nutrition education, and staff development to ensure students receive fresh, high-quality meals every day. This commitment earned the district prestigious statewide and national recognition, including the 2025 CSBA Golden Bell Award for the "Vivid Vision" initiative.

Food and Nutrition Services launched its "Vivid Vision" initiative, creating vibrant cafeterias where students are excited to eat and staff take pride in their work. In 2022, SLCUSD became the first district in California and only the second in the nation to earn Silver Certification from Eat Real



for meeting rigorous healthy and sustainable food standards. Partnerships with 25 local farms and 21 local businesses have directed nearly \$1 million back into the local economy, while strengthening student connections to their food origins. Through culinary education, universal meals, and hands-on learning opportunities, the program has increased meal participation, reduced stigma, and redefined what is possible in school nutrition.

Congratulations to the Food and Nutrition Services Department for their much-deserved second Golden Bell Award.



NEXTGEN SCHOLARS EXPANDS ACCESS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

The 2025–26 academic year marked a period of significant growth and achievement for NextGen Scholars, a program funded by the San Luis Coastal Education Foundation. The program supports high-achieving, first-generation college-bound students by providing academic, financial, and career-connected resources that help students reach their full potential. With the addition of the Class of 2029, NextGen Scholars has successfully doubled its reach and now serves 47 scholars between Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo High Schools.

Academic Excellence

NextGen Scholars students continue to exceed academic benchmarks. During the first grading period, the cohort achieved an impressive average GPA of 3.7, with 22 students earning a GPA of 4.0 or higher.

The program also maintained 100% enrollment in advanced coursework. Freshmen enrolled in at least one AP or Honors course, while sophomores took two or more advanced classes, demonstrating a strong commitment to academic rigor and college readiness.

Strategic Support and Mentorship

To help students thrive in these challenging courses, the program expanded targeted support systems throughout the year.

Former San Luis Obispo High School Department Chair Ryan Perez was brought in to lead bi-weekly math tutoring sessions, resulting in measurable gains in both academic performance and student confidence.

In addition, a partnership with Cal Poly College Corps provides scholars with monthly mentorship sessions focused on college preparation, career exploration, and future planning.

Experiential Learning Opportunities

Beyond the classroom, scholars participated in an immersive field trip to Fresno that combined community building with career exploration. Students attended a Fresno State athletic event and participated in an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of Valley Children’s Hospital. During the visit, scholars engaged directly with medical professionals and learned about a variety of healthcare career pathways and educational journeys.

Through strong academic expectations, meaningful mentorship, and real-world learning experiences, NextGen Scholars continues to empower students to envision and pursue bright futures.





FAMILY GUIDES & VIDEOS SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

Our 2025–26 Family Guides and Videos are valuable resources designed to strengthen the connection between school and home. These guides provide families with a clear roadmap of California state standards and district expectations, outlining what students will learn and achieve from Transitional Kindergarten through high school.

Each guide is filled with practical, family-friendly support. “Everyday Activities” help turn ordinary moments, such as neighborhood walks, sorting laundry, or cooking together, into meaningful learning opportunities that build math, literacy, and science skills.

To encourage meaningful conversations at home, the guides also include “Questions to Ask Your Child” about their school

experiences, learning, and feelings. In addition, the “Topics to Discuss with Your Child’s Teacher” sections offer helpful prompts that support strong partnerships between families and school staff.

Our goal is to work alongside families to help every student thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. These resources are designed to empower families with tools that support learning, while advancing the district’s vision of preparing every student for a “life of purpose.”

By working together, we can help our children become courageous, creative thinkers and skillful collaborators who are prepared for an ever-changing world. Every day counts, and family involvement truly makes a difference.

Be sure to check out the Family Guides and videos at www.slcusd/academics.



READY TO WORK!

A new apprenticeship initiative is helping SLCUSD students explore meaningful career pathways while building valuable workplace skills. Thanks to the generous support of Trust Automation, an advanced manufacturing company based in San Luis Obispo, the district launched its first Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship Program during the 2025–2026 school year.

Developed by the San Luis Coastal Education Foundation in collaboration with advisors from Trust Automation, the program was designed to prepare SLCUSD juniors and seniors for careers in the growing advanced manufacturing industry. In its inaugural year, the program welcomed its first cohort of 19 students, each gaining hands-on experience and practical knowledge to help them transition successfully from high school to the workforce.

With mentorship and guidance from Trust Automation employees, students are learning the foundational skills needed for entry-level positions while also gaining insight into the many departments that make a manufacturing company

successful. Participants are being introduced to key areas such as quality control, shipping and receiving, inventory management, and product assembly, giving them a comprehensive view of how modern manufacturing operations function.

San Luis Obispo County is home to a growing number of advanced manufacturing companies that are eager to develop a skilled local workforce. Just this year, Trust Automation was awarded a historic \$490 million, five-year contract from the U.S. Air Force to develop and produce counter-unmanned aircraft systems. Programs like this apprenticeship initiative help connect students with career opportunities close to home, allowing them to build successful futures while contributing to the region’s economic growth.

Looking ahead, the Apprenticeship Program aims to expand across San Luis Obispo County by partnering with additional industry leaders and local high schools. By strengthening collaboration between education and industry, the program seeks to support the continued growth of advanced manufacturing while creating meaningful career pathways for students throughout the county.

STUDENT SENATE & YOUTHTRUTH SURVEY EMPOWER STUDENT LEADERS

How this innovative program has been shaping the future of SLCUSD for the past decade by giving students a direct platform to share their experiences and insights, creating a vital connection between the district's decision-makers and the voices of those it serves: the students.



At San Luis Coastal, student voice is viewed as an essential part of building strong schools and a thriving educational community. District leaders believe that meaningful progress happens when students are included as active partners in shaping their educational experiences. This philosophy is at the heart of the Superintendent's Student Senate, a program designed to ensure student perspectives help guide district decisions and priorities.

What began in 2016 with just 45 secondary students has grown into a dynamic group of more than 150 student leaders in grades 5–12. The continued growth of the Student Senate reflects a districtwide commitment to listening to students and valuing their lived experiences in schools every day.

A key part of this work begins with the YouthTruth survey, a nationally recognized nonprofit organization that partners with schools to gather honest feedback from students, families, and staff. YouthTruth helps school leaders better understand areas such as academic engagement, school culture, relationships, mental health, and campus safety. At San Luis Coastal, this information does not simply remain as survey data. Student Senate members carefully review the results, identify trends and areas of need, and help transform student feedback into meaningful action steps.



“They really want a seat at the table. From elementary to middle to high school, you have kids looking at the superintendent and saying, ‘We want to be heard and we have something important to say.’” - Dr. Eric Prater



The impact of the Student Senate extends throughout the district. Students regularly share recommendations with teachers, administrators, and the Board of Education, helping shape priorities within the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and supporting decisions about programs and resources. Their leadership has contributed to conversations around student wellness, campus safety, belonging, and equitable support for all learners.

Now entering its tenth year, the Student Senate continues to demonstrate the power of student leadership. By listening to students and empowering them to participate in decision-making, San Luis Coastal continues building a stronger, more inclusive school community for everyone.

PIONEERING SUSTAINABLE MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING

San Luis Coastal continues to lead the way in California by becoming the only district in San Luis Obispo County to have received reimbursements through the new California Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) Fee Schedule. As a leading district in the state, SLCUSD is actively sharing feedback with state partners to help shape the ongoing development of this initiative. This innovative program allows the district to bill Medi-Cal and private insurance for mental and behavioral health services provided directly at school, creating a sustainable funding source for essential student supports.

The Vital Role of Parents: Consent and Insurance Info

For this program to succeed and grow, parental participation is essential. The district is currently collecting student health insurance information and consent to bill through the Aeries Parent Data Confirmation process at the start of the school year, as well as through Point of Service forms provided to students and families from their school site.

While only 30% of families have provided this information to date, increasing this participation is critical. Parents should know:

- **No Cost to Families:** There are no co-pays or out-of-pocket costs for these services.
- **No Impact on Coverage:** Billing insurance for school services does not reduce or impact a student's ability to receive care from outside providers, nor does it affect deductibles or premiums.
- **Privacy:** All health information is securely stored and shared only in compliance with federal and state privacy laws.

The funds received through the CYBHI Fee Schedule are reinvested directly back into student supports. This new revenue stream has already helped preserve essential programming for our schools. Through creative funding initiatives SLCUSD has secured over \$850,000 in total grant funding to expand behavioral health access over the past 5 years. These grants have secured the development of our High School Wellness Centers, teletherapy access for all students, extended access to therapeutic support on school sites and increased program management and implementation.

By providing insurance information and consent, parents are partnering with the district to ensure these vital mental health programs remain available and sustainable for all students for years to come.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

This partnership provides more than 100 hours of services each week to SLCUSD middle and high schools at no cost to the district. This allows approximately 70 students across four secondary sites to access therapeutic services during the school day, removing barriers like transportation and scheduling.

COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER

At the elementary level, clinicians have been placed at 9 out of 10 school sites, supporting approximately 50 students. By leveraging the CYBHI Fee Schedule alongside a Miossi Trust Grant, the district has successfully reduced the annual cost for this service from \$100,000 to just \$25,000.

DAYBREAK HEALTH & FAMILY ADVOCATES

The district also partners with Daybreak Health for tele-therapy and organizations like CAPSLO and The LINK to provide family advocate services, assisting with needs ranging from food assistance to housing applications.



SLCUSD Wellness Counselors join community partners at Farmers' Market during Mental Health Awareness Month to bring awareness to the many student support programs available at SLCUSD.



COOKING WITH GUSTO

This year the Food and Nutrition Services Department proudly launched their first-ever cookbook, *Gusto: A Seasonal SLCUSD Cookbook*.

Inspired by the recipes, ingredients, and creativity found in SLCUSD school kitchens, *Gusto* celebrates the flavors of each season and the culinary expertise of the team. The cookbook showcases many of the scratch-made dishes served in the cafeterias and highlights the fresh, seasonal approach that defines the program.

More than a collection of recipes, *Gusto* tells the story of SLCUSD kitchens and the dedicated professionals who prepare meals with care for thousands of students each day.

Check out the recipes and stories at www.slcusd.org/food-services or by scanning the QR code.



DID YOU KNOW?

THIS YEAR, THE FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES TEAM SERVED...



HEALTHY MEALS, BRIGHT FUTURES

EMBRACING THE AWARD-WINNING VIVID VISION - A SHARED ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE OF SCHOOL MEALS IN SLCUSD



The SLCUSD Food and Nutritional Service's vision is grounded in a simple but powerful belief: school food can be extraordinary. By investing in culinary skills, fresh ingredients, and innovative menu development, they are redefining what students experience in the cafeteria. The kitchens are more than service lines. They are places where creativity, care, and community come together to nourish students every day.

Guided by the district's commitment to "Students First, Always," the Food & Nutrition Services team continues to push the boundaries of what is possible in K-12 nutrition programs. "Our Vivid Vision is about showing what's possible when culinary excellence, fresh ingredients, and student-centered values come together," said Erin Primer, Director of Food & Nutrition Services.

The District's Vivid Vision challenges the Food & Nutrition Services team to continue thinking differently about school meals. In the years ahead, the department plans to:

- Expand scratch cooking in district kitchens
- Strengthen partnerships with local farms and producers
- Continue investing in culinary training for staff
- Develop exciting seasonal menus that students enjoy

Through innovation, fresh ingredients, and a commitment to student wellness, SLCUSD is building a nutrition program where great food fuels student success and reflects the pride of the entire community.



SCHOOL FOOD: BY THE NUMBERS

30

Recipes featured in the Gusto cookbook inspired by meals served in school cafeterias

20

Hours of culinary & professional training team members received

51

Local farms & producers who bring fresh California ingredients to schools

200,000

Pounds of fresh fruit and veggies prepared and served by the SLCUSD food services team

1,300,000

TOTAL MEALS SERVED



COACHING ACADEMY

SUPPORTING POSITIVE, STUDENT-CENTERED ATHLETICS

San Luis Coastal Unified School District continues to strengthen its commitment to student-athletes by investing in the people who guide them: coaches.

In alignment with the district's Athletic Vision Statement, SLCUSD athletics are designed to provide an education-based, collaborative, and safe environment that is accessible to all students. With the support of caring and well-trained coaches, students can experience physical, social, and emotional growth that leads to lifelong benefits.

To support this vision, SLCUSD hosted its inaugural Coaching Academy this past June. The academy brought together coaches from across the district - from elementary programs through varsity-level athletics - for an evening of professional learning and collaboration.

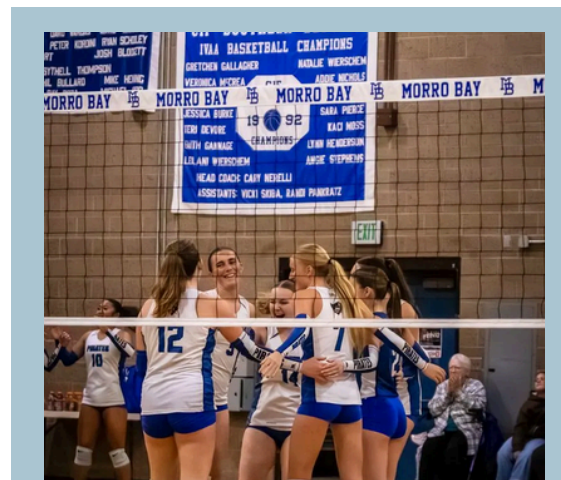
More than 90 coaches attended the event, which focused on strengthening coaching practices and aligning expectations across all district athletic programs. Sessions were led by experienced district coaches, community members, and educators from Cal Poly, creating a collaborative learning environment grounded in both educational and athletic expertise.

During the academy, coaches participated in training focused on four key areas:

- SLCUSD Safe Sports and Extracurricular Policy
- Engaging Effectively with Parents
- Creating and Maintaining a Positive Team Culture
- Bias and Cultural Competence in Sports

In addition to formal training sessions, coaches had opportunities to connect with colleagues across the district, discuss real-world coaching scenarios, and share strategies for supporting student-athletes both on and off the field.

The Coaching Academy is an annual training opportunity for all SLCUSD coaches. By investing in ongoing professional development, the district aims to ensure that every athletic program reflects its commitment to safety, inclusivity, and positive youth development, providing meaningful and enriching athletic experiences for all students.



For more information on the SLCUSD Safe Sports & Extracurricular policy, visit the district's website at:
www.slcusd.org/athletics



ATHLETICS FOR ACHIEVEMENT

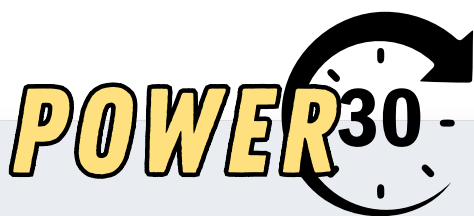
Helping Students Thrive On and Off the Field

The sounds of cheering teammates, bouncing basketballs, and students encouraging one another have become a growing part of the school experience across thanks to the continued support of the San Luis Coastal Education Foundation and its Athletics for Achievement program.

During the 2025–2026 school year, hundreds of 5th and 6th grade students stepped onto fields, courts, and tracks where they did far more than learn the rules of a game. They built confidence, discovered the value of teamwork, formed new friendships, and experienced what it means to be part of something bigger than themselves.

Athletics for Achievement was created with a simple but powerful goal: to ensure every student has the opportunity to grow through athletics in a safe, supportive, and education-based environment. Whether students were trying a sport for the first time or continuing to develop their skills, caring coaches helped guide them through experiences that supported their physical, social, and emotional growth both on and off the field.

This year, the program expanded even further with the launch of “Play It Forward,” a community-driven initiative designed to make athletics more accessible for all students. Families across the district donated new and gently used sports equipment, from cleats and shin guards to basketballs and athletic shoes, helping ensure that financial barriers do not prevent students from participating.



This year, SLCEF reimagined Athletics for Achievement with the introduction of the Power 30 program. Each practice included an additional 30-minute session focused on building the knowledge and mindset of student-athletes.

During Power 30, students explored topics such as:

- Setting team expectations
- Developing individual and team goals
- Sports nutrition
- Sport psychology
- Overall fitness and wellness



The generosity of the community made an immediate impact. Students who may not have otherwise had the equipment needed to join a team were able to fully participate alongside their peers, reinforcing the program’s commitment to inclusion and opportunity for all.

At the middle school level, Athletics for Achievement experienced significant growth this year as students at both district middle schools had the opportunity to participate on school teams in volleyball, basketball, and soccer. The expansion created more opportunities for students to represent their schools, strengthen school pride, and build lasting connections with teammates and coaches.

The future of Athletics for Achievement continues to grow, and both the SLCEF and the District are excited about the student opportunities ahead.

Beginning in the 2026–2027 school year, middle school students will have the chance to participate in a new six-week developmental basketball and soccer season before official school team tryouts begin. The added season is designed to give more students an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of the sport, build their skills, and gain confidence in a supportive environment before team selections take place.

Additional changes are also being made to better support student participation and long-term athletic development. Girls volleyball will move to the Spring 2027 season, creating stronger alignment with future middle and high school summer and fall tryouts.

At the elementary level, season schedules will also be adjusted to help increase participation opportunities and reduce conflicts with outside sports programs, making it easier for more students and families to take part.

Thanks to the continued partnership of the San Luis Coastal Education Foundation, District staff, coaches, families, and community supporters, Athletics for Achievement is helping students across San Luis Coastal learn, grow, and thrive — one practice, one game, and one student at a time.

A CONVERSATION WITH PHILLIP TARVER

Going Green!

SLCUSD continues to make major strides toward a cleaner, more sustainable transportation system through the expansion of its electric bus fleet. Transportation Supervisor Philip Tarver shared insights into the district's transition to electric vehicles and the impact these upgrades are already having.

Q: How has the district funded its transition to electric buses?
Over the past three years, SLCUSD has successfully applied for and received several state, local, and federal grants to support both electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed to operate them. In total, the district has secured approximately \$5.67 million in funding.

These funds have allowed us to purchase 10 new electric school buses, install 10 charging stations, and replace two vehicles in our white fleet with electric cars. We also installed a large backup generator at the transportation yard to ensure buses can still be charged and operated during emergency power shutoffs.

The San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) has been our primary funding source. Additional support has come from programs including HVIP, 3CE, and PG&E.

Q: How large is the district's transportation fleet?
SLCUSD currently operates a fleet of 43 buses, including 11 electric buses.

Q: How do the new electric buses compare to traditional diesel buses in efficiency?
Our traditional diesel buses averaged about 9 miles per gallon. The new electric buses operate at the equivalent of approximately 24 miles per gallon, making them significantly more energy efficient.

Q: Are you already seeing cost savings with the electric buses?
We're still gathering long-term data, but the early results are very promising. We've had four electric buses running full-time routes for more than two months, and right now we're seeing a potential fuel savings of about 14%. I'd like a few more months of data to provide a more accurate picture, but we're encouraged by what we're seeing so far.

Q: What does this transition mean for the district moving forward?
This is an important investment in both sustainability and efficiency. These buses reduce emissions, improve air quality for our students and community, and help position the district for long-term operational savings. It's exciting to see SLCUSD taking meaningful steps toward a greener future.



Funding Source	Electric Bus Amount	Chargers Amount
HVIP	\$3,875,000	\$521,000
APCD	\$686,542	\$240,000
3CE	\$312,335	n/a
PG&E	n/a	\$40,000
Total	\$4,873,878	\$801,000

MEASURE C: PROJECTS CONTINUE ACROSS DISTRICT

Measure C-22 passed with 63% voter approval in November 2022. The \$349 million bond provides funding for much-needed security improvements and classroom upgrades at all elementary and middle schools in Morro Bay, Los Osos, and San Luis Obispo, as well as at Pacific Beach High School. Measure C is transforming our campuses into inspiring learning environments where students can thrive.

Since the bond's passage, modernization and construction projects have been underway at many school sites across the district. SLCUSD maintains a dedicated website to keep the community informed about project progress and updates.

At the elementary level, most Phase 1 projects have focused on Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten classrooms. With the expansion of Transitional Kindergarten to serve all four-year-olds, schools needed larger classrooms with integrated restrooms designed specifically for young learners. Most of this first phase of construction is expected to be completed by the start of the 2026–27 school year.

Phase 2 projects will begin this summer and fall. Baywood and Teach Elementary Schools are currently in the design phase and are expected to begin construction during the 2026–27 school year. Because the Baywood project involves what is essentially a new campus, the district was required to complete an extensive environmental review process, which delayed the completion of architectural plans.

Both middle schools are also undergoing comprehensive modernization projects. New infrastructure is being added throughout each campus, including upgraded electrical service, fire alarms, gas lines, water lines, sewer lines, ADA-accessible pathways, and asphalt. Each school will also receive new roofing, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems, paint, and interior finishes. The district began by renovating student restrooms, one of the primary concerns identified by students during the planning process. These projects will continue in phases over the next two years.

Pacific Beach High School is receiving a brand-new campus located behind the current school site. The existing classrooms, originally built as Army barracks in the 1940s, will be removed once the new facilities are complete.

SLCUSD continues to pursue state matching grants to supplement Measure C funding. To date, the district has secured more than \$7 million in grants and may qualify for an additional \$43 million if state funding remains available. With 10 elementary schools, two middle schools, one continuation high school, and ongoing facility needs at the district's two comprehensive high schools, every available dollar will help support these important improvements.

We are fortunate to live in a community that strongly supports its schools.

The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee meets quarterly to review revenues, expenditures, annual financial and performance audits, and project updates.





SLCUSD ADULT SCHOOL SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Raising young children can be both rewarding and overwhelming, especially for new parents navigating endless questions and challenges without a clear roadmap. Families benefit from having a supportive community where they can connect with other parents, share experiences, and learn practical strategies together. Strong, positive relationships between parents and children in the early years help lay the foundation for healthy development and long-term success for the entire family. The mission of Parent Participation is to help foster this community of support and learning.

A mainstay of parent education in the community for decades, the program is designed to guide parents through the early years of raising children. Through collaborative weekly classes, families gain practical tools and research-based strategies that support healthy child development while nurturing confident, resilient parents. Instructors lead both a children's curriculum — including age-appropriate activities, crafts, and music — and a parent curriculum covering topics such as positive discipline and postpartum mental health.

Parent Participation is offered through the Adult Education Program and serves over 300 families each year at its San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay school sites. "This program is clearly a community treasure," said Dan Neff, Director of Secondary and Adult Education. "It's heartwarming to see young parents who attended Parent Participation themselves now bringing their own children to class. The teachers' dedication and care for the families they serve is what has kept the program relevant and impactful for so long."

"We see firsthand how valuable support can be for new parents," said Denise Stewart, Coordinator of the Parent Participation Program. "When parents have access to positive parenting strategies and encouragement, they feel more confident, more connected to their children, and better prepared to provide the calm, caring guidance young children need."

For many families, Parent Participation serves as their first introduction to SLCUSD and an important first step in becoming actively involved in their child's education. By providing guidance, education, and community support, the program helps families build a strong foundation for lifelong success.



PREPARING ADULT LEARNERS

San Luis Coastal Unified School District continues to expand opportunities for adult learners by providing accessible, flexible, and career-focused educational programs that support students at every stage of life. Through the Adult School, community members are able to pursue personal goals, strengthen workforce skills, continue their education, and build brighter futures for themselves and their families.

The High School Diploma program remains one of the Adult School's most impactful offerings. Adults who were previously unable to complete high school are provided with individualized support, flexible scheduling options, and personalized academic plans designed to fit the realities of work and family life. Students in the program continue to demonstrate resilience and determination as they work toward graduation, career advancement, military opportunities, and college enrollment.

"Our students represent the strength and diversity of our community," said Dan Neff, Director of Secondary and Adult Education. "Many are balancing jobs, families, and significant life responsibilities while returning to school. Our staff is committed to creating a supportive environment that helps students achieve meaningful personal and professional goals."

Enrollment and participation in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses also continue to grow. Through instruction focused on communication, workplace readiness, and community engagement, students gain confidence in their English skills while building connections within the local community. The Adult School's partnership with Cuesta College further strengthens opportunities for students interested in continuing into higher education and career training programs.

This year, the Adult School has continued to strengthen its focus on career readiness and workforce development through Guided Pathways and short-term training opportunities aligned with regional workforce needs. These programs help students identify career goals while gaining practical skills that can lead directly to employment, certifications, or continued education. Students are increasingly seeking pathways connected to healthcare, technology, skilled trades, and service industries as they prepare for long-term career success.



In addition to academic and workforce programming, the district remains committed to serving vulnerable populations through its Jail Education program. Educational opportunities provided within the correctional setting continue to emphasize rehabilitation, personal growth, and successful reentry into the community. Financial Literacy instruction has become an especially valuable component of the program, helping students develop essential life skills related to budgeting, credit, banking, and financial planning in today's economy.

Technology and digital literacy instruction have also become an increasingly important focus area within Adult Education programming. As more services, employment applications, and educational resources move online, students are developing foundational computer and digital navigation skills necessary for success in both the workforce and daily life.

Together, these programs reflect SLCUSD's ongoing commitment to lifelong learning, educational equity, and community support. By providing opportunities for adults to grow academically, professionally, and personally, the Adult School continues to play a vital role in strengthening the local community and preparing learners for success in an evolving world.



1500 Lizzie Street H2
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 549-1222
<https://ae.slcusd.org/adult-education>

Our mission is to meet the diverse educational needs of our community by empowering lifelong learners to reach their professional, personal, and family goals.

We offer classes from the following programs online:

- High School Diploma/Equivalency
- High School Equivalency for Spanish Speakers
- Lifelong Fitness
- Parent Education

WELCOMING NEW LEADERS

San Luis Coastal is happy to welcome new directors, principals, and assistant principals for the 2026-27 school year. These outstanding leaders, whose experience, dedication, and vision will help support our students, staff, and school communities in the year ahead, are excited to get started.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: PETRA REYNOLDS



SLCUSD is pleased to welcome Petra Reynolds as the new Executive Director for Student Support Services. Ms. Reynolds most recently served as Principal at Grover Beach Elementary School in the Lucia Mar School District and brings a wealth of experience, strong leadership, and a deep commitment to student advocacy - especially for the most underserved youth.

In addition to her professional experience, Ms. Reynolds is also a member of the San Luis Coastal community, with children attending C.L. Smith Elementary and Laguna Middle School. She began her transition last spring, working closely with departing Executive Director, Ms. Janet Gould, to ensure continuity and a strong start for SLCUSD teams and the students we serve.

ELEMENTARY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT: AARON BLACK

SLCUSD is excited to welcome Aaron Black as the next Elementary Director of Learning and Achievement. After serving as an assistant principal at Morro Bay High School and San Luis Obispo High School, he spent seven years as principal of C.L. Smith Elementary, where the school earned Lighthouse recognition and became one of the district's fastest-growing academic schools.

Most recently, as Director of Opportunity and Engagement, Mr. Black expanded partnerships with local industry to create internship pathways connecting students to real-world experiences and future careers. He also helped broaden student access to athletics through the Athletics for Achievement program, which serves more than 600 students annually, and supported districtwide initiatives including Safe Sports programming, the SLCUSD Coaching Academy, parent education, and policy development. His leadership, grounded in equity, access, and opportunity, will continue to strengthen learning and achievement for students across the district.



MORRO BAY HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: MICHAEL FRANKLIN, JR.



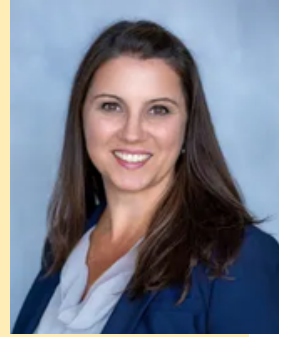
Morro Bay High School is excited to welcome Michael Franklin, Jr. as the next principal of Morro Bay High School. Mr. Franklin is entering his 21st year in education, including the past 13 years as a school administrator. Throughout his career, he has taught and served in leadership roles at every level of the K-12 public school system. Born in Los Angeles, raised in Baltimore, and professionally shaped in Arizona, Mr. Franklin brings a broad and deeply informed perspective to education grounded in diverse experiences, communities, and school contexts.

His personal and professional journey has cultivated a wide lens through which he views both education and the world around him. He is supported by his wife and two children, whose encouragement and partnership allow him to fully invest in his leadership, service, and commitment to the communities he serves.

TEACH ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL: KIRSTIN MAY

Teach Elementary is happy to welcome Kirstin May as their next principal. For the past four years, she has served as Principal of Baywood Elementary School, where she led the school's Dual Language Immersion program and supported a culture of academic excellence, multilingualism, and community engagement.

Prior to becoming principal, Ms. May spent more than 15 years serving students and families across the district in both classroom teaching and instructional leadership roles. Throughout her career, she has earned the respect of colleagues and families through her collaborative approach, commitment to student success, and belief in the transformative power of public education. A longtime admirer of Teach's innovative approach to learning, she looks forward to partnering with students, staff, and the community to build upon the school's strong tradition of excellence and student-centered learning.



BAYWOOD ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL: ALICE MCCLINTOCK



Baywood Elementary School is pleased to welcome Alice McClintock, who brings more than 25 years of experience in education and a deep commitment to student success. Most recently, she served as a Preschool-6th grade Principal at a Dual Language Immersion elementary school and as a district administrator in California's Central Valley. Throughout her career, she has been dedicated to providing equitable, high-quality learning experiences for all students, with a particular passion for Dual Language Immersion education and supporting multilingual learners.

As she begins her role at Baywood Elementary, she looks forward to partnering with students, staff, families, and the broader community to foster a school environment where every child feels valued, supported, and inspired to learn. Her leadership is grounded in the belief that strong relationships, a culture of belonging, and high expectations create the foundation for student success.

SAN LUIS OBISPO HIGH SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: DANNY CHAND

San Luis Obispo High School is pleased to welcome Danny Chand as an Assistant Principal! Mr. Chand brings 11 years of experience supporting students, families, and staff.

He began his career as a history teacher, serving in the classroom for seven years before spending the past four years as a Director of Pupil Services in California's Central Valley. Across these roles, he has developed a strong commitment to student support, staff collaboration, and future-focused learning. As he joins San Luis Obispo High School, he looks forward to becoming part of a team deeply committed to student achievement, growth, and belonging. His leadership is grounded in building relationships, supporting school communities, and helping students prepare for success beyond high school.



LOS OSOS MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: IAIN PATTERSON



Los Osos Middle School is pleased to welcome Iain Patterson as their new Assistant Principal. He brings more than 20 years of experience in public education as a classroom teacher, Teacher on Special Assignment, Assistant Principal, and Program Specialist. As a TOSA, he helped expand access to meaningful educational pathways and opportunities for student success beyond high school. As a Program Specialist with the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education, Mr. Patterson supported schools in implementing social-emotional, behavioral, and intervention systems.

He is passionate about building inclusive school communities where students and staff feel a strong sense of belonging and where learning inspires curiosity, joy, and growth. He is excited to join the LOMS community and continue serving students and families on the Central Coast.

A MILESTONE WORTH CELEBRATING: BAYWOOD'S FIRST DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION CLASS MOVES ON

This spring marked a historic milestone at Baywood Elementary School as the first cohort of students to complete the school's Spanish Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program celebrated their promotion to middle school.

Six years ago, these students became pioneers, embarking on an educational journey that immersed them in two languages, two cultures, and countless opportunities for growth. Today, they leave Baywood not only as confident readers, writers, and problem-solvers, but also with the remarkable ability to communicate and learn in both English and Spanish.

Research consistently shows that students enrolled in high-quality dual language programs develop strong academic skills while gaining cultural competence, cognitive flexibility, and valuable bilingual abilities that prepare them for success in college, careers, and an increasingly interconnected world.

The success of this inaugural class reflects the dedication of exceptional teachers, supportive families, and students who embraced the challenge of learning in two languages from their very first day of kindergarten. Along the way, they built lasting friendships, developed resilience, and demonstrated that bilingualism is not simply about learning another language—it is about broadening perspectives and building bridges across cultures.

As these students begin the next chapter of their educational journey, they carry with them a strong academic foundation and a set of skills that will serve them for years to come.

San Luis Coastal Unified School District proudly celebrates this remarkable achievement and looks forward to watching these trailblazing students continue to thrive. Congratulations to Baywood Elementary's first Dual Language Immersion graduating class—you have made history, and your future is bright.

SLCUSD VISION AND MISSION

VISION

San Luis Coastal prepares each student for a life of purpose. Our students become courageous and creative thinkers. They are college and career ready, skillful collaborators, and productive contributors to a diverse and rapidly evolving world.

MISSION

San Luis Coastal Unified School District educates students through rigorous, relevant, and engaging experiences provided by caring, connected staff with the support of the entire community.

Stay Connected
SAN LUIS COASTAL

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
For the latest news, programs, and activities
happening around the District

visit our website!



www.slcusd.org

