



BUCKEYE UNION DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

2026-2027

SEPTEMBER 2026

From the Superintendent

We're back! By all reports from teachers and principals, our students have quickly settled into the routines of school, and there is much optimism for the year ahead. I want to express gratitude for all who have assisted with getting us off to a great start!

David Roth, Ph.D.
Superintendent



*We are
Buckeye!*

District Mission

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

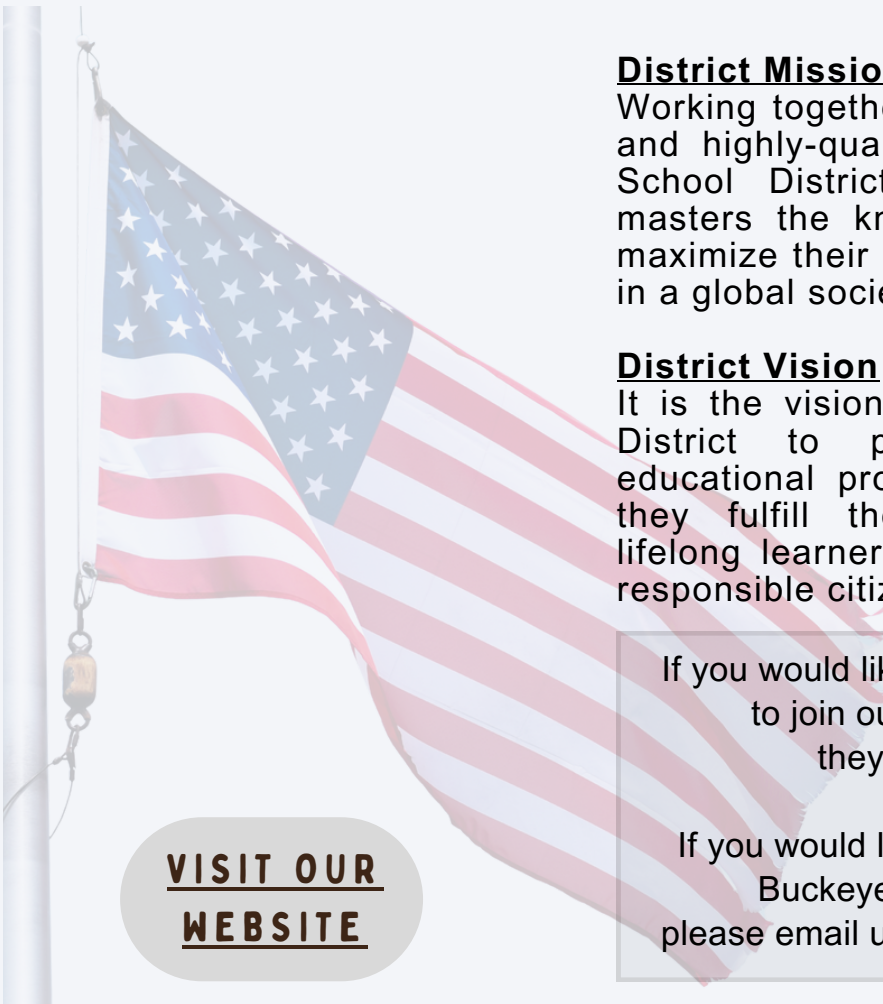
District Vision

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

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

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

**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE**



Celebrating Student Achievement

To kick things off, more than 2,200 Buckeye Union students in grades 3 through 8 received certificates recognizing growth and achievement on the spring 2026 state assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science. Of those students, 654 earned Scholar recognition for performing in the Advanced range on every test they took at their grade level. **Well done!**

Building Strong School Communities

As the year gets underway, our teachers, staff, and leadership team are focused on fostering welcoming school sites for students and families. It's great to see so many parents signing up to be classroom volunteers and/or PTA/PTO/PTC members and leaders. Your engagement is foundational to the operation of our schools and to the support our students receive.

Supporting Student Activities

I want to recognize the Buckeye Education Foundation as well. Thanks to its fundraising efforts, \$80,000 in community donations is going toward improved stipends for student activities this school year. Last year the foundation was able to enhance stipends for 279 student activities. The teachers, staff, and community members who lead those opportunities appreciate the added support.

Bringing the Arts to Life Across Buckeye

Visual and performing arts continue to grow across Buckeye! From musicals and classroom productions tied to history and character building to visual art, music, and an increased emphasis on dance this year, students are finding more ways to create, perform, collaborate, and express themselves. These opportunities build confidence and creativity while making meaningful connections to classroom learning. Throughout the year, we look forward to shining a brighter spotlight on the many arts experiences happening across our schools and sharing more of them with our families.

Finding the Balance With Screen Time

Screen time appears to be on most parents' minds these days. The essential question that educators are grappling with is how much is productive for learning. On the one hand, students will need a well-developed set of digital skills to complete their education and enter the workforce. Additionally, some digital tools support learning differentiation that could not be accomplished otherwise. At the same time, we know how important it is for children to engage in activities and experiences that computers cannot replicate. Principals and teachers are currently examining screen time practices at each site. Our goal in the coming weeks is to describe more specifically how much time students spend on screens in class, and to communicate to parents the purpose of screen time in the classroom.

Funding Challenges and Advocacy

As a superintendent who wants to maximize opportunities for our students and support our teachers and staff, I am constantly met with the reality of many important interests/needs and not enough funds. That dynamic is compounded by a state funding formula that places Buckeye Union's total revenues nearly \$6,000 per student below the state average for an elementary school district. This disparity has grown over the past decade, and at the same time we have watched inflation expand not only in our personal lives but in the cost of operating schools. Some of those costs are embedded in the economy. Others arrive as new state requirements, which seem to be added each year.

Over the past year, my concern about the funding challenges facing our district and many similar districts across the state led me to create a coalition, Raise the Base, which is bringing attention to the need for California's legislature and governor to reexamine how dollars can be more equitably distributed to serve all of California's children and youth. You can learn more at www.raisethebase.org.

Keeping Our Schools Safe

Safety is paramount, and today's world requires a level of preparedness that was not contemplated in previous decades. Our employees, and now our volunteers, receive mandated reporter training each year. Employees also participate in Office of Emergency Services training every two years, and twice each year, our sites conduct active intruder drills with students and staff.

Investing in Great Teachers

Despite my concern about the longer-term funding outlook for Buckeye Union and districts like ours, we begin the year with a stable offering of student programs and, very importantly, nearly 30 new teachers. These new hires come as many veteran teachers move into the next phase of their lives. The importance of attracting new talent, at this time, cannot be overstated. Recruiting into the education profession has become more challenging in recent years, and we have expanded our recruiting efforts in response. This includes hosting four teacher residents who are working toward their multiple-subject and special education credentials. Please join me in welcoming the new members of our Buckeye Union family.

Keeping Students at the Center

I recognize that this newsletter covers a lot of ground. What connects it all is a single question I ask of every decision we make: does this serve the students who are in our classrooms right now? Although we do not control the state's funding formula, we do control the quality of what happens in front of our students each day, and on that count I am confident. We have talented teachers, committed staff, and a community that shows up. Thank you for entrusting your children to us. It is going to be a great year.

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