

Board/Trustee Requests	
Inquiry: Increasing 8th Grade Integrated Math 1 Participation	<p>Response: A core strategic priority for the district is expanding equitable access to advanced mathematics, specifically by increasing the number of qualified eighth-grade students enrolled in Integrated Math 1. Early access to algebra concepts in middle school provides students with a strong foundational pathway, enabling them to reach advanced coursework—such as AP Calculus, AP Statistics, and specialized STEM electives—before high school graduation.</p> <p>Data from the 2025–2026 school year showed that (192) eighth graders completed Integrated Math 1, with 92% passing the course with a grade of "C" or better. Based on the high school placement test, (232) former MCSD eighth graders were successfully placed into Integrated Math 2 for the current 2026–2027 school year, representing an increase of 40 students eligible for advanced high school mathematics.</p> <p>The district's ongoing math curriculum pilot presents a timely and crucial opportunity to revisit and re-establish the criteria used to qualify students for eighth-grade Integrated Math 1. Updating these placement benchmarks will ensure that qualification criteria remain rigorous, transparent, and equitable, helping to identify and prepare a broader cohort of students for advanced mathematical success while maintaining high academic standards across the district.</p>

Board Information Update

Educational Services

Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Update: Our Dual Language Immersion program at Stowell Elementary has expanded to first grade this year! The program currently serves 34 kindergarten students and 43 first-grade students.

Next week, the DLI team will meet with our partners from the Association of Two-Way & Dual Language Education (ATDLE) for classroom walkthroughs, planning, and collaboration. Discussion will focus on strengthening expectations for what a DLI classroom should look,

sound, and feel like; supporting the shift from 90/10 in kindergarten to 80/20 in first grade; and reviewing pacing, instructional materials, and grade-level collaboration.

The team will also present a Whole-School DLI & Framework Overview to the entire Stowell staff, helping build a shared understanding of the DLI model as the program continues to grow.

MCSD Expanded Learning Opportunities Programming: MCSD's Merced Academy of Rising Scholars (MARS) Afterschool Enrichment Program has, for the first time, started a program at all 14 Elementary Schools to start a school year. To date, 533 students are enrolled with 31 students on the waitlist. Our partner in afterschool programming, MCOE's ASSETS, currently has 947 students enrolled with 94 students on a waitlist. District staff will continue to add staff to ensure that students have after-school programming for families that wish to enroll. The MCSD MARS program has 20 Site Leads and 48 Instructional Aides to support the program.

MCSD Community Engagement Specialist: Takeisha Stolte: Takeisha, or 'Keisha', has started supporting Muir, Rivera Elementary, Sheehy, Stowell, and Tenaya Middle Schools. For quarter 1, she is establishing rapport with students, staff, and families in order to reduce Chronic Absenteeism. Mrs. Stolte has developed a presentation to set the course for her role with MCSD: [CLICK HERE](#).

Administrative Services

Facilities-August 25 Board Agenda Items:

- EMCPFFA Update: Staff and Board representatives of the East Merced County Public Facilities Finance Authority (EMCPFFA) are seeking Board direction regarding MCSD's ~\$8.5 million share of JPA funds.
 - Funding Goal: Per our Facilities Master Plan, Cruickshank Middle and Chenoweth Elementary have over \$90M in needed improvements. The Director of Facilities has already met with administrators at both sites to prioritize potential projects.
 - Timeline & Steps:
 - Step 1 (Aug 25 Board Meeting): Board reaches consensus on utilizing funding for MCSD projects vs. contributing to a joint MUHSD project.
 - Step 2 (Sept EMCPFFA Meeting): MCSD trustee representatives share Board direction with EMCPFFA.
 - Step 3 (Sept – Dec): Select specific projects and gain Board authorization.
 - Step 4 (Dec EMCPFFA Meeting): Seek final EMCPFFA project approval.
 - Step 5: Project implementation begins.

- Tenaya Middle School Classroom Notice of Completion: Work on this project was successfully completed prior to the start of school. The Notice of Completion on the August 25 agenda signifies our formal acceptance of the work.

Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation (MO&T)

The Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation (MO&T) department is off to a strong start this school year, with all teams working collaboratively to support our campuses.

- **Transportation:** The team is working diligently to ensure bus routes run smoothly. To support the transition of 6th graders to middle schools, the Director personally visited sites to evaluate pick-up and drop-off zones. Route adjustments are being refined as drivers build familiarity with new schedules. We appreciate site administrators' continued patience as traffic flow stabilizes.
- **Maintenance:** Staff remains focused on completing remaining summer projects while actively preparing sites for upcoming Williams inspections. Timelines, deadlines, and project plans continue to move forward steadily across all campuses.
- **Operations:** Daily cleaning schedules and responsibilities have been adjusted to accommodate higher student counts at middle schools, with direct collaboration ongoing between leadership, site administrators, and custodial staff. Regular check-ins with CSEA and staff will continue throughout the year to gather feedback on these adapted routines and support a smooth shift across all sites.

Overall, the entire MO&T team has stepped up to make the start of the school year a success through exceptional teamwork and dedication!

Information Technology

- **Promise Day (Aug 25 & 27):** 4th–8th grade students will review and sign their technology contract in class with their teachers during "**Promise Day: I promise to respect the tech.**"
- **Why It Matters:** This is a critical first step in building responsible Chromebook habits early. Setting clear expectations on day one teaches good digital citizenship, keeps students safe online, and drastically cuts down on avoidable device damage throughout the year.

Human Resources

Risk Management

Workplace Violence Prevention: Risk Management implemented an updated districtwide workplace violence incident reporting system for the 2026–27 school year. The new process provides standardized reporting across all schools, departments, and programs; incorporates Cal/OSHA reporting guidance; protects identifying information; and provides centralized districtwide tracking and trend data to support ongoing prevention efforts.

Workers' Compensation/Nurse Triage: The District launched its new workers' compensation nurse triage process effective July 1. Employees now have immediate access to a registered nurse following a workplace injury to assist with appropriate care and next steps. Risk Management has provided training and updated resources for staff as part of the districtwide rollout.

AED/Safety Readiness: Risk Management completed the annual districtwide inspection of AEDs prior to the start of school, including verification of equipment readiness and identification of needed replacement supplies. Additional start-of-year safety efforts have included heat illness prevention communications and updated workers' compensation resources at district sites.

SISC Dependent Audit: SISC will partner with the District to conduct a comprehensive dependent eligibility audit for all employees enrolled in health benefits. To ensure compliance and manage health plan expenditures, employees will be required to submit verification documentation for covered dependents. Unidentified, ineligible dependents, such as ex-spouses or children who have aged out of coverage, directly inflate overall claim costs and drive premium increases. The audit process is scheduled to launch within the next couple of months and will run for approximately one year, with continuous staff communication planned to guide employees smoothly through the documentation requirements.

Safety Shoe Program for Classified: Part of the newly bargained CSEA contract language, the Safety Shoe Program for eligible employees, funded through District Safety Funds and coordinated by Risk Management, went into effect on July 1, 2026. The program provides an annual allowance of up to \$150.00 toward approved safety footwear. Safety specifications were developed in collaboration with department leadership based on the duties and safety needs of each classification. The program establishes a consistent Districtwide process for safety footwear and eliminates the need for employees to pay the cost upfront and seek reimbursement. Eligible employees will receive a one-time-use electronic voucher through District email, which can be used in person at WorkWorld for approved footwear. Employees also receive a 10% discount off the store price. The voucher system provides Risk Management with greater oversight of Safety Fund expenditures while helping ensure purchases remain within the annual allowance. The 2026–2027 program officially launches August 31, 2026.

Communications

- [Events Calendar](#)