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San Diego County

2026—2027

5th Edition

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Belonging at the Center: Supporting Students, Families, and Communities



Dr. Gloria E. Ciriza
Superintendent

Across San Diego County, there are countless examples of educators, partners, and community members coming together with the shared purpose of ensuring that every child feels supported, valued, and able to thrive.

At the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), that commitment is reflected in our Strategic Plan to achieve our North Star goal to reduce poverty and increase belongingness through public education.

Schools have always been important centers of learning, but they are also places of belonging, where students and families find connection, support, and community. When students know that the adults around them care about their success and well-being, then they are truly able to learn and flourish.

Across SDCOE, we are continuing to strengthen programs and partnerships that help make that vision possible.

One area where this work comes to life is through our continued investment in community schools, where we support partnerships that connect students and families with the services and opportunities they need to succeed. SDCOE works closely with school districts, local agencies, and community organizations to ensure that schools are not operating in isolation, but rather as part of a broader network of support for children and families.

These collaborations allow schools to connect families to essential resources, strengthen student and staff wellness, and create pathways that extend beyond the classroom. When we align our efforts across education, health, and community services, we can address barriers that too often stand in the way of student success.

At the same time, SDCOE continues to focus on innovative learning experiences that help students discover their strengths and explore possible futures. Our Linda Vista Innovation Center remains a powerful example of what happens when students are given opportunities to learn by doing. Students from across the county participate in hands-on lab experiences that introduce them to fields such as engineering, design, technology, and media production.

These experiences allow students to experiment, collaborate, and see themselves in future careers they may not have previously imagined. Just as importantly, they help students build confidence in their abilities and understand that their ideas and talents have real value.

While programs and partnerships are important, the foundation of this work is relationships. As part of our Strategic Plan, our educators and staff are committed to fostering a sense of belongingness for each other and our students. The young people served directly through SDCOE programs include students with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, foster youth, migratory students, pregnant and parenting teens, and those who are in probation or wards of the court. That sense of belonging, knowing you are respected and valued, can be transformative.

Every day, our teams work to remove barriers, connect students with caring adults, and ensure that each child has what they need to thrive. Creating a culture of belonging means more than welcoming students into a space. It means ensuring their voices are heard, their experiences are recognized, and their potential is nurtured.

This work is not something any single organization can accomplish alone. It requires strong partnerships between schools, families, community organizations, and local leaders who share a commitment to the well-being of our region's children.

The good news is that across San Diego County, that commitment is strong. Educators are innovating, community partners are committed to a shared vision, and families are actively engaged in shaping brighter futures for their children.

Together, we are creating a future where every child has the support, opportunity, and confidence they need to succeed in school and in life.

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Alpine Union School District

2001 Tavern Rd., Alpine, CA 91901 • 619/445-3236 • www.alpineschools.net

Innovation. Collaboration. Creativity.



Dr. Richard Newman
Superintendent

Alpine Unified School District continues to expand opportunities for students through a dynamic and forward-thinking engineering program. Designed to inspire innovation and real-world problem solving, the program emphasizes hands-on learning, collaboration, and critical thinking. Students engage in design challenges, project-based coursework, and technology-rich experiences that mirror today's engineering fields. By connecting classroom learning to practical application, AUSD ensures students develop both technical expertise and the confidence to tackle complex challenges.

AUSD's engineering students have consistently earned recognition for their excellence, winning awards at regional and state competitions that showcase their innovation, teamwork, and technical skills. These achievements reflect the strength of the district's curriculum and the dedication of both students and staff.

From foundational engineering concepts to advanced coursework, students explore robotics, design processes, coding, and systems thinking. The program encourages creativity alongside analytical skills, helping students understand that engineering is not just about building solutions—but about improving lives and communities.

As part of this growing initiative, AUSD has introduced the ECET Pathway—Engineering, Coding, E-sports, and Theater. This innovative pathway integrates technical learning with communication and presentation skills, giving students opportunities to design, code, and confidently showcase their ideas.

Through its comprehensive engineering offerings, AUSD is preparing students for college, careers, and leadership in high-demand fields. By blending innovation, collaboration, and creativity, the district is building a strong foundation for the engineers and problem-solvers of tomorrow.

Borrego Springs Unified School District

2281 Diegueno Rd., Borrego Springs, CA 92004 • 760/767-5357 • www.bsusd.net

Advancing Student Achievement and Growth



Dr. Mark Stevens
Superintendent

Student achievement and growth remain the central focus of our work at Borrego Springs Unified School District. Over the past year, this focus has translated into meaningful progress for students and staff alike.

Our students have demonstrated improved performance in Mathematics and English Language Arts, as measured by the CAASPP. These gains reflect intentional instructional practices, careful use of data, and a shared commitment to continuous improvement across the district.

We are grateful for the ongoing support from the San Diego County Office of Education, whose guidance has strengthened our systems and instructional leadership. In addition, our partnership with Math Transformations has provided targeted professional learning for teachers, resulting in stronger instructional practices and more consistent student outcomes in mathematics.

Academic success is only one part of preparing students for the future. BSUSD is equally committed to providing a well-rounded education that helps students discover purpose and direction. Through the RIASEC framework, students are developing greater awareness of their interests, strengths, and potential career pathways.

Our partnership with Educators Cooperative has expanded career instruction and exploration opportunities, connecting classroom learning to real-world applications and future possibilities. These experiences help students see relevance in their learning and build confidence in planning for life beyond graduation.

At Borrego Springs Unified, we believe success is defined by both academic growth and readiness for the future. By strengthening instruction, supporting educators, and expanding career-connected learning, we are ensuring every student is prepared to thrive.

Bonsall Unified School District

31505 Old River Rd., Bonsall, CA 92003 • 760/631-5200 • www.bonsallusd.com

True North 2030



Dr. Heather Golly
Superintendent

At Bonsall Unified School District, we believe deeply in the potential of every student and in the power of a connected community to help that potential flourish. Guided by a student-centered vision, BUSD is committed to learning experiences that build confidence, resilience, and a strong belief in one's ability to succeed.

Now in her second year as Superintendent, Dr. Heather Golly has led the launch of **True North 2030**, the District's strategic roadmap aligning vision, values, and action. Rooted in the core values of Service, Innovation, Collaboration, and Integrity, this work focuses on student achievement, well-being, and meaningful partnerships that prepare learners for college, career, and life.

In our elementary and middle schools, students build strong foundations through rich experiences in music, arts, movement, and hands-on learning. Our state-of-the-art Bonsall Farm brings learning outdoors, where students explore agriculture, sustainability, and leadership. Adjacent to the farm, BUSD is developing a wellness butterfly garden that will offer a reflective space for students to observe nature in action while supporting social-emotional well-being.

At Bonsall High School, a small, close-knit environment ensures every student is known and supported. Recently launched Bonsall High School Academies provide distinct pathways that connect learning to real-world careers through focused coursework, field experiences, and authentic applications of learning. Students also benefit from Early College opportunities, earning college credit during the school day at no cost, alongside Career Technical Education, Advanced Placement courses, CIF athletics, and award-winning programs in the arts and academics.

With dedicated staff and strong family and community partnerships, BUSD blends innovative practice with a small-town heart. When students believe in themselves—and know their educators believe in them—they gain the confidence to achieve anything.

Cajon Valley Union School District

740 E. Main St., El Cajon, CA 92020 • 619/588-3000 • <https://www.cajonvalley.net>

Purpose. Positivity. Commitment.



Dr. David Miyashiro
Superintendent

Cajon Valley Union School District is committed to preparing every student for success in school, career, and life. Serving more than 17,000 students across 27 schools and 60 square miles, and representing over 55 spoken languages, Cajon Valley reflects the strength and diversity of its community while delivering future-ready learning experiences.

Our work is grounded in innovation. Since transitioning to a 1:1 technology ecosystem in 2013, Cajon Valley has built blended and personalized learning environments that close the digital divide and expand opportunity. Signature programs such as *The World of Work*, a comprehensive K–12 framework integrating career development, financial empowerment, and social-emotional learning, and TEDEd Presentation Literacy—highlighted through the 13th year of TEDxKidsElCajon—equip students with confidence, communication skills, and purpose.

This work is guided by our Mission, Vision, and 8 Promises. Our mission is to make Cajon Valley the best place to live, work, play, and raise a family. We fulfill our vision through our 8 Promises: (1) Be Cajon Valley, (2) Empower Staff, (3) Emphasize Relationships, (4) Build Community, (5) Communicate Positively, (6) Deliver as a Team, (7) Innovate and Develop, and (8) Deliver Impeccable Service.

A culture rooted in employee engagement, excellence in customer service, and strong family and community engagement drives our results. Recognized as a San Diego Top Workplace in 2019 and again in 2025, Cajon Valley continues to lead with purpose, positivity, and an unwavering commitment to students.



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Cardiff School District

1888 Montgomery Ave., Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007 • 760/632-5890 • www.cardiffschools.com

Cultivating Wellness: A Whole-Child Approach



Jill Vinson
Superintendent

The Cardiff School District is redefining student health by integrating daily wellness habits through a cross-curricular collaboration initiative. Led by our innovative principals and specialty teachers, this program moves beyond isolated lessons to weave wellness throughout the school experience. By connecting the school garden, science lab, Physical Education, cafeteria, and our districtwide Cardiff Way tenets, we help students understand the vital synergy between nutrition, physical activity, and mental well-being.

This project brings abstract concepts to life through monthly themes. For example, during “Red Month” in September, students might harvest beets or watermelon in the garden. In science class, students learn how nutrients like lycopene support heart health, while P.E. reinforces these benefits through movement. The cycle completes in the cafeteria, where students enjoy these fresh ingredients, fostering excitement for seasonal eating.

Crucially, this initiative actively supports our Lifelong Learner Profile, grounded in the culture of The Cardiff Way. As Mindful Learners, students practice self-regulation and focus through techniques like “Melting Breathing” and mindful eating. By following an annual planting plan, Global Thinkers understand the environmental impact of their food choices. As Compassionate Citizens, students develop empathy and community awareness, understanding how personal health connects to the broader world.

By treating wellness as a constant way of being, the Cardiff School District empowers students with the intrinsic motivation to build healthy habits that last a lifetime.

Carlsbad Unified School District

6225 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-5000 • <https://carlsbadusd.net>

Delivering an Exceptional Education



Dr. Andrea Norman
Superintendent

Carlsbad Unified School District continues to deliver an exceptional education in an inspiring and supportive environment for every student. We are deeply committed to nurturing both academic achievement and social-emotional growth through a comprehensive Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). This year, we expanded our counseling team to ensure that every elementary, middle, and high school campus has dedicated support. Additionally, each elementary and middle school is staffed with an MTSS teacher to strengthen sustainable systems that promote long-term student success.

CUSD is now in its second year of implementing Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Building on last year’s foundation, our educators are designing lessons that reduce barriers and expand access for all learners. Professional development continues to emphasize flexible approaches to the presentation of content, students’ engagement with their learning, and how they demonstrate their understanding. Through these efforts, alongside targeted English Language Development (ELD) instruction, we have seen measurable academic growth across grade levels and a significant increase in the progress of our Multilingual Learners.

Our two comprehensive high schools proudly offer robust Career Technical Education (CTE) Pathways aligned with high-priority industry sectors. Since 2021, participation in CTE pathways has increased by 93 percent. Students gain valuable technical skills, engage in meaningful work-based learning experiences, and earn industry-recognized certifications. These opportunities contribute to higher graduation rates and expanded postsecondary and career opportunities.

Through this work, CUSD continues to prepare every student with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed for lifelong success.

Chula Vista Elementary School District

84 E. J St., Chula Vista, CA 91910 • 619/425-9600 • www.cvesd.org

Accelerating Student Achievement



Dr. Eduardo Reyes
Superintendent

The Chula Vista Elementary School District (CVESD) is in year two of Rigorous Learning for All (RLFA), a five-year strategic academic plan focused on accelerating student achievement through measurable growth at every school.

The district is demonstrating steady progress across four interconnected domains: Instructional Transformation, Turnaround Leadership, High-Quality Professional Learning, and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).

This year, key priorities include providing teachers and principals with high-quality professional learning to strengthen student outcomes. Schools are reviewing and updating their site plans to better address the unique needs of their students.

The district is also working to remove barriers so every student has access to rigorous, engaging learning opportunities. Above all, leaders across the district are committed to cultivating a strong, student-centered school culture where every student thrives.

Because of the collective efforts in year one, the district has seen growth in student performance data this year. As RLFA implementation continues, CVESD remains focused on refining systems, sustaining momentum, and delivering rigorous, high-quality learning experiences for every student.

Coronado Unified School District

201 Sixth St., Coronado, CA 92118 • 619/522-8900 • coronadousd.net

Shifting Culture through Authentic Dialogue



Karl Mueller
Superintendent

Serving students today is a complex endeavor. Declining enrollment, budget uncertainties, and contentious negotiations often erode the trust between the adults within our schools. In CUSD, we are countering this by creating spaces for colleagues to gather and discuss vital topics authentically.

To foster these conditions, we acknowledge the unique systems in which we operate—as parents, staff, and administrators. These systems may have competing interests and loyalties. While our professional roles may occasionally clash, we share a singular goal: providing safe, supportive environments where our students can succeed.

Working in collaboration with a group of teachers from across CUSD, we created the Culture Club. This group has inspired tangible district-wide changes while offering a space to connect, laugh, and be vulnerable. We cherish these monthly gatherings as a foundation of mutual support. Success stems from focusing on non-negotiable issues while strictly honoring the boundaries of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

We avoid personal attacks, opting instead for critical analysis of topics which impact our school communities and learners. Humility is a cornerstone. We often share difficult feedback; while one’s instinct may be to be defensive of topics or actions, objectively listening to and digesting diverse perspectives strengthens trust and our ability to achieve our shared objectives.

CUSD is entering an exciting time in our history. Our transition to a Community Funded/Basic Aid model allows us to “dream big” for our students. To succeed, we must strengthen trust and establish a unified purpose grounded in mutual respect. The Culture Club will guide our communications during this pivotal juncture, ensuring we remain aligned. Despite competing interests, we must never lose sight of our commonality: we all want what is best for our children and are willing to get out of our comfort zones in order to learn and grow together as colleagues.

Dehesa School District

4612 Dehesa Rd., El Cajon, CA 92019 • 619/444-2161 • dehesasd.net

Dehesa Expands, Innovates, and Thrives!



Bradley Johnson
Superintendent

The Dehesa School District is growing at an unprecedented pace, driven by the success of two innovative new partnership programs that are reshaping education in our community. Separate from our traditional education programs, our SoCal Scholars Academy has taken off, offering a dynamic and personalized learning experience tailored to homeschool students. With a focus on individualized instruction and enriching opportunities, this program empowers families to design an educational pathway that meets their child's unique needs

Meanwhile, Dehesa Method Sports Academy (DMSA) is making waves in the athletic world, providing student-athletes with elite training from professional coaches in baseball, soccer, and other sports.

The excitement surrounding DMSA has captured the attention of professional athletes, further solidifying its reputation as a premier training ground for the next generation of competitors. For more information please visit <https://www.mydmsa.com/>.

These programs have fueled a surge in enrollment, reinforcing our district's commitment to providing diverse and high-quality educational opportunities. As we continue to grow, we remain steadfast in our mission to create meaningful learning experiences that inspire and challenge every student.

At Dehesa, we believe that education should be as unique as the students we serve. With innovation at our core and a strong community behind us, the future has never been brighter. We are proud to be a district that not only embraces change but leads the way in educational excellence!

Del Mar Union School District

11232 El Camino Real, San Diego, CA 92130 • 858/755-9301 • www.dmusd.org

Destination 2028!



Marisa Janicek
Superintendent

We continue to advance the bold vision of our strategic plan *Destination 2028!* in the Del Mar Union School District with clarity and conviction. Our commitment to a strong academic core remains unwavering, even as the world around us evolves at an unprecedented pace. In this era of artificial intelligence and rapid innovation, our responsibility is not only to prepare students for change, but to ensure they help shape it thoughtfully and ethically as deep thinkers.

As AI transforms how information is accessed and applied, we are guided by essential questions: What does it mean to be educated in an age of intelligent machines? Which distinctly human capacities must we cultivate so our students thrive alongside technological advancement? In DMUSD, AI serves as a tool to enhance learning, never to replace the intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, creativity, and human connectedness.

Across our flexible learning studios, students engage in inquiry, dialogue, and interdisciplinary problem solving. Designed to offer choice and adaptability, these spaces empower students to learn in ways that reflect how they think best, because no two learners are the same. Students analyze, design, reflect, and refine their thinking in environments intentionally crafted to be human centered, connected to nature, grounded in belonging, and designed to support student agency. We know deep thinking flourishes where students feel known, challenged, and inspired.

We are proud of the path we are charting. The most powerful technology in the world remains the human mind guided by empathy, grounded in community, and connected to the natural world. Together, we are cultivating learners equipped not only with knowledge, but with insight, integrity, and imagination to lead a future we can be proud of.

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Encinitas Union School District

101 S. Rancho Santa Fe Rd., Encinitas, CA 92024 • 760/944-4300 • www.eusd.net

Joy. Belonging. Service. Integrity. Innovation.



Dr. Andrée Grey
Superintendent

At Encinitas Union School District (EUSD), this year began with a continued commitment to our core values of joy, belonging, service, integrity, and innovation. These values remain at the heart of everything we do, shaping our strategic plan and guiding the learner profile competencies that ensure every student feels supported, engaged, and empowered.

Across all nine schools, these values are evident in both everyday moments and intentional initiatives. Schoolwide service projects, celebrations of diversity, Kindness Week activities, and expanded opportunities for play and connection with student-led clubs during lunch recess all contribute to vibrant campus cultures rooted in joy and belonging. Through innovative practices and collaborative learning experiences, our students are building meaningful relationships while developing the skills and character outlined in our learner profile.

At EUSD, we know that when students feel seen, valued, and included, they are inspired to thrive academically and personally. By intentionally creating spaces where every child feels a sense of belonging, we are fostering compassionate leaders, creative thinkers, and responsible citizens.

Our commitment to belonging extends beyond the classroom and into our broader community. Community liaisons continue to serve at every school site, partnering with families to provide individualized support and connect them with essential resources. Their dedication strengthens family engagement and ensures that every member of our district community feels welcomed and supported.

The collective efforts of our staff exemplify what it means to live our EUSD values each day. Together, we are nurturing a strong, inclusive district community and empowering every learner to realize their limitless potential.

Escondido Union School District

2310 Aldergrove Ave., Escondido, CA 92029 • 760/432-2110 • www.eusd.org

Highlights from 12 Years in EUSD



Dr. Luis Rankins-Ibarra
Superintendent

As I reflect on my 12 years as Superintendent of the Escondido Union School District, I am filled with pride and gratitude for what we have accomplished together. As I prepare to retire at the end of this school year, I am especially proud of the strong foundation we have built for the future of EUSD.

The successful passage of Proposition E—a \$182.1 million bond—allowed us to modernize aging campuses, construct new classroom buildings, and complete critical infrastructure upgrades that transformed learning environments across the district. These improvements created safe, modern, and welcoming spaces where students can thrive.

While facilities were an essential investment, our most meaningful transformation has been instructional. Through the development of our Framework for the Future, created in collaboration with parents, teachers, support staff, and administrators, we established a shared vision for student success centered on the whole child.

In partnership with Learner-Centered Collaborative, we deepened this work by clearly defining the outcomes we want for every student: Empowered Learners, Empathetic Collaborators, Ethical Scholars, Effective Communicators, Critical Thinkers, and Creative Problem Solvers. This work has shifted our system toward personalized, competency-based, and authentic learning experiences across all schools.

Innovative programs such as Quantum Academy and Conway Academy of Expeditionary Learning exemplify this vision in action. Together, we have built more than new schools; we have built a learner-centered district. The momentum is strong, and I am confident EUSD's best days are still ahead.

Escondido Union High School District

302 N. Midway Dr., Escondido, CA 92027 • 760/291-3200 • www.euhdsd.org

Rooted in Tradition and Possibility



Jon Peterson
Superintendent

As one of the county's oldest cities, Escondido is rooted in tradition and possibility. For more than 125 years, the Escondido Union High School District has proudly served North County, preparing generations of students for bright and purposeful futures. As a lifelong Escondido resident and EUHSD graduate, I am honored to help lead a district that believes every student deserves both opportunity and direction.

Our mission is clear: prepare students for college, career, and life by helping them discover their strengths, explore meaningful pathways, and envision a future filled with options. When students understand the “why” behind their learning, engagement rises and possibilities expand.

EUHSD remains forward-thinking in pursuit of this vision. Through 30 distinct high quality Career Technical Education pathways, students participate in multi-year programs that integrate rigorous academics with technical skill development. Many earn industry certifications and college credit through partnerships with local community colleges, gaining momentum toward both higher education and the workforce.

Real-world exposure is essential. Students engage in DECA, FFA, FCCLA, and SkillsUSA; participate in labs, projects, and competitions; hear from guest speakers; and attend career fairs that connect classroom learning to tangible futures. Our new Project Next Future Center at Escondido High School further advances this work, providing dedicated space and guidance for career exploration, workforce connections, and postsecondary planning.

Innovative options such as Middle College at Orange Glen High School, in partnership with Palomar College, and the project-based, internship-driven model at Del Lago Academy expand access and opportunity.

At EUHSD, we are not simply educating students—we are equipping them with purpose, skills, and a confident vision for what comes next.

Fallbrook Union Elementary School District

321 N. Iowa St., Fallbrook, CA 92028 • 760/731-5400 • www.fuesd.org

Growing Greatness. Cultivating Leadership.



Monika Hazel
Superintendent

Fallbrook Union Elementary School District is committed to growing greatness in every school, every grade, and every child. In recent years, the district has experienced steady growth in student achievement, earning state and national recognition, including acknowledgment from the California Department of Education for increasing student outcomes.

At the center of our work is a strong commitment to early literacy. Through our Read by First Grade Promise, we prioritize the science of reading to ensure every child builds a powerful foundation. High-quality classroom instruction is paired with daily high-dosage tutoring for students who need additional support. By focusing deeply on early literacy, we ensure students gain the confidence and skills necessary for long-term academic success.

Equally central to our district culture is Leader in Me. Every FUESD school is a nationally certified Leader in Me Lighthouse school, reflecting a culture where leadership is embedded into daily life. Students set goals, track their growth, lead assemblies, organize clubs, and participate in leadership teams. Leadership is not reserved for a few; it is intentionally cultivated in every child.

Our success is driven by strong teacher collaboration. Educators meet weekly in professional learning communities to review student progress, share strategies, and adjust instruction in real time. This collaborative approach ensures every student receives the support they need to grow.

Together, through a focus on literacy, leadership, and collaborative teaching, we are building a learning community where every child can thrive.

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Fallbrook Union High School District

2234 S. Stage Coach Ln., Fallbrook, CA 92028 • 760/723-6332 • www.fuhisd.net

Ivy High School Earns State Honor



Ilisa Garza-Gonzalez
Superintendent

Ivy High School has been officially designated as a California Model Continuation High School, a prestigious recognition awarded to campuses that demonstrate exceptional commitment to alternative education, student support, and academic success. This honor highlights Ivy's effectiveness in providing a pathway for students who have not experienced success at a traditional comprehensive high school, ensuring they remain engaged, supported, and on track to graduate.

At the heart of Ivy's success is its motto, "Transformation Through Education." This belief shapes every aspect of the school's culture, where students are encouraged to advocate for themselves and take ownership of their educational journey.

Ivy's dedicated staff is central to this transformation. Their unwavering commitment, individualized support, and genuine care empower students to overcome barriers and realize their full potential.

Ivy offers a robust selection of academic and career-focused programs that open doors to new opportunities. Students benefit from dual enrollment courses through Palomar College, allowing them to earn college credit while still in high school. The school also provides a Career Technical Education Business Pathway, a Photography program, and a full slate of A-G core academic courses, ensuring that students have access to both college- and career-ready options.

The designation as a California Model Continuation High School affirms what the Ivy community already knows: with the right support, structure, and belief in every learner, students can transform their futures. Ivy High School stands as a powerful example of how alternative education can change lives—one student at a time.

Grossmont Union High School District

1100 Murray Dr., El Cajon, CA 92020 • 619/644-8000 • www.guhisd.net

Preparing Students to Build the Best Future



Dr. Kirsten Vital Brulte
Superintendent

The Grossmont Union High School District (GUHSD), in collaboration with our East San Diego community, is defining the knowledge, skills, dispositions, and mindsets every student will need to thrive in a rapidly changing world through its Portrait of a Graduate (POG) process.

This three-phase process focuses on students graduating in 2040 and beyond, creating a shared, long-term vision to prepare them for the opportunities and challenges ahead. In addition to the Portrait of a Graduate, the process includes a Portrait of an Adult, outlining what educators and staff must model to support student success, and a System Portrait, identifying the structures, policies, and partnerships needed to sustain this vision. Together, the three portraits will serve to align people, resources, and decisions across all GUHSD campuses.

Working with San Diego County Office of Education's (SDCOE) POG facilitation team, the district is concluding Phase I. More than 500,000 data points have been collected from students, staff, families, and community members through a series of surveys, meetings, and engagement efforts. Using this data, a Guiding Coalition of over 100 students, educators, parents, staff, and community leaders co-created the three portraits that will guide GUHSD into the future. Phase II of the work (Strategic Planning) led by SDCOE's team will begin this summer with teachers, administrators, and staff.

With this strong foundation in place, the transformation begins. The Portrait of a Graduate will serve as a bold blueprint for action, ensuring every East County student graduates ready to thrive in an evolving world.

Jamul-Dulzura Union School District

14581 Lyons Valley Rd., Jamul, CA 91935 • 619/669-7700 • jdusd.net

A Culture of Civic Excellence



Elizabeth Bystedt
Superintendent

Jamul-Dulzura Union School District (JDUSD) is widely recognized as a district of civic excellence, a distinction that reflects both our mission and our daily practice. At the heart of this commitment is a shared responsibility to ensure that every student understands what it means to be civically engaged, responsible, and empowered. Civic excellence is not simply a concept we teach; it is a culture we cultivate across our schools through intentional programs, student leadership opportunities, and a focus on positive school communities.

A cornerstone of this work is our strong implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). In 2025, both Jamul Elementary School and Oak Grove Middle School were recognized as Platinum Level PBIS schools, an honor that highlights our dedication to fostering safe, supportive, and respectful learning environments. These efforts are further strengthened by participation in the Leader in Me program, which emphasizes leadership development, goal setting, and personal responsibility for all students.

Jamul Elementary continues to build on this momentum with the goal of being named a Lighthouse School, a prestigious recognition awarded to schools that exemplify leadership principles at the highest level. Meanwhile, Oak Grove Middle School has reinstated its Associated Student Body (ASB), expanding opportunities for student voice and leadership. Students are also competing in National History Day (NHD), engaging in rigorous academic research while deepening their understanding of history and civic responsibility.

Together, these initiatives reflect JDUSD's unwavering commitment to nurturing students and staff who embody the values of civic excellence in both school and community.

Julian Union High School District

1656 Hwy. 78, Julian, CA 92036 • 760/765-0606 • juhsd.net

Micro but Mighty, Soaring to New Heights



Yvonne Fleet
Superintendent

A Micro but Mighty District continues to grow through innovation, connection, and an unwavering commitment to student success. Nestled in the San Diego Mountains, Julian Union High School District proudly serves a small but resilient student population across San Diego County's backcountry. As the Home of the Eagles, our size allows us to build strong relationships while implementing meaningful programs that help students soar.

One of our newest initiatives is the SOAR Parent/Teacher/Student Conference. SOAR stands for Support, Ownership, Accountability, and Resilience. Through these conferences, families meet with all teachers at once, ensuring clear communication, shared expectations, and unified support for students. This collaborative structure empowers students to reflect on their progress, set goals, and take ownership of their learning.

Attendance remains a critical focus for our district. Through the Eagle Attendance Intervention, we are working intentionally to help students understand the importance of showing up on time and being fully present each day. By addressing barriers, celebrating improvement, and strengthening relationships, we are reinforcing habits that directly support academic success and long-term outcomes.

To further encourage student success, Julian Union High School District implemented the Rise and Fly program. Rise and Fly is centered on celebrating student achievement in academics, recognizing progress, improved grades, and perseverance. By highlighting growth and effort, the program builds confidence, motivation, and pride.

Though small in size, Julian Union High School District remains mighty in impact, ensuring every student has the opportunity to rise, fly, and soar.

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La Mesa-Spring Valley School District

4750 Date Ave., La Mesa, CA 91942 • 619/668-5700 • www.lmsvschools.org

LMSV has a Heart for Children!



David Feliciano
Superintendent

The La Mesa-Spring Valley School District is committed to transforming the lives of our students. We live this commitment through our focus on the whole child and as we strive for social-emotional health as well as academic success. We recognize that children's lives are shaped by how they are treated as much as by what they have learned. Our commitment to supporting each and every student is at the core of the decisions we make, from the boardroom to the classroom.

Our incredible teachers, staff, and administrators ensure that each and every child has the support needed to be successful and engaged at school. This is done through a commitment

to academic excellence and a strong focus on social-emotional learning and school connectedness. In fact, every school in the district employs a full time social worker and/or counselor trained in evidence-based strategies to provide foundational support for our students' social-emotional health.

At LMSV, we believe that love is at the root of everything we do. Our hashtag is #LMSVHeart because we believe that having a heart for children is what education is all about. Learn more on our website or come by and visit us in person. We offer regular school tours and would love to welcome you to the community!

You can find us online and on social media here:

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www.instagram.com/lmsv.schools

www.facebook.com/lmsvschools

www.youtube.com/@lmsvschools

Lakeside Union School District

12335 Woodside Ave., Lakeside, CA 92040 • 619/390-2600 • www.lsusd.net

Igniting Passion in Students



Scott Goergens
Superintendent

The Lakeside Union School District is committed to providing outstanding educational opportunities that prepare every student for success in school and in life. Serving students in grades TK–8, our district offers a comprehensive Language Immersion program with subject-matter instruction in English, Spanish, and Mandarin, promoting academic achievement, bilingualism, and global awareness.

A strong foundational literacy program supports all learners through targeted instruction in fluency, comprehension, and reading development. In addition, Lakeside maintains a firm commitment to high-quality science and arts education, ensuring students experience a balanced and engaging instructional program.

At the middle school level, students benefit from a wide range of elective courses designed to support personal interests and academic growth. Our schools also emphasize a smooth transition to high school through Career Technical Education (CTE) alignment and meaningful career and workforce learning opportunities.

Through rigorous instruction, innovative programs, and strong community partnerships, the Lakeside Union School District remains dedicated to creating supportive learning environments where all students can thrive.

For more information about our programs and schools, please visit www.lsusd.net.

Lemon Grove School District

8025 Lincoln St., Lemon Grove, CA 91945 • 619/825-5600 • www.lemongrovesd.net

Golden Bell Award



Marianna Vinson
Superintendent

Winning awards is always a moment of pride for schools and communities. This year, that pride was amplified with the awarding of the CSBA Golden Bell Award for Equitable Student Outcomes, a distinction that honors Lemon Grove School District's commitment to ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed.

The Golden Bell Awards, presented annually by the California School Boards Association (CSBA), celebrate innovative and impactful programs that address the evolving needs of students across the state. Receiving the award for Equitable Student Outcomes reflects a deep dedication to closing opportunity gaps and creating learning environments where all students can thrive.

At the heart of this recognition is a focused effort to remove barriers that traditionally limit student success. Data-driven decision making and continuous reflection have helped refine strategies that uplift underserved student populations while maintaining high expectations for all learners. Through targeted academic support, culturally responsive teaching practices, and meaningful family and community engagement, LGSD has worked to ensure that students receive the resources and support they need to demonstrate their genius.

Winning the CSBA Golden Bell Award for Equitable Student Outcomes not only recognizes the success of these efforts but also serves as an inspiration for continued growth. The honor affirms that when schools intentionally invest in equitable practices, they create stronger educational pathways and brighter futures for every student.

This award stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to educational equity happening in Lemon Grove School District.

Mountain Empire Unified School District

3291 Buckman Springs Rd., Pine Valley, CA 91962 • 619/473-9022 • www.meusd.org

Building Tomorrow



Dr. Patrick Keeley
Superintendent

We are proud to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to equitable, safe, and modern school facilities for every student we serve across our 660 square miles.

Our strategic plan clearly identifies "Building Tomorrow: Investing in Modern Learning Environments for Student Success" as a core priority, committing us to revitalize and maintain our educational facilities through intentional resource allocation and infrastructure improvement. For too long, rural districts like ours have faced significant barriers in accessing the funding necessary to repair and modernize aging campuses. Our advocacy has begun to yield results, with critical state funding awarded to initiate the rebuilding of our high school—an important step toward providing students with learning environments that reflect their value and potential. Equitable facilities are not about aesthetics; they are about safety, dignity, access to resources, and ensuring that rural students receive the same high-quality environments as their urban and suburban peers. Modern classrooms, updated infrastructure, and resilient systems directly support student achievement, staff retention, and community pride. We believe facilities equity is important to educational equity. Our responsibility is not only to maintain buildings, but to create environments where innovation thrives, where students feel secure and inspired, and where our community sees tangible evidence of investment in its future.

We will continue to pursue every viable pathway to ensure our students learn in spaces worthy of their aspirations. And we are excited about our future possibilities to rebuild our high school!

National School District

1500 N Ave., National City, CA 91950 • 619/336-7500 • www.nsd.us

InSync: A Decade of Impact



Dr. Leighangela Brady
Superintendent

As I reflect on my final year as Superintendent of National School District, I am filled with gratitude and pride. After 30 years in California public education, including 10 incredible years leading NSD, it has truly been the privilege of a lifetime to serve our students, families, and community.

Our theme this year, *inSync*, captures the heart of our district: working together toward a shared vision. Over the past decade, NSD has grown through innovation, equity, and sustainability, from one-to-one devices and flexible classrooms to immersive environmental programs like Ocean Connectors and Olivewood Gardens. Students are making a difference every day, whether planting trees in our local community or developing skills for the future workforce. Students benefit from dual language immersion, STEAM education, outdoor learning, and strong early childhood instruction. Our current focus is the Learning Model, which brings the Learner Profile to life through modern instruction.

NSD's dedication has earned remarkable recognition. We are a California Green Ribbon Schools District and a Heart-Safe District—the first elementary-only district in the nation. Through PBIS, 80% of our schools have reached the highest Platinum level, and the rest have each increased a level. We've also earned a CSBA Golden Bell Award for nutrition and climate action. This year, nine of ten schools were added to America's Healthiest Schools, celebrating our collective efforts to support the whole child.

As I retire, I am confident that NSD will continue achieving extraordinary outcomes. Together, *inSync*, there is no limit to what this district can accomplish.

Oceanside Unified School District

2111 Mission Ave., Oceanside, CA 92058 • 760/966-4000 • www.oside.us

Opportunity. Growth. Excitement.



Dr. Julie Vitale
Superintendent

Oceanside Unified is a district filled with opportunity, growth, and excitement. This year marks an important milestone for our district as we expand our Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program, opening our doors to more of our youngest learners than ever before.

For many of these students, TK is the very start of their educational journey, and we are honored to be part of such an important chapter in their lives. In OUSD, our TK classrooms are designed to help children build a strong foundation for their schooling through play-based learning. Students will engage in hands-on activities that spark their curiosity, encourage problem-solving, and inspire a love for discovery.

Beyond academics, TK is a time for children to develop important social skills. Through small-group activities and whole-class experiences, they will learn to collaborate, communicate, and build friendships. Our hope is that every TK student leaves this year with not only the skills they need for success in elementary school, but also the confidence and joy that comes from loving to learn.

Here's to a fantastic 2025–26 school year for all our students and dedicated staff—from our youngest learners to our graduating seniors. Let's make it one to remember!

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Poway Unified School District

15250 Avenue of Science, San Diego, CA 92128 • 858/521-2800 • www.powayusd.com

Empowering World-Class Learners



Dr. Benjamin Churchill
Superintendent

Over the past year, I have seen firsthand the ways our schools and community are shaping the future of Poway Unified. Our vision is to create the culture and conditions that empower world-class learners. We are taking Poway Unified's legacy of high-ranking achievement and reimagining what that looks like today. We are advancing a world-class education experience to meet the needs of every student in a changing world.

A guiding principle for leadership has been focus. The PUSD Board adopted three clear goals to guide our work, emphasizing the importance of discipline in priorities. They illustrate how we are addressing current needs while positioning the district for long-term success. Focusing on these goals aligns our efforts, measures our progress, and ensures we deliver on the commitments we make to students, staff, and families.

Our three guiding goals are:

- Student Success: Ensure every student thrives academically, emotionally, and with a sense of belonging.
- Community Engagement: Build trust and partnership with families and the community through clear communication, authentic engagement, and a service-oriented culture.
- Fiscal Responsibility: Safeguard the district's long-term financial health through efficient operations, strategic planning, and responsible investment in people, programs, and facilities.

Equally inspiring has been the partnerships I see across our community. Whether engaging with staff, families, or community partners, I see a willingness to contribute and make a difference. These shared efforts, guided by clear goals and collaboration, are what will continue to move Poway Unified forward.

Ramona Unified School District

720 Ninth St., Ramona, CA 92065 • 760/787-2000 • www.ramonausd.net

Care. Clarity. Purpose.



Leslie Wilson
Interim
Superintendent

Ramona Unified School District is proud to serve a close-knit community where relationships matter and students are at the center of what we do. Grounded in our commitment to Preparing Today's Learners for Tomorrow's World, we work in partnership with families, staff, and community members to ensure every student feels supported, challenged, and truly known.

Our students' journey begins in developmentally appropriate Transitional Kindergarten classrooms, where play-based learning builds curiosity, confidence, self-regulation, and foundational skills. In our elementary schools, purposeful learning is at the heart of instruction—students know what they are learning, how to achieve it, and why it is important. That clarity helps students build ownership, engagement, and a strong academic foundation they can carry forward.

In middle school, we continue to support the whole child by strengthening both learning and belonging through SPIRIT—Strength, Perseverance, Intent, Respect, Integrity, and Teamwork—values that guide student behavior, leadership, and connection. By high school, students have access to a wide range of opportunities, including multiple Career Technical Education pathway options, strong visual and performing arts programs, and engaging courses across core content areas. These experiences help students explore their interests, develop real-world skills, and prepare for college, career, military service, or skilled trades.

Ramona Unified also offers alternative learning settings, including a Montessori program and Mountain Valley Academy, an independent study and homeschool option serving students in grades K–12.

We are proud of the growth happening across RUSD and remain committed to continuous improvement—moving forward together with care, clarity, and purpose.

Rancho Santa Fe School District

5927 La Granada, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067 • 858/756-1141 • rfschool.net

A Robust Framework for Student Success



Kim Pinkerton
Superintendent

At the Rancho Santa Fe School District, we have embarked on a journey to define the future of our students through a powerful and collaborative process. Recently, we achieved a foundational milestone: the completion of our new Vision and Mission that serve as our North Star, anchored by the fundamental belief that everyone is known by name, by strength, and by need. To craft language that truly resonates, we brought together a Guiding Coalition of staff, parents, community members, and students.

This collaborative effort yielded our core principles:

- Vision: Empower Leaders, Nurture Community, and Shape a Better Future Together
- Mission: We inspire Discovery, Learning, and Growth

These aren't just words; they are the non-negotiable decision filter for our governance, ensuring every resource and curricular shift aligns with our goals for future-ready learning and strategic alignment.

Building on this momentum, our next critical step is to define our Portrait of a Learner and reimagine our district logo. The Portrait of a Learner will translate our high-level vision into the specific traits we aim to instill in every student, guided by the community's voice. Emerging themes include communication skills, curiosity, adaptability, leadership, independence, resilience, and agency. Reimagining the district logo is a crucial step to visually align the district's identity with the new Vision and Mission, ensuring our public-facing image reflects our commitment to our community.

By seeking the collective wisdom of our community, we have built a robust framework for student success, laying the most important foundation for the future of Rancho Santa Fe's schools.

San Diego Unified School District

4100 Normal St., San Diego, CA 92103 • 619/725-8000 • www.sandiegounified.org

Stability for Educators, Success for Students



Dr. Fabi Bagula
Superintendent

At San Diego Unified, our commitment to Student Achievement Goal #1, improving wellness, extends beyond our students to the educators and staff who serve them every day. When we support the people who care for our children, we strengthen the entire school community.

San Diego Unified has made two bold moves to increase access to affordable housing for our educators and staff. The first is we established a Regional Housing Finance Authority (RHFA), the only education and community-based authority of its kind in California and the nation. Through the RHFA, we are working in partnership with our Community College District to build and preserve housing near jobs, schools, and transit so San Diegans can live in communities where they work and thrive.

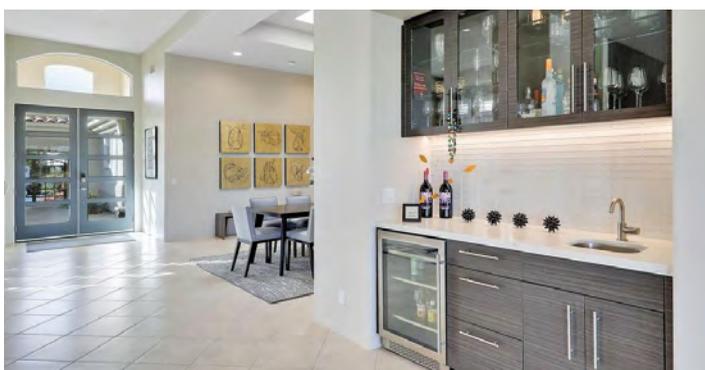
The second is we are also turning six surplus district properties into nearly 3,000 units of affordable workforce housing to address the rising cost of living in San Diego facing our educators and staff. We recognize that stability at home is essential to success at work.

With these bold actions, San Diego Unified has positioned itself as a statewide leader in supporting its workforce.

Affordable housing is one of the most meaningful ways we can support teacher retention. When educators are able to live near where they work, they stay with a district, schools benefit from their consistency and deep instructional expertise, and stronger relationships with students and families are made.

We are committed to our educators, as they are committed to our students, today and for the future.

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San Dieguito Union High School District

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Shaping Lifelong Success



Dr. Anne Staffieri
Superintendent

In the San Dieguito Union High School District, our commitment to increasing and enhancing Access, Belonging, and Achievement for each and every student continues to guide districtwide priorities and drive meaningful results for students across all campuses. The 2025-26 school year reflects both sustained excellence and steady progress, supporting students academically, socially, and emotionally.

Across the district, students engage in rigorous coursework, advanced academics, and career-connected learning designed to prepare them for college and beyond. Recognition through the College Board AP School Honor Roll reflects strong performance alongside a continued focus on broadening participation in college-level pathways. Our district remains a leader in academic excellence,

with an impressive 91% pass rate on 10,331 AP exams administered last year. As national benchmarks rise, the district remains among a select group of districts nationwide achieving top-tier distinction across all comprehensive high schools.

Through the continued work of the One San Dieguito initiative, we are strengthening a sense of belonging by fostering inclusive environments where every student feels welcome, supported, and valued. This year, all eighth-grade students participated in training to equip them with the skills to recognize behaviors and become upstanders, empowering students to contribute positively to their school communities as they progress to our high schools and beyond.

Results from the California School Dashboard demonstrate continued excellence in graduation rates, college and career readiness, and academic growth, placing the district among the highest-performing in the region and state.

Guided by our Unity of Purpose, to provide a high-quality education for every student to demonstrate academic growth and optimize individual potential, SDUHSD continues to cultivate a learning environment where students are prepared to thrive well beyond high school.

San Pasqual Union School District

15305 Rockwood Rd., Escondido, CA 92027 • 760/745-4931 • www.sanpasqualunion.net

Focused on Instructional Quality and Coherence



Mark Burroughs
Superintendent

At a time when many districts face declining enrollment, San Pasqual Union School District has experienced steady growth by focusing first on instructional quality and coherence.

Grounded in our SAINTS core principles — Student-Centered, Academic Achievement, Intention & Integrity, Nurturing Growth, Trust & Transparency, and Strength in Community — we implemented research-based systems to support student learning. Through structured literacy systems aligned with the Science of Reading and IMSE strategies, we strengthened foundational reading skills, incorporated morphology instruction, and provided targeted intervention to meet diverse student needs.

Kagan Cooperative Learning structures were introduced to deepen academic discourse, engagement, and collaboration.

Teacher leadership development played a critical role. Instructional leadership teams focused on CAASPP performance and Kagan implementation, supported by data-driven PLCs that reinforced accountability and continuous improvement. We also recommitted to the foundational writing practices of note-taking, drafting by hand, revising rough copies, and solving problems pencil to paper to build writing stamina and deepen understanding. Teachers intentionally plan intervention and enrichment and adjust instruction based on evidence.

As instructional clarity improved, we increased communication with families by highlighting authentic classroom learning and maintaining a transparent focus on academics.

The results are measurable. Last year, San Pasqual Union achieved a 13-percentage-point increase in literacy performance on CAASPP, while district enrollment grew by 13% in just three years. When districts align core values, instruction, and communication, student success and enrollment growth are sure to follow.

San Marcos Unified School District

255 Pico Ave., Ste. 250, San Marcos, CA 92069 • 760/752-1296 • smusd.org

Designing the Future of Secondary Education



Dr. Andrew S. Johnsen
Superintendent

The world our students are preparing to enter looks very different than it did even a generation ago. Technology, careers, and the skills needed to succeed are evolving rapidly. As educators, we must continually reflect on whether our schools are preparing students not just for graduation, but for life beyond the classroom.

Across California, school systems are asking an important question: How can we redesign secondary education so that it better reflects the needs and potential of today's students?

San Marcos Unified School District is proud to participate in the California Secondary School Redesign Pilot Program

through the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, a statewide effort bringing educators together to explore new approaches to middle and high school learning. San Marcos Unified joins a select group of districts across California helping to shape the future of secondary education. As part of the program, districts examine how school structures, learning experiences, and student supports can evolve to create more engaging learning environments.

While secondary schools have long served students well, many aspects of the traditional model were designed for a different era. Today's students benefit from learning that encourages critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and real-world problem solving. They deserve experiences that connect classroom learning to the constantly changing world around them.

Participation in this pilot program allows our district to learn alongside others across the state while exploring innovative ideas that strengthen opportunities for students. At San Marcos Unified, our focus remains clear. We want every student to feel supported, challenged, and inspired as they prepare to be future ready.

Santee School District

9625 Cuyamaca St., Santee, CA 92071 • 619/258-2300 • santeesd.net

Belong. Engage. Elevate.



Dr. Kristin Baranski
Superintendent

As we begin a new school year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible community we continue to build together. Over the past three years, our district has embraced themes that reflect our shared commitment to students and one another—first **Belong**, then **Engage**, and now **Elevate**. Each year has built intentionally on the last, strengthening our focus on connection, collaboration, and creating schools where every student, family, and staff member feels valued and supported.

This year, our theme—**Elevate**—calls us to build on the strong foundation we have created and take our work to the next level. Elevating means striving for excellence while staying grounded in our core values of belonging and engagement. It means setting high expectations, embracing innovation, and continuously refining our practices to ensure every student thrives.

Our dedicated educators and staff are committed to elevating their teaching, creativity, and support so that each child's learning experience reaches new heights. At the same time, our students are rising to the challenge. Recent state assessment results show achievement levels above county and state averages, and our district has been recognized as one of only 100 districts performing above pre-pandemic levels. These accomplishments reflect the resilience, hard work, and partnership of our entire community.

We are excited for another year of learning, growth, and meaningful connection. Together, we will continue to elevate opportunities, outcomes, and experiences for every student we serve.

Solana Beach School District

309 N. Rios Ave., Solana Beach, CA 92075 • 858/794-7100 • www.sbsd.k12.ca.us

A Decade of Discovery



Dr. Jennifer Burks
Superintendent

This year, the Solana Beach School District celebrates ten years of Discovery Labs. Over the past decade, Discovery Labs have become a meaningful part of the instructional day, providing students with weekly opportunities for inquiry and discovery through applied, hands-on learning as they explore their strengths and interests.

Since its launch, Discovery Labs has expanded learning opportunities through a rotating schedule of classes that includes STREAM, Music, Art, Media Center, and Physical Education. These classes complement classroom instruction while giving students dedicated time to collaborate with peers, pursue areas of interest, and approach learning from multiple perspectives.

Through this structure, students experience learning in varied contexts and often uncover new strengths across disciplines.

Discovery Labs continue to adapt to meet student needs and district priorities. This year, the district expanded its focus through Discovery Experiences, with the addition of Student Garden and Kitchen Learning, where students explore food systems, nutrition, environmental stewardship, sustainability, and practical life skills, while strengthening the connection between academic learning and real-world application.

Discovery Labs are supported in part by the Solana Beach Schools Foundation, a parent-led nonprofit organization that plays an important role in sustaining expanded learning opportunities. The Foundation supports STREAM, supplemental Physical Education, and Student Garden and Kitchen Learning through contributions that help fund staffing, materials and supplies, ensuring these experiences remain accessible to students districtwide.

This ten-year milestone reflects the impact of shared instructional vision, strong governance, and committed community support. Together, these elements have shaped learning environments where students are encouraged to explore their interests, develop curiosity and confidence, and learn through experience.

Spencer Valley School District

4414 Highway 78 and 79, Santa Ysabel, CA 92070 • 760/765-0336 • svesd.net

Small School, Big Heart



Kelly Baas
Superintendent

Located at the base of Volcan Mountain in San Diego, Spencer Valley School District is a small but incredibly vibrant place to learn. We currently serve 45 students in our TK-8 classrooms, along with 10 little ones in our community preschool program. Being a small district allows us to do things a bit differently, focusing heavily on a true sense of community and the kind of deep, meaningful relationships between our staff, students, and families that you just don't find everywhere.

Our multi-age classrooms are the heart of our school. They allow students of different ages to learn alongside one another, fostering a natural family dynamic where kids support each other's growth. To keep our culture positive and connected, we have fully embraced PBIS and our House System, which give the students a sense of pride and belonging. None of this would be possible without our engaged and amazing team of staff who show up every day ready to go above and beyond for our kids.

The energy on campus continues well after the school day ends through our afterschool program. It's a busy, hands-on environment where students are constantly trying new things. You might see them out tending to the chickens and gardening, or inside busy with cooking, art projects, esports, and athletics. At Spencer Valley, we believe in educating the whole child, and we are so proud of the close-knit environment we've built together at the foot of the mountain.

South Bay Union School District

601 Elm Ave., Imperial Beach, CA 91932 • 619/628-1605 • www.sbusd.org

Continued Success for All Learners



Jose Espinoza
Superintendent

The California School Dashboard is an online tool that provides communities with information about schools and districts statewide. It presents reports on multiple measures of school performance for districts, schools, and student groups.

South Bay proudly serves as the foundation for the community in which students grow academically and socially. This commitment is demonstrated through the notable academic achievements and growth of our students based on the 2024–25 state testing results. Our students demonstrated meaningful progress across core academic areas. Our results show an increase of 6.1 points in Mathematics and an impressive 10.6-point gain in English Language Arts!

The English Language Progress Indicator measures the percentage of English Learners who are advancing toward English language proficiency, and this year's results tell an inspiring story of growth and determination. Nearly half of our students are English Learners, and their achievements this year are truly extraordinary. Students demonstrated a remarkable 7.4 percentage-point increase in language proficiency compared to last year, with 51.4% progressing at least one proficiency level. In addition, our Long-Term English Learners made significant strides, showing an impressive 24% increase.

Overall student growth was widespread, as 78.3% of students improved their English Language Arts scores and 71.8% showed growth in Mathematics compared to their prior year performance.

This success is rooted in our intentional approach to instruction, including a clearly defined scope and sequence and ongoing professional learning for staff. We are proud of the growth our students have achieved and remain committed to building on this momentum to ensure continued success for all learners.

Sweetwater Union High School District

1130 Fifth Ave., Chula Vista, CA 91911 • 619/691-5500 • www.sweetwaterschools.org

Bridging Families, Services, and Learning



Dr. Moisés G. Aguirre
Superintendent

The Sweetwater Union High School District (SUHSD) continues to advance its commitment to equity, access, and student-centered learning through the expansion of Community Schools across our district. After two years of collaboration, SUHSD established 12 Community Schools (four middle, eight high), supported by a \$21.85 million, five-year grant from the California Community Schools Partnership Program.

More than 16,000 students, families, and community members contributed input during the planning process, with 90 percent expressing strong support for the Community Schools model. This approach strengthens student success by coordinating academic programs with health, social, and community-based services, ensuring that students and families have access to the resources they need to thrive.

Community Schools foster deeper family engagement, meaningful partnerships, and locally driven strategies tailored to each campus. To expand collaboration across the South Bay, in 2025 we partnered with the Chula Vista Elementary School District, National School District, San Ysidro School District, and South Bay Union School Districts, along with South County Teachers United associations, to co-host the first South County Community Schools Summit. The event celebrated nearly 50 Community Schools across South County and provided an opportunity for educators and leaders to share best practices and strengthen collective impact.

As California continues its historic investment in Community Schools, SUHSD is proud to be part of a statewide movement transforming how schools serve students and families. Through partnership and innovation, we are building stronger, more connected communities that support every student's success.

Vallecitos School District

5211 Fifth St., Fallbrook, CA 92028 • 760/728-8229 • www.vallecitosd.net

Growing Opportunities for Students



Meliton Sanchez
Superintendent

At Vallecitos Elementary School District, we believe that even small schools can create big opportunities for students. Located in the rural community of Rainbow, our TK–8 district serves approximately 180 students, allowing us to provide a close-knit learning environment where every child is known, supported, and encouraged to thrive. This year marks an exciting chapter for our campus with the addition of a new Expanded Learning building, which will support before/after school enrichment, student activities, and expanded learning opportunities. The new space will provide room for programs such as robotics, coding, arts/music, and hands-on exploration that inspire creativity and curiosity in our students.

The opening of the new building will also allow students to have indoor eating space for the first time in the school's history. For many years, students have eaten outdoors regardless of the weather. The opening of the new facility will allow us to complete concurrent work on other spaces that will now allow students to enjoy meals together in a comfortable environment that encourages community, connection, and a stronger sense of belonging on campus.

Another exciting addition to our campus is the upcoming installation of Classroom of the Future Foundation garden boxes, which provide students with opportunities to learn about science, sustainability, and nutrition through hands-on experiences. These outdoor learning spaces help students understand where food comes from while developing responsibility and teamwork. We appreciate CFF and the many businesses who supported this effort. At Vallecitos, our mission is reflected in our motto: Dream, Learn, Achieve. Each day we work to ensure our students leave our campus prepared for the future, inspired to learn, and proud of their school community.

Vista Unified School District

1234 Arcadia Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-2170 • vistausd.org

Leveraging the Power of Possibilities



Dr. Matt Doyle
Superintendent

This year, our theme is The Pulse of Possibility: Academics and Pathways. It reflects our commitment to providing every student with high-quality learning experiences that feel meaningful and connected to their future. Whether a student is preparing for college, exploring a career, or discovering a path that is entirely their own, we want school to feel relevant and full of possibility. Every teacher and staff member plays a key role in bringing our theme to life for every student we serve.

Our district vision remains clear: *Every student will graduate from Vista Unified as a resilient, agile learner and creative problem solver who approaches the world with confidence and kindness.* This vision is more important than ever as the world our students are stepping into continues to become increasingly complex. By working together, we can help them grow into the thoughtful and capable leaders our future needs. Our district, in concert with our community partners, is aligned to the skills, abilities, and dispositions that the twentieth century world of work demands. We are leveraging the power of possibilities every student brings to school every day to prepare them for success in life.

Valley Center-Pauma Unified School District

28751 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center, CA 92082 • 760/749-0464 • <https://www.vcpusd.org>

Growing Tomorrow's Leaders



Mark Hailwood
Superintendent

Valley Center-Pauma Unified School District is shaped by a community that values connection, tradition, and the unique character of small-town life. Families choose to live here for its close-knit neighborhoods and strong sense of belonging, and those same qualities are reflected in our schools, where students are known by name and relationships remain at the heart of the educational experience.

Having served Valley Center-Pauma Unified for 18 years as a teacher, principal, Assistant Superintendent, and now Superintendent, I have come to appreciate that the true measure of a school district is found in its people. Each day, staff members create welcoming environments where students feel safe, challenged, and supported, not through grand gestures, but through consistent care, high expectations, and genuine connection.

Our schools provide strong academic programs alongside opportunities in Career Technical Education, athletics, including CIF competition, visual and performing arts, and student leadership. These experiences allow students to explore their interests while developing the confidence, teamwork, and responsibility needed for success beyond graduation.

Like many districts, we navigate evolving educational demands and changing student needs. Our focus remains steady: thoughtful decision-making, responsible stewardship of resources, and a continued commitment to ensuring every student has access to meaningful learning opportunities, supported by a School Board that shares our vision and dedication to student success.

Valley Center-Pauma Unified is defined by a partnership between educators, families, and the community we serve. It is a privilege to work with our dedicated staff in serving this extraordinary community, where relationships and shared purpose guide our efforts to prepare tomorrow's leaders together.

Until the last moment, until the last child, we serve, we lead, we grow.

Warner Unified School District

30951 Highway 79, Warner Springs, CA 92086 • 760/782-3517 • www.warnerusd.net

Strengthening. Modernizing. Caring for Kids.



Andrea Sissons
Superintendent

Warner Unified School District has been serving the students in our community since 1938. Our District was formed to provide education to three local Native American Tribes and other small neighborhoods over 430 square miles of San Diego County's backcountry. At the heart of our District lies our capable students and our outstanding staff.

Our students attend Preschool to 12th Grade on one beautiful campus and in many cases, their parents and grandparents did the same. Warner staff members are here to provide a unique and individually tailored education for each of our 240 students. We proudly serve scratch cooked meals for breakfast and lunch every day in our cafeteria.

San Diego County and SDCOE recently awarded us with a substantial grant and have fully updated our IT capabilities. We are in the first year of a career exploration wheel for all Middle and High students with exposure to various career fields including First Responder/EMT, Culinary Arts, Welding and Engineering Basics. We continue to offer Tech, Spanish and Art classes to all grades.

Warner's full time Principal is in his 2nd year of supporting, coaching and mentoring both staff and students with his decades of experience in education. Our teaching staff is getting the training and support they need to put their best effort into our students. As a result of this effort, we are starting to see our academic results improve. At Warner, the opportunity for growth and progress are immeasurable and I'm honored to be a part of what's to come.

Caring for our schools means caring for the people behind them.



ECS has become a part of our district family, supporting our employees and students both in and out of the classroom.

David Miyashiro
Superintendent
Cajon Valley Union School District



Their consistent presence and support of our staff reflects a deep commitment to public education and to the communities we serve.

Dr. Patrick Keeley
Superintendent
Mountain Empire Unified School District

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