



FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT *PRESS RELEASE*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 9, 2026 **CONTACT:** Juliette Funes, PIO **PHONE:** (657) 706-3774

Fullerton School District Earns Top State Recognition for Positive, Supportive Learning Environments

FULLERTON, CA – For the third consecutive year, Fullerton School District has demonstrated districtwide excellence in fostering positive student behavior and supportive school cultures, with all 20 schools earning Platinum status – the highest distinction available from the California PBIS Coalition.

Nearly 2,700 schools statewide applied for the 2026 awards program, placing FSD schools among California’s top-performing schools in implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. PBIS is a research-based framework that teaches and reinforces positive behavior, helping students develop the social, emotional and behavioral skills to feel connected, supported and ready to learn.

“This recognition reflects the consistency and care our schools demonstrate every day to support all students,” said Amy Sotolongo, Teacher on Special Assignment overseeing PBIS. “Whether students are in the classroom, cafeteria, playground or on the bus, they encounter shared expectations and caring adults who recognize positive choices and provide additional support when needed.”

Fullerton schools will be honored during the California PBIS Conference October 7-9 in Sacramento, followed by recognition at the October 13 Board of Trustees meeting.

At each FSD school, PBIS comes to life through clear expectations, predictable routines and positive reinforcement. Schoolwide behavior matrices show students what positive behavior looks like in different settings across campus, while point and ticket systems celebrate students for putting those expectations into practice. Students can redeem their points at school stores and carts or for special experiences such as board game days, popsicle lunches and “snack and chat” gatherings.

Schools also provide additional layers of support based on student needs, including small-group mentoring, Lunch Bunch groups, counseling circles and individualized interventions.

PBIS extends beyond FSD campuses through “PBIS on the Bus.” District bus drivers receive ongoing training, use a transportation-specific behavior matrix and recognize positive choices with “bus

– *MORE* –

bucks.” FSD is the only known school district in Orange County implementing PBIS across its transportation system.

The districtwide accomplishment reflects significant growth since FSD began its PBIS journey during the 2016-17 school year, when two schools received recognition. Today, the work is supported by school administrators, teachers, PBIS teams, support staff, coaches, bus drivers, students, families and District leaders.

“Earning Platinum recognition at every school for three years in a row demonstrates what is possible when an entire district shares a commitment to student well-being and success,” Superintendent Gretchen Janson, Ed.D., said. “This achievement belongs to our entire FSD community and reflects the intentional work taking place each day to ensure every student feels safe, included and supported.”

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

090926_FSDPBIS1: A Golden Hill Elementary School teacher leads a kindergarten lesson that reinforces positive behavior and demonstrates how PBIS is woven into daily learning and school culture.

090926_FSDPBIS2: Woodcrest Elementary School students gather in front of a PBIS poster highlighting the positive behaviors and shared expectations practiced throughout their school community.

090926_FSDPBIS3: Parks Junior High School students participate in a PBIS assembly, using posters to illustrate behaviors to avoid and reinforce expectations for making positive choices at school.

###

FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Great Schools, Successful Kids

1401 W. Valencia Drive, Fullerton, CA 92833 | (714) 447-7400 | fullertonsd.org

 [@fullerton_sd](https://www.instagram.com/fullerton_sd)  [@fullertonsd](https://www.facebook.com/fullertonsd)  [@FullertonSchoolDistrictTV](https://www.youtube.com/FullertonSchoolDistrictTV)