

MINUTES
RIALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 9, 2026
Dr. John R. Kazalunas Education Center
182 East Walnut Avenue
Rialto, California

Board Members

Present: Joseph W. Martinez, President
Edgar Montes, Vice President
Dakira R. Williams, Clerk
Evelyn P. Dominguez, LVN, Member
Dr. Stephanie E. Lewis, Member
Darinka Galaviz, Student Board Member

Administrators

Present: Alejandro Álvarez, Ed.D., Superintendent
Rhea McIver Gibbs, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent
Denise Ellis, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent, Human Resources
Jon Black, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent, Education Services
Diane Romo, Associate Superintendent, Business Services
Also present was Martha Degortari, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education, and Jose Reyes, Interpreter/Translator

A. OPENING

A.1 CALL TO ORDER 5:30 p.m.

A.2 OPEN SESSION

Open session reconvened at 5:30 p.m.

A.3 CLOSED SESSION

Moved By Vice President Montes

Seconded By Member Dominguez

As provided by law, the following are the items for discussion and consideration at the Closed Session of the Board Meeting:

- **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EMPLOYMENT / DISCIPLINE / DISMISSAL / RELEASE / REASSIGNMENT OF EMPLOYEES (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957)**
- **STUDENT EXPULSIONS / REINSTATEMENTS / EXPULSION ENROLLMENTS**
- **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS**

Agency designated representatives: Alejandro Álvarez, Ed.D., Superintendent; and Denise Ellis, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent, Human Resources.

Employee organizations: California School Employees Association, Chapter 203 (CSEA), Rialto Education Association (REA), Teamsters Local 986, and Communications Workers of America (CWA)

- **PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(d) and/or (d)(3). CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE LITIGATION - Number of Potential Claims: 1**
- **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE (Government Code Section 54957)**
Title: Superintendent

COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

Any person wishing to speak on any item on the Closed Session Agenda will be granted three minutes.

None.

Vote by Board Members to move into Closed Session:

Time: 5:32 p.m.

Approved by a Unanimous Vote

A.4 ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Moved By Member Dr. Lewis

Seconded By Clerk Williams

Vote by Board Members to adjourn Closed Session:

Time: 7:01 p.m.

Approved by a Unanimous Vote

A.5 OPEN SESSION RECONVENED - 7:00 p.m.

Open session reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

A.6 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rialto Middle School 8th-grade student Angela Suon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A.7 PRESENTATION BY RIALTO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Rialto Middle School Tiger Band, led by Music Teacher, Ms. Francesca Henderson, performed an original piece,

A.8 REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Moved By Vice President Montes

Seconded By Clerk Williams

The Board of Education took action to accept the administrative appointment of Keira Kingdom, Principal, Morris Elementary School. The effective date is to be determined.

Vote by Board Members:

Approved by a Unanimous Vote

Moved By Member Dr. Lewis

Seconded By Member Dominguez

The Board of Education took action to accept the administrative appointment of Dr. Tina Lingenfelter, Senior Director, Academic Technology, Assessment & Accountability. The effective date is to be determined.

Vote by Board Members:

Approved by a Unanimous Vote

A.9 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved By Member Dr. Lewis

Seconded By Member Dominguez

The following items were corrected prior to adoption of the agenda:

E.3.6 APPROVE A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH YOUSCIENCE, LLC

Approve a renewal agreement with YouScience, LLC for use by all CTE teachers and students, effective September 9, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a cost not to exceed ~~\$45,000.00~~ **\$34,350.00**, and to be paid from the General Fund (Perkins Grant).

E.3.13 APPROVE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Approve two (2) parents and community members, ~~Diana~~ **Donna** Enriquez and Rosemary Martinez to participate and represent the Rialto Unified School District in the East Valley SELPA Community Advisory Committee (CAC) during the 2026-27 school year, at no cost to the District.

Vote by Board Members to adopt the agenda, as amended:

Approved by a Unanimous Vote

B. PRESENTATIONS

B.1 2026-2027 STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

Board President Joseph W. Martinez will administer the Oath of Office to the Student Board Member.

Board President Mr. Martinez administered the Oath of Office and welcomed Darinka Galaviz as the 2026-2027 Student Board Member. Member Dr. Lewis shared some inspirational words and on behalf of the Board and the Superintendent, presented Student Board Member Darinka, with a welcome basket.

B.2 ADDRESSING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Presentation by Dr. Jon Black, Associate Superintendent of Education Services.

Dr. Jon Black, Associate Superintendent of Education Services shared a presentation addressing chronic absenteeism. **(See attached copy)**

B.3 FISCAL YEAR END BUDGET UPDATE

Presentation by Diane Romo, Associate Superintendent, Business Services; and Nicole Albiso, Executive Director, Fiscal Services.

Diane Romo, Associate Superintendent, Business Services, and Nicole Albiso, Executive Director, Fiscal Services, shared an update on the fiscal year end budget. **(See attached copy)**

C. COMMENTS

C.1 PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA

At this time, any person wishing to speak on any item not on the Agenda will be granted three minutes.

Wendy Aldana, District Parent, expressed concerns about her son's physical and emotional safety at Preston Elementary School, stating that his unique needs have remained unmet despite months of requesting support. She requested a full and transparent investigation into incidents that occurred on September 8, 2026 and urged the District to take prompt action.

Elizabeth Pulido, Rialto High School Student, raised concerns about how valedictorian and salutatorian recognition is determined between students in the Early College and traditional AP pathways at Rialto High

School. She explained that the pathways have different structures and opportunities and that students and families were not given clear, consistent, and timely information about how their pathway choices could affect class rank. She asked the Board to consider separate recognition or more equitable limitations and to review whether students in the Class of 2027 received adequate guidance when making academic decisions.

Erminia Nieves, District Parent, spoke as a parent in support of Rialto High School students and families regarding concerns about the impact of the dual-enrollment pathway on class rankings and opportunities to become valedictorian or salutatorian. She stated that parents and students had raised the issue since April 2026 but felt their concerns had not been adequately addressed, and she requested that the Board review the matter, particularly the limitations and communication surrounding the program.

Rocio Montano, District Parent, expressed deep gratitude to the Rialto Unified School District's school safety personnel, particularly Officer John McKray, for saving her daughter's life during a traumatic incident. She thanked all District safety officers for their service and expressed appreciation for having her daughter safely with her.

Maurice Bowers, Community Member and DAAPAC Representative, announced that the first DAAPAC meeting of the school year had a strong turnout and shared plans for upcoming college nights featuring representatives from UC Riverside and other universities, followed by a community college-focused event in November. He encouraged families, students, Board members, staff, and community members to participate and emphasized the goal of supporting students and families with college information and resources.

C.2 PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Any person wishing to speak on any item on the Agenda will be granted three minutes.

Tobin Brinker, Rialto Education Association (REA) President, thanked the Board and District leadership for providing the unaudited actuals in advance and highlighted the District's improved financial position, including lower-than-projected expenditures and an actual deficit of approximately \$1.8 million. He noted that teacher salary spending has remained relatively stable despite salary increases and emphasized that fiscal responsibility and continued investment in employees can coexist.

C.3 COMMENTS FROM ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

- Rialto Education Association (REA)
- California School Employees Association (CSEA)
- Teamsters Local 986
- Communications Workers of America (CWA)
- Rialto School Managers Association (RSMA)

Tobin Brinker, Rialto Education Association (REA) President, discussed the changing demands on teachers and emphasized that meaningful inclusion of students with significant needs requires adequate support, such as trained aides, manageable caseloads, collaboration time, and access to specialists. He also addressed technology-related concerns, stressing that technology should reduce rather than add to teachers' workload. He concluded by advocating for a district that listens, adapts its systems, supports teachers and students, and promotes collaboration between labor and management.

Christine Acosta, California School Employees Association (CSEA) President, highlighted the important role of classified employees and shared how Intervention Officer John McKray helped prevent a student from being struck by a vehicle during a serious crisis. CSEA thanked Dr. Ellis for helping resolve concerns about McKray's assignment and emphasized the importance of placing employees in duties aligned with their classifications, training, and responsibilities.

Michael Leon, Teamsters Local 986 Representative, expressed concern about comments suggesting he was afraid to speak at Board meetings and requested a written apology. He also discussed ongoing negotiations, thanking Dr. Ellis for collaborating with the union while expressing concerns about rude or sarcastic behavior, confidentiality issues, and alleged retaliatory statements. He reaffirmed his commitment to securing the best contract for his members.

Dr. Nalik Davis, Rialto School Managers Association (RSMA) President, provided an update on RSMA's growth and initiatives, noting that membership has reached 89 members with a goal of 100. He highlighted scholarships, administrator networking, professional development opportunities, the "You Belong Here" campaign, and efforts to support and recognize administrators throughout the District. He concluded

by thanking District leadership and recognizing several administrators for their accomplishments.

C.4 COMMENTS FROM THE STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

C.5 COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

C.6 COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

D. PUBLIC HEARING

D.1 OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Any person wishing to speak on the item on the Public Hearing agenda will be granted three minutes.

Moved By Member Dominguez

Seconded By Member Dr. Lewis

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (CSEA) CHAPTER
203 INITIAL CONTRACT PROPOSAL FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL
YEAR

Vote by Board Members to open Public Hearing:

Time: 9:10 p.m.

Approved by a Unanimous Vote

**D.1.1 CALIFORNIA SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (CSEA)
CHAPTER 203 INITIAL CONTRACT PROPOSAL FOR THE 2026-
2027 SCHOOL YEAR**

Pursuant to the requirements of Government Code and Board Policy, the attached initial contract proposal for the 2026-2027 school year submitted by the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 203 for an agreement between Rialto Unified School District Board of Education and the California School Employees Association, is hereby posted in compliance with legislative requirement for public notice.

D.2 CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Moved By Vice President Montes

Seconded By Member Dominguez

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (CSEA) CHAPTER
203 INITIAL CONTRACT PROPOSAL FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL
YEAR

Vote by Board Members to close Public Hearing:

Time: 9:12 p.m.

Approved by a Unanimous Vote

E. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

All items on the Consent Calendar will be acted upon in one motion unless pulled by Board of Education members or the Superintendent for individual action.

Moved By Member Dominguez

Seconded By Member Dr. Lewis

The following items were corrected prior to adoption of the agenda:

E.3.6 APPROVE A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH YOUSCIENCE, LLC

Approve a renewal agreement with YouScience, LLC for use by all CTE teachers and students, effective September 9, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a cost not to exceed ~~\$45,000.00~~ **\$34,350.00**, and to be paid from the General Fund (Perkins Grant).

E.3.13 APPROVE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Approve two (2) parents and community members, ~~Diana~~ **Donna** Enriquez and Rosemary Martinez to participate and represent the Rialto Unified School District in the East Valley SELPA Community Advisory Committee (CAC) during the 2026-27 school year, at no cost to the District.

Vote by Board Members to approve Consent Calendar Items:

Approved by a Unanimous Vote

E.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

E.1.1 APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF REVISED BOARD POLICY 3515: CAMPUS SECURITY

E.1.2 APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF REVISED BOARD BYLAW 9220: GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS

E.1.3 APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF NEW EXHIBIT 9220-E(1); GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS

E.1.4 APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF REVISED BOARD BYLAW 9250: REMUNERATION, REIMBURSEMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS

E.1.5 RATIFY AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS 4 SCHOOL SAFETY

Amend Agreement # C-27-002043 with Strategic Solutions 4 School Safety and approve the cost increase of the original agreement of \$12,000.00 by an additional \$9,600.00 for a new total cost not to exceed \$21,600.00 and to be paid from the General Fund. All other terms and conditions will remain the same.

Moved By Vice President Montes

Seconded By Member Dominguez

Vote by Board Members:

Approved by a Unanimous Vote

E.1.6 APPROVE SAME-DAY TRIP FOR RIALTO USD FAMILIES IN THE USC FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM TO TOUR THE USC CAMPUS AND VISIT THE CALIFORNIA SCIENCE CENTER

Approve the educational excursion for 200 participating Rialto USD/USC Family Literacy Program family members to visit the USC campus and the California Science Center on November 14, 2026, using District-provided transportation and providing boxed lunches for participants, at a total cost not to exceed \$ 4,000.00. Transportation costs to be paid using Title 1 funds, and other costs to be paid from the general fund.

**E.1.7 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF
EDUCATION MEETING HELD AUGUST 26, 2026**

E.2 BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CONSENT ITEMS

**E.2.1 APPROVE THE WARRANT LISTING AND PURCHASE ORDER
LISTING**

Approve all funds from August 5, 2026 through August 18, 2026.

E.2.2 DONATIONS

Accept the donations and send a letter of appreciation to the donors:
Fagen Friedman and Fulfroft, LLP; and Never Stop Grinding Impact.

**E.2.3 RATIFY THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF
APPLE PRODUCTS, ACCESSORIES, AND RELATED
SERVICES FROM APPLE INC. THROUGH AN AWARDED BID
CONDUCTED BY THE DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Ratify the authorization for the District to utilize Downey Unified
School District Bid No. 25/26-18 – Apple Products, Accessories, &
Related Services (Technology), awarded to Apple Inc., for the
purchase of Apple products, accessories, and related services, at a
cost to be determined at the time of purchase and paid from various
funds.

**E.2.4 APPROVE A CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH
DEBRA AMOS FOR CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES: FIELD
SUPERVISOR POLICY, PROCEDURES, OBSERVATION, AND
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Approve the Consultant Services Agreement with Debra Amos to
ensure operational efficiency, compliance, and high-quality meal
service, effective September 10, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a
cost not to exceed \$70,000.00 and to be paid from the Cafeteria
Fund 13.

**E.2.5 SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION FOR STATE/COUNTY
DOCUMENTS**

Approve the authorization of Dr. Alejandro Álvarez, Superintendent,
to sign contracts with no monetary limit, effective September 10,
2026.

E.2.6 APPROVE THE 2025-2026 UNAUDITED ACTUALS

Approve the 2025-2026 Unaudited Actuals financial report as presented. This report will be submitted under a separate cover.

E.2.7 ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 26-27-10 ADOPTING THE 2025-2026 UNAUDITED ACTUALS AND ESTIMATED 2026-2027 GANN LIMIT

E.2.8 ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 26-27-11 APPROVING LEASE-LEASEBACK AGREEMENTS FOR THE FRISBIE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND KOLB MIDDLE SCHOOL NEW GYMNASIUMS PROJECT, AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY RELATED THERETO

E.3 EDUCATION SERVICES

E.3.1 APPROVE A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH NOREDINK CORP - KUCERA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Provide one live virtual training session for up to 20 teachers and all of Kucera Middle School students with NRL premium from September 10, 2026, through September 11, 2027, at a cost not to exceed \$13,045.00, and to be paid from the General Fund (Title I).

E.3.2 APPROVE A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH SAFARI MONTAGE

Provide K–12 digital learning resources and video-streaming services, effective September 10, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a cost not to exceed \$49,972.54, and to be paid from the General Fund.

E.3.3 APPROVE A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH ALEGRA LEARNING INC.

Provide supplemental, adaptive language and literacy support for approximately 1,000 English learners in Kindergarten through 3rd grade who have not yet met reclassification criteria, including newcomer and continuing English learners at varying levels of English language proficiency, for the 2026-2027 school year, effective September 10, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a cost not to exceed \$92,137.50, and to be paid from General Fund (Title III).

E.3.4 APPROVE A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH UNITED COLLEGE ACTION NETWORK, INC

Approve registration fees for the UCAN college recruitment fair allowing students opportunities to receive on-the-spot College admissions, scholarship commitments, fee waivers, and other incentives upon meeting certain college requirements, effective September 22, 2026, at a cost not to exceed \$5,750.00, and to be paid from the General Fund.

E.3.5 APPROVE A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CENTER FOR CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING WITH DR. SHARROKY HOLLIE

Provide the Culturally and Linguistically Responsive (CLR) Instructional Support and Development for all Rialto Unified School District school sites, effective September 10, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a cost no to exceed \$17,000.00, and to be paid from the General Fund.

E.3.6 APPROVE A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH YOUSCIENCE, LLC

Approve a renewal agreement with YouScience, LLC for use by all CTE teachers and students, effective September 9, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a cost not to exceed \$45,000.00, and to be paid from the General Fund (Perkins Grant).

Prior to adoption of the agenda, the following correction was made:

Approve a renewal agreement with YouScience, LLC for use by all CTE teachers and students, effective September 9, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a cost not to exceed ~~\$45,000.00~~ **\$34,350.00**, and to be paid from the General Fund (Perkins Grant).

E.3.7 APPROVE A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH VALIDATEME!

Provide transcript evaluation services for students arriving from international educational systems, effective August 27, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.00, and to be paid from the General Fund.

E.3.8 APPROVE A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH PEARSON CLINICAL ASSESSMENT GROUP

Purchase 1,800 licenses of the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT3) to assess all second-grade students during the 2026-2027 school year, effective September 9, 2026 through June 30, 2027, at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.00, and to be paid from the General Fund.

E.3.9 APPROVE A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH LEARNING GENIE (PK)

Renew the agreement of the Learning Genie platform for Preschool (Early Education) teachers, including the in-person training modules, effective September 10, 2026 through June 30, 2027, at a cost not to exceed \$38,864.38, and to be paid from the Child Development Fund.

E.3.10 APPROVE A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH LEARNING GENIE (TK)

Renew the Learning Genie platform for Transitional Kindergarten teachers, including the in-person training modules, effective September 10, 2026 through June 30, 2027, at a cost not to exceed \$40,601.50 and to be paid from the General Fund.

E.3.11 APPROVE AN OVERNIGHT TRIP TO FOX LANDING, CIMI, TOYON BAY - KUCERA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Provide three days of marine biology learning for a selected group of seventh grade students at Kucera Middle School, effective April 26, 2027 through April 28, 2027, at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.00, and to be paid from the General Fund (Step Up & MS Strategic Support Fund).

E.3.12 APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH QUIZZ INC. - RIALTO HIGH SCHOOL

To help support students' access to enrichment and intervention opportunities to broaden their understanding of the literacy content, effective September 10, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a cost not to exceed \$12,000.00, and to be paid from the General Fund (Title I).

E.3.13 APPROVE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Approve two (2) parents and community members, Diana Enriquez and Rosemary Martinez to participate and represent the Rialto Unified School District in the East Valley SELPA Community Advisory Committee (CAC) during the 2026-27 school year, at no cost to the District.

Prior to adoption of the agenda, the Board made the following correction:

Approve two (2) parents and community members, Diana **Donna** Enriquez and Rosemary Martinez to participate and represent the Rialto Unified School District in the East Valley SELPA Community Advisory Committee (CAC) during the 2026-27 school year, at no cost to the District.

E.3.14 APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH KEY 2 ED

Provide professional development training for staff during the 2026-2027 school year, effective September 10, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a cost not to exceed \$17,200.00 and to be paid from the General Fund.

E.3.15 APPROVE THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UCLA) FAMILY MATH PROJECT

Approve the Rialto UCLA Family Math Project for up to 100 participants for 12 sessions during the 2026-2027 school year, effective October 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a cost not to exceed \$67,440.00, and to be paid from the General Fund (Title I) & SBCSS SOS.

E.4 HUMAN RESOURCES

E.4.1 APPROVE THE HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT NO. 1362 FOR CLASSIFIED AND CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES

**E.4.2 ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 26-27-09 ENGLISH LEARNER
AUTHORIZATION WAIVER**

Authorize the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, to employ or assign identified individuals additional time to complete the requirements for the credential that authorizes the service or to provide employing agencies time to fill the assignment with an individual who either holds an appropriate credential or qualifies under one of the available assignment options. This includes waivers to employ or assign identified individuals when the employing agency finds there is an insufficient number of certificated persons who meet the specified employment criteria for the position.

F. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

F.1 ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 26-27-12 REMUNERATION

Moved By Member Dr. Lewis

Seconded By Member Dominguez

Authorize Board Vice President, Edgar Montes, to be compensated for the regular Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2026.

Vote by Board Members:

**(Ayes) President Martinez, Clerk Williams, Member Dominguez,
Member Dr. Lewis**

(Abstain) Vice President Montes

Approved by a Unanimous 4 to 0 Vote

G. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Rialto Unified School District will be held on September 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Dr. John R. Kazalunas Education Center, 182 East Walnut Ave, Rialto, California.

Materials distributed or presented to the Board of Education at the Board Meeting are available upon request from the Superintendent's Office.

Moved By Member Dr. Lewis

Seconded By Member Dominguez

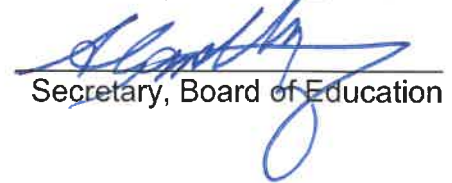
Vote by Board Members to adjourn:

Time: 9:20 p.m.

Approved by a Unanimous Vote

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. R.", is written over a horizontal line.

Clerk, Board of Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dominguez", is written over a horizontal line.

Secretary, Board of Education



RIALTO
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BRIDGING FUTURES THROUGH INNOVATION

Addressing Chronic Absenteeism

Presented by: **Education Services**



What is Chronic Absenteeism?

The CDE defines **chronic absenteeism** as a student who is absent for 10% or more of the instructional days they were expected to attend in a school year. This is calculated by dividing a student's total days absent by their days of expected enrollment. In a school year of 180 days, any student with 18 or more absences is considered chronically absent.

- **Includes All Absences:** The calculation counts missed school days for any reason, including excused absences, unexcused absences, and suspensions.
- **Minimum Enrollment:** To be counted in state accountability measures, a student must be enrolled for at least 31 instructional days.
- **Expected Attendance Days:** School closures (such as from natural disasters) are excluded from the total expected attendance days.
- **Independent Study:** Students in independent study are also included if they meet the minimum enrollment duration and hit the 10% absence threshold.
- **CA Dashboard:** The official chronic absenteeism indicator on the dashboard applies to grades TK through 8th grade.



Historical Data

2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
33.1%	32.9%	26.1%	23.2%	20.5%

2026	
District Overall	20.5%
Hispanic	19.8%
English Learners	18.3%
Long Term English Learners	24.4%
Foster Youth	22.9%
African American	29.1%
Students with Disabilities	27.2%
White	18.0%
Two or More Races	24.2%



Comparable Districts (2025)							
Upland	Redlands	Colton	Rialto	Yucaipa	Fontana	SB	Rim
14.0%	20.4%	21.9%	23.2%	23.5%	23.8%	28.3%	30.5%

District Goal

2026-2027 District Goal for Chronic Absenteeism:
20.5% to 17.6%

(-2.9% points based on CDE Chronic Absenteeism 5x5 Colored Table)



Chronic Absenteeism Indicator					
Performance Level	Increased Significantly from Prior Year (by 3.1 p.pts or more)	Increased from Prior Year (by 0.5 p.pts to 3.0 p.pts)	Maintained from Prior Year (declined or increased by 0.4 p.pts or fewer)	Declined from Prior Year (by 0.5 p.pts to 2.9 p.pts)	Declined Significantly from Prior Year (by 3.0 p.pts or more)
Very Low 2.5% or less in Current Year	Yellow	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue
Low 2.6% to 5.0% in Current Year	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green	Blue
Medium 5.1% to 10.0% in Current Year	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green
High 10.1% to 20.0% in Current Year	Red	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow
Very High 20.1% or greater in Current Year	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Yellow

Sense of Belonging

The CDE defines a **sense of belonging** as a student's or family's fundamental experience of feeling personally accepted, included, respected, and supported within a school or learning community. It centers on safety, mattering, and trusting relationships.

A strong sense of belonging is directly tied to higher student attendance. When students feel safe, seen, and valued by peers and adults, their motivation to show up daily increases. Conversely, low belonging drives disengagement and higher chronic absence.

- **Motivation:** Students want to attend when they know their presence is missed and valued.
- **Safety:** Emotional and physical safety reduces school anxiety and trauma-related absences.
- **Relationships:** Trusted adults and peer connections act as a safety net against dropping out or skipping class.

Rialto USD measures Sense of Belonging through student surveys.

We utilize the Thought Exchange platform and students complete the survey twice a year.

For each question, students choose one answer on the Likert-Scale: 5-Always 4-Very Often 3-Sometimes 2-Rarely 1-Never.



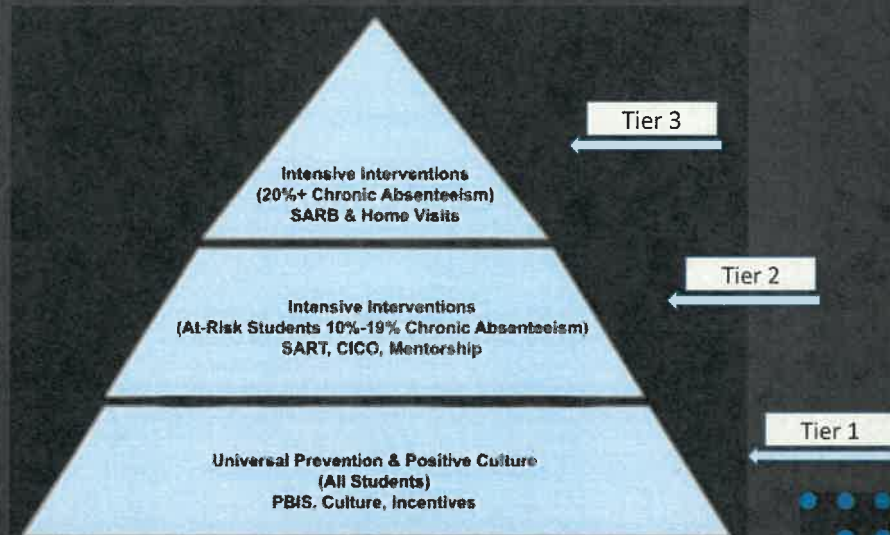
STEP-UP (Saturday School Instruction)

Saturday School or Attendance Recovery in Rialto USD is referred to as **STEP-UP (Saturday Tutorial Enrichment Preparation-Upward Program)**. STEP-UP provides students with an opportunity to recover missed instructional days while receiving academic support and engaging in meaningful enrichment activities. Attending one (4) hour session recovers one full day of absence for the school district's funding purposes.

Each school develops an instruction plan based on students scheduled to attend. Instruction during STEP-UP is purposeful, standards aligned, and responsive to student needs, rather than simply serving as additional seat time. The instructional experience provides students with opportunities to address academic gaps, strengthen essential skills, complete missing work, and apply learning in meaningful ways.



Multi-Tiered Action Plan



Direct Services, Supports, Interventions, and Incentives

- Attendance contracts
- Parent workshops
- Independent study contracts
- Attendance rewards & incentives
- Awards assemblies & certificates
- Adult mentoring
- Peer mentoring

- Counseling
- Check In/Check Out (CICO)
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Home Visits
- SART/SARB
- Phone Calls Home
- SEL lessons
- Attendance Monitoring

- Attendance Monitoring
- Step UP Saturday School
- Classroom competitions
- Attendance Trophy
- Student Data Chats
- Attendance Raffles
- PBIS
- Restorative Circles
- Tardy Sweeps



African American Students

Direct services, supports, interventions, and incentives provided to African American students include but are not limited to:

- Culturally Linguistically Responsive (CLR) Education
- Equity Classroom/Site Walkthroughs
- Cultural Events
- Black Student Unions
- N-Word Protocol
- Project Impact (hiring more AA staff members)
- AAPAC/DAAPAC
- AA/SPED Suspension Task Force
- Mentorship
- Restorative Check-ins
- Empathy Interviews w/ Parents/Students/Staff
- Parent/Student Focus Groups
- Review student achievement data: academic, discipline, benchmarks, etc.
- Curls, Coils, & Crowns, Never Stop Grinding, Bridge Builders, etc.
- ELOP, sports, or other after school programs
- Academic Plan (student goals with student input)



Students with Disabilities

Direct services, supports, interventions, and incentives provided to Students with Disabilities include but are not limited to:

- Attendance strategies/goals added to IEPs
- Health Plans
- Equity Site Walkthroughs
- SEPAC
- AA/SPED Suspension Task Force
- Mentorship
- Restorative Check-ins
- Empathy Interviews
- Wellness Centers
- Therapeutic Behavioral Strategists
- Emotional Health Therapists
- Home/Hospital
- Access to District Resources
- Improved School to Home Communication



Targeted Sites

Elementary Schools				
Casey	Werner	Morgan	Bemis	Dunn
33.0%	31.3%	26.2%	25.3%	24.7%

Middle Schools	
Frisbie	Rialto
31.6%	29.1%

Additional direct services, supports, interventions, and incentives will include:

- Collaboration with feeder schools led by Student Services (I.E. Frisbie, Morgan, and Bemis) as they share families.
- Support from Support Providers and Evaluators.
- Support from Student Services.
- Quarterly meetings with Associate Superintendent, Education Services to review their current lists of Chronically Absent students.



Students Chronically Absent Multiple Years

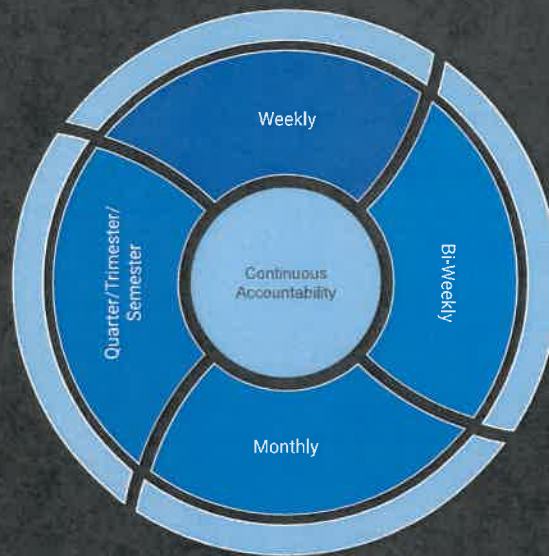
Student Services will identify students who have been chronically absent for multiple years and provide the following direct services, supports, interventions, and incentives:



- Records Specialist: Monitoring CALPADS and providing lists to Student Services; drop students who have been picked up by other schools & triggering below for students who are still ours
- Attendance Liaisons: Targeted support including: home visits, intervention and support parent meetings, incentives for improved attendance, site visits, and check in with students and attendance clerk
- Child Welfare and Attendance Team: Targeted support for school site attendance clerks
- McKinney Vento Liaisons: Targeted support to McKinney Vento students
- Health Services: Targeted support to students with health needs



Progress Monitoring



Questions





RIALTO
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BRIDGING FUTURES THROUGH INNOVATION

2025-2026 Unaudited Actuals Update

Presented by:

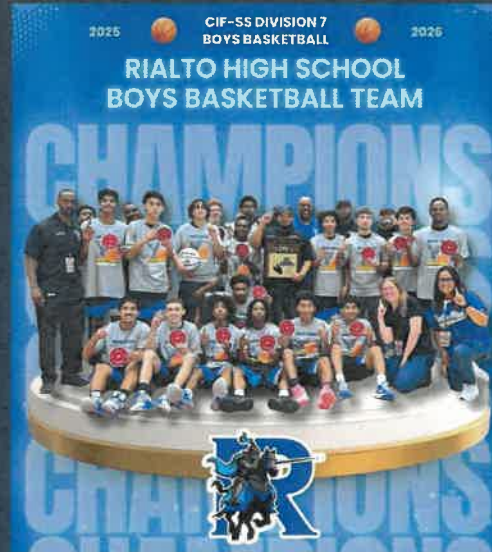
Nicole Albiso

Exec. Director, Fiscal Services

Diane Romo

Associate Superintendent, Business Services

September 9, 2026



Unrestricted General Fund: Estimated vs. Unaudited Actuals

MAJOR RANGE / CATEGORY	ESTIMATED ACTUALS	UNAUDITED ACTUALS	VARIANCE	EXPLANATION
REVENUE				
LCFF Sources	\$344,698,412	\$346,186,499	+\$1,488,087	LCFF Recertified Prior Year.
Federal Revenue	\$295,129	\$344,574	+\$49,445	
Other State Revenue	\$5,172,483	\$5,426,436	+\$253,953	Increase in Transportation Reimbursement Grant based on Increase in Expenditures
Other Local Revenue	\$12,215,740	\$12,208,406	(\$7,334)	
Revenue Contributions	(\$78,473,847)	(\$76,746,502)	+\$1,727,345	Reduction to Special Services contribution due to contract expense transfer for CEA requirement.
TOTAL REVENUE	\$283,907,917	\$287,419,413	+\$3,511,496	
EXPENDITURES				
Certificated Salaries	\$118,215,638	\$119,878,893	+\$1,663,255	\$1M transfer of salaries from restricted to unrestricted for CEA requirement; \$600K increase in substitute cost.
Classified Salaries	\$56,753,561	\$55,315,846	(\$1,437,715)	\$1M transfer from unrestricted to restricted; \$453K ABA transfer from unrestricted to restricted; both for CEA requirement
Employee Benefits	\$93,250,485	\$93,281,347	+\$30,862	
Books & Supplies	\$9,122,983	\$10,255,563	+\$1,132,580	\$496K increased school-site use; \$571K increase school-site furniture replacement.
Services & Operating	\$32,002,158	\$30,077,140	(\$1,925,018)	\$2M reclassification of multi-year subscriptions to Capital Outlay.
Capital Outlay	\$968,119	\$3,122,617	+\$2,154,498	\$2M reclassification of multi-year subscriptions from Services & Operating.
Other Outgo	(\$9,090,811)	(\$7,847,285)	+\$1,243,527	Indirect costs based on actuals
Interfund Transfers Out	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$301,722,132	\$304,584,120	+\$2,861,988	

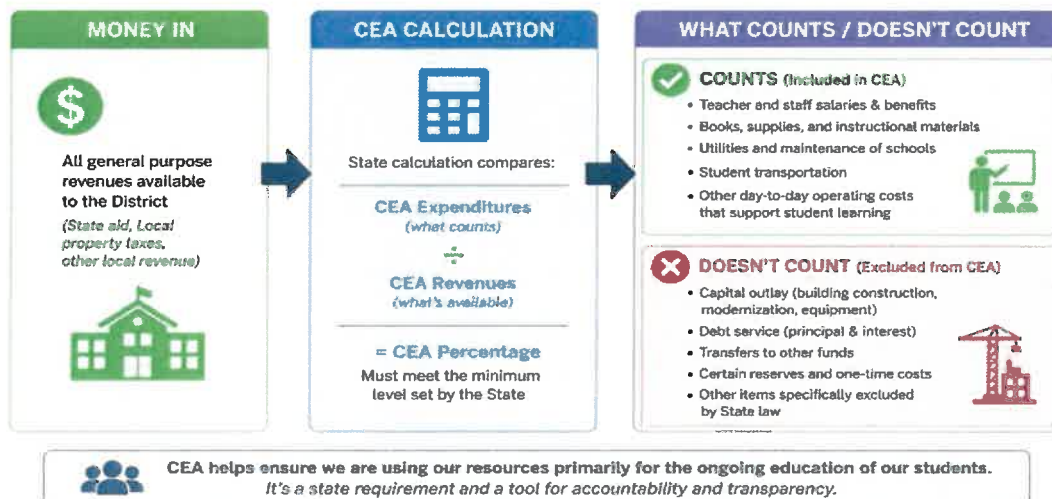
Restricted General Fund: Estimated vs. Unaudited Actuals

MAJOR RANGE / CATEGORY	ESTIMATED ACTUALS	UNAUDITED ACTUALS	VARIANCE	EXPLANATION
REVENUE				
Federal Revenue	\$16,768,545	\$17,161,694	+593,149	Updated to reflect usage.
Other State Revenue	\$85,159,370	\$86,415,634	+51,256,264	\$950K Kitchen Infrastructure and Training Grant (Announced June 2016), \$174K Increase in Lottery Award, Resource 6300.
Other Local Revenue	\$31,890,390	\$32,123,209	+523,819	Prior-Year AB 602 Recertification.
Revenue Contributions	\$78,473,847	\$76,746,502	(\$1,727,345)	Reduction to Special Services contribution due to contract expense transfer for CEA requirement.
TOTAL REVENUE	\$212,292,152	\$212,447,040	+\$154,887	
EXPENDITURES				
Certificated Salaries	\$56,350,483	\$55,484,905	(\$865,577)	\$1M transfer of salaries from restricted to unrestricted for CEA requirement.
Classified Salaries	\$24,627,402	\$23,571,468	(\$3,055,934)	\$4.5M RMA transfer to Deferred Maintenance; \$450K ABA transfer from unrestricted to restricted; \$1M Custodial transfer from unrestricted to restricted; all for CEA requirement.
Employee Benefits	\$54,423,926	\$53,519,435	(\$904,492)	\$2.8M RMA transfer to Deferred Maintenance for CEA requirement; \$900K Increase in STRs on behalf posting; \$995K Increase for OPEB true-up based on actual salary expense.
Books & Supplies	\$12,140,073	\$7,630,946	(\$4,509,127)	\$3M transfer to Deferred Maintenance for CEA requirement; \$1.3M site funds not used (ELOR/SPED/ANS).
Services & Operating	\$39,365,279	\$37,513,125	(\$1,852,153)	\$1.4M RMA transfer to Deferred Maintenance for CEA requirement; \$598K reclassification for multi-year subscriptions to Capital Outlay.
Capital Outlay	\$11,882,467	\$12,755,800	+\$773,333	\$598K reclassification for multi-year subscriptions from Services & Operating.
Other Outgo	\$9,014,077	\$9,166,562	+\$152,485	Indirect costs based on actuals
Interfund Transfers Out	\$8,435,421	\$20,469,353	+\$12,033,932	\$11.7M transfer to Deferred Maintenance for CEA requirement; \$333K to support Deferred Maintenance.
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$216,339,127	\$218,111,594	+\$61,772,466	

3

What is the CEA (Current Expense of Education)

CEA (Current Expense of Education) is a state-required calculation that measures how much of our available resources are being spent on the day-to-day education of our students.



4

CEA and Fund 01 Ending Fund Balance

Description	Object Codes	2025-26 Unaudited Actuals WITH CEA Transfer			2025-26 Unaudited Actuals WITHOUT CEA Transfer		
		Unrestricted (A)	Restricted (B)	Total Fund col. A + B = C	Unrestricted (A)	Restricted (B)	Total Fund col. A + B = C
A. REVENUES							
1) CFF Sources	8010-8029	348,986,499.25	0.00	348,986,499.25	348,986,499.25	0	348,986,499.25
2) Federal Revenue	8100-8229	344,573.82	17,801,653.95	17,506,267.77	344,573.82	17,801,653.95	17,506,267.77
3) Other State Revenue	8300-8599	5,426,436.45	66,415,634.38	91,842,070.83	5,426,436.45	66,415,634.38	91,842,070.83
4) Other Local Revenue	8600-8799	12,208,405.96	32,123,209.19	44,331,615.17	12,208,405.96	32,123,209.19	44,331,615.17
5) TOTAL REVENUES		364,865,915.50	135,700,537.52	439,886,453.02	364,865,915.50	135,700,537.52	439,886,453.02
B. EXPENDITURES							
1) Certificated Salaries	1000-1999	119,878,832.78	55,484,908.12	175,363,739.90	119,878,832.78	55,484,908.12	175,363,739.90
2) Classified Salaries	2000-2999	55,375,845.74	21,571,467.03	76,867,313.57	55,375,845.74	21,571,467.03	76,867,313.57
3) Employee Benefits	3000-3999	33,281,346.61	53,873,434.58	148,800,781.17	33,281,346.61	53,873,434.58	148,800,781.17
4) Books and Supplies	4000-4999	10,255,563.13	7,630,945.51	17,886,508.64	10,255,563.13	7,630,945.51	17,886,508.64
5) Services and Other Operating Expenditures	5000-5999	30,077,139.63	37,513,125.46	67,590,265.09	30,077,139.63	37,513,125.46	67,590,265.09
6) Capital Outlay	6000-6999	3,122,617.04	12,755,793.52	15,878,410.56	3,122,617.04	12,755,793.52	15,878,410.56
7) Other Outgo (including Transfers of Indirect Costs)	7100-7299 7400-7499	1,891,485.29	597,030.81	2,488,516.10	1,891,485.29	597,030.81	2,488,516.10
8) Other Outgo - Transfers of Indirect Costs	7300-7399	-9,738,749.96	8,569,531.06	-1,169,218.90	-9,738,749.96	8,569,531.06	-1,169,218.90
9) TOTAL EXPENDITURES		304,084,120.24	197,842,240.67	501,926,360.91	304,084,120.24	197,842,240.67	501,926,360.91
C. EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES BEFORE OTHER FINANCING SOURCES AND USES (AS - BS)		60,081,795.26	-61,941,703.35	-1,859,908.09	60,081,795.26	-61,941,703.35	-1,859,908.09
D. OTHER FINANCING SOURCES/USES							
1) Intrafund Transfers							
a) Transfers In	8900-8929	-	-	-	-	-	-
b) Transfers Out	7600-7629	500,000.00	20,483,352.79	20,983,352.79	500,000.00	20,483,352.79	20,983,352.79
2) Other Sources/Uses							
a) Sources	8930-8979	737,613.30	-	737,613.30	737,613.30	-	737,613.30
b) Uses	7630-7699	-	-	-	-	-	-
3) Contributions	9900-9999	-76,746,502.06	76,746,502.06	-	-76,746,502.06	76,746,502.06	-
4) TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES/USES		-76,508,888.76	56,277,149.27	(20,231,739.49)	-76,508,888.76	56,277,149.27	(20,231,739.49)
E. NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN FUND BALANCE (FC + D4)		-16,427,093.50	-5,664,554.08	-22,091,647.58	-16,427,093.50	-5,664,554.08	-22,091,647.58
F. FUND BALANCE, RESERVES							
1) Beginning Fund Balance							
a) As of July 1 - Unaudited	✓ 9791	87,455,279.22	117,149,757.94	204,605,037.16	87,455,279.22	117,149,757.94	204,605,037.16
b) Audit Adjustments	✓ 9793	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) As of July 1 - Audited (F1a + F1b)	✓	87,455,279.22	117,149,757.94	204,605,037.16	87,455,279.22	117,149,757.94	204,605,037.16
d) Other Restatements	✓ 9795	-	-	-	-	-	-
e) Adjusted Beginning Balance (F1c + F1d)		87,455,279.22	117,149,757.94	204,605,037.16	87,455,279.22	117,149,757.94	204,605,037.16
2) Ending Balance, June 30 (E + F1e)		71,028,185.72	111,485,203.86	182,513,389.58	71,028,185.72	111,485,203.86	182,513,389.58

How Restricted Fund Transfers Support District Priorities

TRANSFER PURPOSE	TRANSFER SOURCE	AMOUNT
 Support RMA CEA Expense	Transferred from Restricted Routine Repair and Maintenance Funds	\$11,546,498.60
 Support Deferred Maintenance Projects	Transferred from Restricted Routine Repair and Maintenance Funds	\$1,903,996.50
 Central Kitchen Loan Payment	Transferred from Restricted Redevelopment Funds	\$3,684,000.00
 Central Kitchen Upgrades	Transferred from Restricted Redevelopment Funds	\$1,316,000.00
 Elementary Kitchen Updates	Transferred from Restricted Redevelopment Funds	\$2,018,857.69
TOTAL RESTRICTED TRANSFER		\$20,469,352.79

TOTAL RESTRICTED TRANSFER
\$20,469,352.79



\$11.55 MILLION
Supports CEA-Qualifying Costs
RMA-related costs that support the District's current educational operations.



\$8.92 MILLION
Supports Facility & Debt Needs
Deferred maintenance projects, Central Kitchen loan payment, and facility upgrades.



Important Note:
The transfer of funds does not, by itself, determine whether an expenditure counts toward CEA. CEA is based on the underlying expenditure and specific State rules.



Students First



Fiscal Responsibility



Integrity & Transparency

One-Time Funding Use

- 26-27 Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant- Math Adoption in 26/27 and ELA Adoption in 28/29
- 25-26 Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant- Used to restore 10 contracted Reading Specialist for 3 years (26-27 year 2)
- 25-26 Learning Recovery Block Grant- Funds 19 Reading Specialist and 8 ELA/ELD Coaches for 3 years (26-27 year 2) & Base Teacher Salaries
- State Mental Health Funds- Pay for mental health professional payroll cost starting in 2026-2027 for the 2 years
- Transportation Reimbursement- Continues to pay for transportation staff payroll costs
- LEA Medical Funds- Continues to pay for health professionals payroll cost
- E-rate Funds- Supplement cost for the replacement of network equipment



7

One Time Resources

Restricted Program	Fund Balance as of 6/30/25	2025-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	Balance	Specific Use
2600 ELOP	24,276,238	4,843,976	4,995,477	5,145,342	5,299,702	3,985,739	Canover will be slowly depleted to cover unrestricted salaries in positions used to support ELOP after school programs.
6019 Student Support and PD Discretionary Grant	5,139,758	2,249,835	2,889,923	-	-	-	Funds are currently used to fund the salaries for 10 additional Reading Specialists assigned to Elementary sites and will continue through FY 27/28
6300 Literary Instructional Materials	3,253,908	2,069,000	1,190,906	-	-	-	Funds will be used in FY 27/28 for the ELA Adoption. Any new allocation will be used towards renewing textbook subscriptions.
6332 CA Community Schools Partnership	7,076,328	7,076,326	-	-	-	-	Community School Program is still developing, as progress is made more funds will be allocated to the sites for full implementation.
6546 Mental Health State	4,835,239	2,156,554	2,221,251	457,434.38	-	-	Funds will be used to fund Mental Health Professionals (ABA/TBSEHT)
6547 Ed Early Intervention Preschool	4,886,766	150,000	154,500	4,582,266	-	-	Funds will be used for Environmental Aides & Trapp TK Classrooms
6770 Arts and Music in Schools (AMS)	3,847,091	1,987,479	1,859,612	-	-	-	Site Use of prior years funds to reinvest in programs
7032 Child Nutrition: Kitchen Infrastructure & Training	516,979	516,979	-	-	-	-	Nutrition Services Kitchen Infrastructure Updates
7041 Upgrades Child Nutrition: Kitchen Infrastructure	886,919	886,919	-	-	-	-	Nutrition Services Kitchen Infrastructure Updates
7042 Child Nutrition: KIT- Staff Training	63,176	63,176	-	-	-	-	Nutrition Services Staff Professional Development
7339 Dual Enrollment Opportunities	182,174	182,174	-	-	-	-	Dual Enrollment Program
7339 LCFF Equity Multiplier	1,554,143	847,193	706,956	-	-	-	Allocated to Multiple participants for supplemental programs- Funds expended a year behind
7435 Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant	15,581,786	15,632,430	4,349,358	-	-	-	Funds are currently used to fund salaries for 18 Elementary Reading Specialists
7614 Farm to Fork Grant	96,612	96,612	-	-	-	-	Science Garden Initiative
8009 Transportation Reimbursement	11,793,522	636,882	655,888	675,888	635,338	9,129,045	Funds are currently used to fund Transportation related salaries and expenses including the replacement of aging school buses.
8010 CEI Community Engagement	75,767	75,767	-	-	-	-	Parent Engagement Activities
8011 E- Rate	7,396,383	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	6,996,383	Funds will be used to cover eligible Information Technology equipment and connectivity needs.
8016 LEA Medi-Cal	11,503,626	2,000,000	2,150,000	2,214,500	2,280,335	2,658,191	Funds are used to cover salaries and benefits of Health related positions.
9032 Math Authorization Grant	70,000	70,000	-	-	-	-	UCLA Math Authorization
9033 Reading and Literacy Grant	112,500	112,500	-	-	-	-	USC Reading Authorization
9034 Teacher Residency Grant	1,903,643	353,638	343,951	-	-	-	Funds used to support New Teacher Induction Programs
9035 Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative	877,117	563,536	293,179	-	-	-	Funds will be used for additional Student Support
9040 Student Behavior Health Incentive	978,096	408,369	420,641	149,028	-	-	Student Services Mental Health Initiatives
9099 26/27 Block Grant	-	8,321,886	-	11,479,814	-	-	Funds are being used to support the Math and ELA textbook adoption. In FY 28/29, they will be used to purchase the District's free all subscription.
9100 Site Based Grants	369,484	369,464	-	-	-	-	Site Based Plans
	\$111,485,205	\$52,396,479	\$22,737,742	\$24,803,050	\$8,376,575	\$22,971,350	

When the restricted funds are exhausted, ongoing expenditures return to the Unrestricted General Fund

8

Reductions Implemented During 2026-27



The District continues to make responsible financial decisions to protect student programs and services. The following reductions are already in place to help ensure fiscal solvency today and in the future.



CONFERENCES

Staff are limited to One conference per year, unless required as part of professional duties.



PREPARED FOOD FOR STAFF

Prepared food for staff is limited to only what is necessary and appropriate.



APPAREL FOR STAFF, UNRELATED TO STAFF UNIFORMS

Purchases of apparel for staff, unrelated to staff uniforms, are restricted.



OVERTIME

Overtime is limited and requires prior approval to ensure operational necessity.



EXTRA DUTY

Extra duty assignments are limited and aligned to essential student needs.



SPECIALIZED PURCHASED

Specialized purchased services and supplies are carefully reviewed and limited to only essential needs.



Every decision we make is focused on fiscal responsibility, ensuring we can continue providing high-quality education for every student.



Students First



Fiscal Responsibility



Integrity & Transparency

9

Questions?