

Weekly Organizational Brief - August 28, 2026

Superintendent

I want to start by thanking our site and central office teams that have been proactively working together to focus on positive attendance for our students, as well as working with our Community Engagement Specialist to connect with our families. These steps have included home visits, connecting families to resources, recommending students to the Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports list, and the identification of our 2026-2027 student champion list.

This week I was able to visit Franklin Elementary, Stefani Elementary, Rivera Elementary, Rivera Middle School, and Gracey's teacher UDL training.

Deputy Superintendent

Year 2 Leadership Capacity Building (Center for Model Schools)

On Thursday, August 20, the district launched Year 2 of our strategic partnership with the Center for Model Schools, focusing on site-level leadership development and systemic improvement. Cross-Functional Alignment: The cohort includes principals and teacher leaders from every school site, alongside our four Confidential ELOP MARS Coordinators and the Executive Officer of Human Resources. Integrating expanded learning and human resources with site leadership ensures unified goals across academic, operational, and extended-day programming.

Core Curriculum: Facilitated instruction in Session 1 centered on foundational organizational health, specifically building high-trust culture and professional relationships to drive student achievement.

- Impact & Next Steps: Participant feedback was exceptionally strong. Site teams emerged with practical, actionable strategies to implement immediately, establishing a framework for sustained collaboration and continuous improvement throughout the academic year.

Educational Services

- 2026 MCSD Summer Academy Executive Summary: Nearly 3,300 students participated in MCSD-supported programs during the 2026 Summer Academy. The MCSD Board of Trustees was provided a report at the Tuesday, August 25, 2026 meeting. Merced City School District Local Control Accountability Plan Cycle: MCSD is in the third and final year of the current LCAP iteration. During the 2026-27 school year, District Staff will engage our Educational Partners several times not only to

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- gain input and feedback on current goals and actions, but also input on what the next three-year LCAP iteration would include.

Administrative Services

Maintenance, Operations and Transportation

District Furniture Replacement Initiative: To ensure long-term equity across all campuses, MO & T is executing the district-wide furniture audit previously approved by the Board to align all site environments with updated Educational Specifications and the Facilities Master Plan. Leveraging data from annual Williams / FIT (Facility Inspection Tool) reports alongside staff inspections, this multi-year initiative will follow a structured rollout starting at John Muir Elementary:

- Phase 1 (Through Dec 2026): Complete a comprehensive district-wide inventory of all student and teacher furniture, utilizing FIT findings to help establish baseline site conditions.
- Phase 2 (Jan 2027): Assess inventory data, identify potential funding sources, and establish staff's multi-year operational priority schedule.
- Phase 3 (Spring 2027 & Beyond): Begin initial replacement orders. Subsequent phases will be scheduled across future fiscal years as funding and site needs dictate.
- Clark Preschool Facility Repairs: Structural repairs remain on schedule for late September completion. The building has been secured on a new concrete foundation, with exterior finishing and interior restoration actively underway.
- HVAC Salvage Savings: Following last year's HVAC vandalism, maintenance staff successfully salvaged undamaged components prior to unit replacements. Repurposing these parts for district-wide repairs has minimized system downtime and directly saved operational funds for other pending facility needs.
- Transportation & Camp Operations: Transportation successfully executed its first major out-of-town trip to Camp Green Meadows (August 24–28) while seamlessly maintaining all daily home-to-school routes without service disruption.

Facility Use Policy Modernization & Operational Review

- Following the transition of Facility Use Application oversight to the Facilities Department, staff is launching a comprehensive review to streamline operations and update Board Policy ahead of the 2027–28 school year.

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- What & Why: Facilities staff will evaluate and update the district's facility fee structure over the next few months to ensure full recovery of operational expenses, ensure staff is properly compensated for external events, and maintain high-quality facilities for community use.
- Who & How (Stakeholder Engagement): Staff will conduct outreach with key community and district stakeholders to gather input, explain policy intentions, and build shared understanding around facility use procedures.
- When & Where (Timeline): Updated policy proposals will be brought forward for board consideration well in advance of the 2027–28 school year, ensuring clear governance and full compliance before new facilities open at Tenaya Middle School.

Human Resources

Safety Shoe Program

Risk Management completed the soft rollout of the District's new Safety Shoe Allowance Program at WorkWorld this week. Twenty-five employees from Transportation, Maintenance & Operations, and Campus Security Liaisons participated, with all 25 leaving with new safety shoes and a smile! Eligible staff have received program information and vouchers in advance of the Districtwide launch on August 31. Early feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Cart Safety Certification

Risk Management also held Cart Safety Certification training for approximately 55 employees from sites across the District. The training included the in-person component required by our JPA and represents a significant step toward restoring Districtwide compliance.

Following the grace period provided to sites, only properly certified employees may operate District carts on District grounds

Communications

- [Events Calendar](#)