

Weekly Organizational Brief - September 4, 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

6–8 Transition Leadership Working Session & Secondary Pathways

On September 3, site principals and District Office leadership completed Session 1 of the 6–8 Transition Series focused on operational support, curriculum integration, and high school alignment under a "One Team, One Community, One Purpose" approach.

Operational Support & Action Plans

- **1-on-1 Speed Stations:** Principals met directly with MO&T, IT/ET, Facilities, and Human Resources Directors to resolve immediate campus friction points (traffic flow, lunch lines, device deployment, and room readiness).
- **Day 30 Site Plans:** Every principal locked in specific resolution dates with operational leads before leaving, with DO leads providing on-site follow-up throughout September.

Curriculum Integration & High School Articulation

- **6th-Grade Wheel Check-In:** Completed a master synthesis capturing classroom observations and pacing for the Paired Core Model to guide Dr. Garza's teacher check-ins through October.
- **MUHSD Pathway Alignment:** Principals identified site priorities (Digital Media, Maker Tech, Ag Science, CCGI) for Cabinet to champion at the September 8 MUHSD joint meeting. This keeps principals on campus while ensuring site input drives high school alignment.

Campus Enhancements & Feedback

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- **Approved Recess Upgrades:** Executive Cabinet approved portable basketball, volleyball, soccer, and Gaga ball systems across all four middle schools, exploring local (McNamara's) and commercial vendors.
- **Admin Feedback:** Site leaders noted strong appreciation for direct operational access, clear communication guidance, and collaborative planning.
- **Next Milestone:** Board Update #1 scheduled for November 10, 2026.

Educational Services

- Camp Green Meadows: Camp Green Meadows academic excursions have started. Tenaya Middle School recently sent two different groups of 6th grade students to camp. Each excursion takes place for the entire week.
- Community Engagement Specialist Update: Community Engagement Specialist, Takeisha Stolte, continues to connect with students and families across the district.
- LCAP Engagement Begins: On Tuesday, September 15, 2026, MCSD District staff will meet with Merced's Black Parallel School Board, CSEA #530 E-board, and the MCTA E-board to begin reviewing the updated 2026-2027 MCSD LCAP. The next day, Wednesday, September 16, 2026, the MCSD LCAP Parent Advisory Committee will have its first meeting, too.
- Elementary Art and Music started this week! We are so grateful to all of the MCSD staff who worked together to make this possible. Our program is an alternating schedule where each TK-4th grade class has an Art lesson one week and a Music lesson the following week. We built this schedule so that classes have a consistent schedule week to week. Elementary PE and Dance operate in a similar manner.

Administrative Services

Maintenance, Operations and Transportation

Tenaya Middle School Facility Support & Classroom Repairs (Rooms 28 & 29)

- **Work Schedule Shift:** Repairs for Rooms 28 and 29 are shifting to evenings and Saturdays because completing them during normal hours would disrupt the student learning environment.

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- **Internal Staff Priority:** In-house maintenance staff are receiving first opportunity for overtime hours to complete this project.
- **Contractor Backup & Timeline:** Outside contractor bids are being gathered solely as a backup if internal staffing is unavailable. A decision on using internal staff versus a contractor will be made next week.
- **Work Redirection:** If the project is contracted out, in-house staff will focus on completing standard daytime campus work orders that do not impact instruction.

District Work Order Data (July – September)

- Tenaya Middle School Responsiveness: Out of 40 total work orders logged for Tenaya this school year, 30 have been completed, and 10 are actively in progress—a 75% completion rate.
- Districtwide Snapshot: Across 19 facilities during the high-volume back-to-school period, the maintenance team has resolved 494 completed work orders with 351 currently in progress.

School Site	In Progress	Completed
Burbank	9	12
Chenoweth	35	29
Clark	32	12
Cruickshank	14	45
Franklin	36	20

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Fremont	0	27
Givens	15	24
Gracey	15	24
Hoover	29	30
Muir	28	45
Peterson	12	10
Reyes	19	23
Rivera Middle	10	30
Rivera Elementary	10	38
Sheehy	18	13
Stefani	23	26

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Stowell	17	32
Tenaya	10	30
Wright	19	24
Total (July, Aug, Sept)	351	494

Facilities

Stowell Elementary School Modernization (5-Year Plan RFQ)

- Facilities staff will be publishing and sending out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an architectural firm to develop a 5-year modernization plan for Stowell Elementary School.
- **Unique Site Approach:** This is a different approach than we typically take for a modernization. Because this site is constructed entirely of portable classrooms, the lack of consistency from classroom to classroom presents a challenge that our team feels needs dedicated attention. This approach has also been verified by our consultant, School Strategies and Solutions, as well as a trusted architectural partner.
- **Process & Timeline:** The RFQ process involves advertising to invite all qualified firms to submit their qualifications. An MCSD review committee will score submissions, select top firms for formal presentations and interviews, and determine the best fit for this project. The submission packet is currently under review by District legal counsel, with approval expected in time to launch the process next week.

Fiscal

Trustees will see an agenda item for the September 8th Board Meeting regarding the Gann Limit. Below is some additional information regarding this process, as summarized by School Services of California:

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Each year, state and local government agencies are required to calculate their annual “Gann Limit,” which is intended to constrain their yearly spending by linking year-to-year changes in expenditures to changes in inflation and population. School districts and county offices of education (COEs) are among the local governments subject to these annual requirements.

Education Code Section (EC §) 1629 and EC § 42132 require county boards of education and school district governing boards, respectively, to adopt resolutions identifying the estimated spending limit for the current fiscal year and the actual spending limit for the preceding fiscal year at a regular or special meeting. COEs must adopt this resolution by October 15, while school districts must do so by September 15.

Local Gann Limits are calculated by multiplying the prior-year limit by the percent change in per capita personal income and average daily attendance. If a district’s or COE’s revenues exceed its Gann Limit, it is required to increase its spending limit by “borrowing” from the state’s limit in an amount equal to its proceeds of taxes (see Government Code Section [GC §] 7902.1). Conversely, if a district’s or COE’s Gann Limit is higher than its proceeds of taxes, it must decrease its limit by an amount equal to its revenues.

Communications

- [Events Calendar](#)