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K – 12 Public Schools

2023–2024

2nd  
Edition



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**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



This is our 2nd edition of the San Diego County Superintendents K-12 public schools publication. The quality of our communities are directly related to the quality of our public schools.

The brief articles herein are only an introduction. Each of the district web sites are in their mastheads where you can go online to read in-depth information. Several district's information was not received by press time.

Thank you for including *School News Roll Call* among your reading choices.



## 2nd Annual Edition

Covering the  
**San Diego County  
Public Schools K-12  
Superintendents**

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# San Diego County Office of Education

6401 Linda Vista Rd., San Diego, CA 92111 • 858/292-3500 • <https://www.sdcoe.net>



**Dr. Paul Gothold**  
Superintendent

## Committed to Community

Our incoming 2022 seniors were finishing their freshmen year when a pandemic closed campuses across our state. Our current kindergartners were barely toddlers. In our educational systems, the past three years zoomed past in a blur of doing everything we could to support our students and families through something no one had lived through before.

This (finally) felt like the first year since we heard of “COVID-19” that the San Diego County Office of Education and our schools and districts in the region could stop reacting to outside forces and start building and responding.

We know the past several years have been challenging for families, students, and school staff workers. Our children are more than test scores, and our employees aren't robots. We can't be successful without supports, relationships, and strong foundations.

## Community Schools Model

This year, SDCOE focused on the community schools model to take our collective work to the next level. Community schools are campuses where every classroom is focused on high-quality teaching and learning, every student is connected to the services they need, and every family is empowered to partner in decision making.

SDCOE was selected by the State Board of Education to serve as one of eight regional leads for the statewide effort by providing assistance to emerging and existing community schools through creating support networks, sharing best practices, planning for success, leveraging funding, and coordinating services.

The community schools model supports our ongoing educational equity efforts and our local goal of reducing the number of students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch from 49% to 35% by 2027.

We plan to achieve this by:

- Ensuring active family and community engagement by partnering with families to create successful outcomes for students.
- Integrating student supports so that each student has what they need to thrive in and out of school.
- Offering expanded and enriched learning opportunities to cultivate a love for learning and a pathway to careers and future community success.
- Engaging in collaborative leadership practices where each educational partner embraces shared responsibility to one another's success.

By being intentional about this work and doing it across our organization, we will ensure that all children — and their families — are well and thriving.

## Whole Child, Educator, and Caregiver

Just as we know the importance of a child having a full stomach to be able to learn, so too is their emotional well-being and mental health. The same is true of the adults on our campuses and in our districts, mental health awareness is a critical component to our work.

SDCOE created a Whole Child and Community Design department to support districts and schools to transform existing systems that limit whole child health

and community well-being by eliminating existing barriers and creating new opportunities to thrive. This is in addition to our teams that have been continuing to support student health and well-being through a virtual wellness center, free webinars for educators, parents, and caregivers, and timely resource guides; train educators in restorative practices; connect with family and community liaisons; partner with local leaders on drug prevention and awareness efforts; and provide wrap-around supports for school social workers and school counselors.

Integrated with our whole child supports is a growing effort to strengthen the program coherence for students from preschool to 3rd grade. SDCOE has a cross-divisional team with experts in early education, curriculum and instruction, expanded learning, human resources, family and community engagement, and communications to support districts as they implement the state requirement for universal transitional kindergarten (TK). SDCOE created a Transitional Kindergarten Pathway program for current San Diego-area, multi-subject credentialed teachers to meet certification requirements to teach TK.

## Leading for Equity

Equity is at the heart of everything we do at SDCOE. Equity isn't just something we talk about, but something we incorporate into all our efforts with the goal of ensuring that our students feel loved, valued, and respected with each held to the highest expectations and given the support to succeed.

That's why, in addition to our well-attended annual Equity Conference, SDCOE applied for and received grant funding to lead multiple efforts across the region and state.

- Native Scholars Pathway is a federally-funded, community-driven project to help K-12 American Indian/Alaska Native students in San Diego County become college- and career-ready.
- California Literacy Elevation by Accelerating Reading, or Project CLEAR, is a learning acceleration system through the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence to build teachers leaders who can train and coach teachers to implement comprehensive literacy strategies and interventions or students who have reading, writing, and language-based needs.
- As part of California's Comprehensive Literacy State Development grant, SDCOE partnered with other county offices of education to build school capacity to support students who are English learners and students struggling with reading, including students with disabilities and students with dyslexia.
- SDCOE is leading the work on the Native American Studies Model Curriculum and is the lead agency to provide professional development to districts as they create or expand ethnic studies courses using the state-adopted ethnic studies model curriculum to students in grades 9 to 12.

At the end of the day, SDCOE exists to empower students in the programs we operate as well as all of the students who attend schools throughout San Diego County. I know our school communities are committed to ensuring every child has what they need to thrive now and in the future.

## Alpine Union School District

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

# Creating Future Engineering Leaders



**Dr. Richard Newman**  
Superintendent

The Alpine Union School District is preparing engineers for the future. Students as early as kindergarten and across the elementary and middle school continuum are introduced to engineering concepts, while middle school students compete locally, across the state, and nationally.

The middle school engineering and robotics program does more than just talk about robots! Students are led through the engineering design process as they design, build, test, modify and program robots to achieve specific and complex tasks! Students apply math and science concepts, practice critical thinking and engage in research as they work to solve problems based on real-world situations.

The engineering program has won local, county, and national awards and recently placed in the top five across the nation. In fact, the team designed a real-world project that teaches pool owners how to schedule their pool pump for the best efficiency, saving them money and energy. Based on the research conducted by Joan MacQueen Middle School students, the approach developed could save our San Diego region enough energy to power approximately 22,000 homes each day. Based on the results of this project, the engineering team won the opportunity to compete against international teams.

The Alpine Union School District continues to grow its engineering program and partners with local business owners to expand the opportunities for students to experience real-world challenges and work with industry experts for in-demand and future careers.

## Bonsall Unified School District

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

# High Level of Excellence



**Joseph Clevenger**  
Superintendent

Since 1895, the Bonsall school district has been celebrated for outstanding academic achievement. Over 125 years later, this high level of excellence continues.

In addition to strong learning and achievement inside the classroom, our schools value creativity and expression for all students. Access to the Arts and Music is available at all grade levels, pre-K through 12th. STEM learning continues to be a high priority as Bonsall Unified School District prepares students for college and career through engaging electives and internships beginning as early as 4th grade and continuing through 12th grade. STEM courses include advanced

manufacturing, coding, and computer science. Bonsall High School offers a robust series of advanced coursework for students, including Advanced Placement and the BHS Early College Program. The Early College Program allows students to take college-level courses on college campuses during their regular school day at no cost.

Bonsall Unified offers competitive sports at the middle and high school levels. Baseball and softball are BUSD's most recent additions to the California Interscholastic Federation ("CIF"). Bonsall Unified teams compete and win at the highest levels, and we continue to expand our CIF Sports program. BUSD Theatre, Speech and Debate, and Mock Trial teams are thriving.

Bonsall Unified schools focus on building character and patriotism and have received distinguished recognition for outstanding support to our military families and students.

Bonsall Unified School District is proud to offer each student this unique blend of tradition and innovation. Bonsall Unified School District a great place to learn.

## Cajon Valley Union School District

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

# Modern Practices and Curriculum



**Dr. David Miyashiro**  
Superintendent

The Cajon Valley Union School District is recognized globally for its modern practices and curriculum beginning with their transition to a 1:1 technology ecosystem of blended and personalized learning in 2013. Closing the digital divide for students and teachers paved the way for modern curriculum and the development of "The World of Work", a comprehensive K-12 Career Development, Financial Empowerment, and Social Emotional Learning solution.

The World of Work and TED Ed Presentation Literacy, another signature program, provide Cajon Valley Students with a distinct competitive advantage in the global economy.

Named a 2019 Top Workplace in San Diego, Cajon Valley Union School District focuses on the positivity of each student's unique strengths, interests, and value with a deep commitment to service. Systemwide innovation in Cajon Valley was made possible by creating culture of engagement and tapping the creative genius of their team members. Cajon Valley's achievements have been featured in The Brookings Institute, Forbes, The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, and the US Department of Education among others.

The 8 Promises complete the Cajon Valley MVP (Mission, Vision, and Promise). Our Mission to make Cajon Valley "The Best Place to Live, Work, Play, and Raise a Family" and our Vision of "Happy Kids, Engaged in Healthy Relationships, on a Path to Gainful Employment" are delivered 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 (8) Deliver Impeccable Service.

For more detail visit us online at [www.cajonvalley.net](http://www.cajonvalley.net)



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# From Classroom to Career



**Dr. Benjamin Churchill**  
*Superintendent*

At Carlsbad Unified we strive to prepare our students with the future-ready skills they need to build successful careers and fulfilling lives. We aim to expose our young people to a wealth of career pathways, bringing the world of work into our classrooms, and taking students out to business and industry to find their passions.

A career at a design and production company? Students in the Carlsbad High School Broadcast Journalism Pathway receive hands-on technical training from industry professionals, learning about state-of-the-art graphics, show packages, and visual effects, all while producing an award-winning daily news program.

Or become an inventor and entrepreneur? Sage Creek High School Engineering Design Pathway students meet with inventors and entrepreneurs to learn about the process of taking an idea from a prototype to a final design, and how to scale a product into a successful business.

Profitable work in the building trades? Aviara Oaks Middle School students in the Architecture and Construction Pathway meet with industry leaders to learn about career opportunities in the building trades sector. The students are currently utilizing their wood-working skills to build a functional and comfortable product – an adirondack chair – and have begun taking orders for their creations.

As the job market and the economy continue to evolve, our approach to preparing students for their careers must evolve too. But what remains constant is the value of the employability skills reflected in our Graduate Profile: Effective Communicator and Collaborator, Lifelong Learner, Critical Thinker, College and Career-Ready Scholar, Ethical and Responsible Citizen, and Self-directed Individual.

# At Dehesa, It’s About the People



**Bradley Johnson**  
*Superintendent*

The Dehesa School District is known for its dedicated and talented teachers and staff who strive to provide the best education for their students. The small class sizes within the district allows for a more personalized learning experience for both student and teacher. The teachers are well-trained and have a deep understanding of the subjects they teach. Innovative teaching methods are used to make learning fun and engaging for all students. The district provides various professional development opportunities for the teachers to enhance their skills and knowledge, which in turn improves their teaching methodologies.

Staff work tirelessly to ensure that the schools are well-maintained and safe for the students. The district’s administrative staff are efficient and responsive to the needs of the students and their families. The district also has additional resources to assist students with emotional, social and academic needs.

Dehesa’s educators are a prime example of the importance of putting people first. With challenging times ahead, we are constantly seeking new ways to take care of our own. Our staff are passionate about their work and are dedicated to helping students achieve their full potential. I couldn’t be more proud of our District.

# Teaching with A Vision of Purpose



**Dr. Eduardo Reyes**  
*Superintendent*

Chula Vista Elementary School District (CVESD) is committed to ensuring that every student receives a high-quality education that prepares them for success in the future. As we celebrate 130 years as a school district this school year, our focus is on teaching and learning with a vision of purpose.

Our teachers and staff are committed to creating a positive and engaging learning environment where students can thrive daily. Students at CVESD experience a rigorous 21st-century learning environment with high-quality instruction, a technology-based curriculum, innovative programming, and strong visual and performing arts.

I believe that providing a well-rounded education is essential in helping students become successful individuals in and outside of the classroom. As the superintendent, I strive to create a community of lifelong learners and to empower our students to become responsible and active citizens.

I am excited to continue to work with our amazing staff, parents, and community to provide the best possible education for our students. Together, we can achieve our vision and ensure our students have the bright future they deserve

# An Exemplary Educational Experience



**Dr. Andrée Grey**  
*Superintendent*

It is our honor to serve the students, families, staff, and communities of Encinitas and south Carlsbad. Encinitas has had a long-standing tradition of providing an exemplary educational experience for students. From a strong and committed Board of Trustees, to the unique programming at each school, to the innovation in design thinking and real-world project-based learning, to the emphasis on the whole child, there is much to be proud of in EUSD!

Social emotional health has been a long standing value in our schools with our whole child focus, and we continue to advocate for the very best resources and strategies for our students. To

this end, our students have dedicated social emotional learning instruction and tiered supports to provide lifelong skills and strategies for health and wellness.

We continue to cultivate an environment for learning that is supportive, inclusive and welcoming of all children. It is our strong intent to address the inequities and racial injustices impacting education by ensuring all children are seen, heard and loved for their uniqueness and gifts. This is amplified by our work to personalize learning to support students’ needs, strengths, passions and individual learning styles. Our robust multi-tiered system of support provides high quality first instruction and layers of intervention as determined by our instructional teams.

We cherish the opportunity and privilege to be able to create and foster learning opportunities and relationships with the community we serve. Working together with our exceptional staff and dedicated families, we continue to achieve great things for children in Encinitas Union School District.

He who opens a school door, closes a prison.  
– Victor Hugo

# Achievement for Every Student



**Dr. Luis Rankins-Ibarra**  
Superintendent

In the Escondido Union School District, we are empowered, encouraged, engaged, and committed to actualizing the potential of every learner. Equity is achieved when all students receive the resources and support they need to be successful.

EUSD serves nearly 15,000 students from Transitional Kindergarten through 8th grade at 24 schools. We serve our community's youngest learners through our participation in the State Preschool Program.

Our team is committed to universal student achievement for every single child by providing high-quality, rigorous instruction in a positive and collaborative environment. Walk into any EUSD classroom, and you will witness extraordinary hands-on learning in safe, caring environments.

Ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of our students and employees – through social-emotional supports and careful planning – also is essential to achieving our goals. Our district continues to take the lead in innovation through the productive use of educational technology and by embracing progressive, multisensory approaches to literacy and math instruction. Every student is issued an iPad for use in the classroom and at home. On these devices, students are researching, creating, writing, calculating, and more.

In our educational program offerings, EUSD strives to meet the needs of our community. Full-day instruction is provided for 4-year-olds in Transitional Kindergarten and 5-year-olds in Kindergarten. Free before- and after-school programs include a variety of enrichment classes, from robotics to art, at all 23 of our in-person schools through our Expanded Learning Program. EUSD recognizes the benefits of second-language instruction at an early age, offering full dual-language immersion instruction at four elementary schools. Our K-8 Limitless Learning Academy provides an option for students who thrive in a virtual or hybrid learning environment.

I am proud to be a part of the Escondido community.

# From Wellness to Deeper Learning



**Dr. Anne Staffieri**  
Superintendent

Across the Escondido Union High School District, students are empowered to graduate prepared for college, career, and life through excellence in learning. As evidence of strong ongoing community partnerships, Student Wellness Centers in EUHSD have expanded resources, including a weekly dedicated behavioral health mobile unit on all high school campuses. This increases and enhances care access for students by providing ongoing individual and family counseling, case management, and crisis intervention. A dedicated behavioral health mobile unit, together with the Wellness Centers, complement EUHSD's commitment to social-emotional learning which includes the on-going implementation and refinement of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and Restorative Practices in every classroom. These contribute to a foundation of wellness and sound mental health to support optimal learning conditions for the district's focus on implementing deeper learning and providing academic access.

Rooted in the instructional focus, EUHSD's Deeper Learning means that every student can demonstrate and share their learning verbally, non-verbally, and in-writing by applying their content knowledge to a real-world issue. Deeper Learning is centered on engaging students in more meaningful/authentic learning experiences, exploring ways for them to share their learning publicly. Within EUHSD student's Deeper Learning can be witnessed in Presentations of Learning, productions of multimedia podcasts, application of the Principals of Art and Design to make custom logos, or by computer science students using a writing program or app to solve real world issues, to name a few.

The Escondido Union High School District is committed to providing students with a comprehensive education that includes Social Emotional Learning and Deeper Learning that prepares them for college, career, and life. These skills are essential for students to be successful in the 21st century and the district is dedicated to helping students develop these skills.

# Building a Culture of Safety



**Mary Beth Kastan**  
Superintendent


In the wake of Uvalde, school safety is on everyone's mind, and it's my top priority as Superintendent.

Our Governing Board held a special meeting to confirm Jay Farrington – a former Police Officer and District Attorney Investigator – as our new Director of School Safety. Mr. Farrington immediately went to work conducting needs assessments, strengthening security measures, and improving staff training.

Protecting our students from the horrors of human trafficking is a major point of emphasis. According to District Attorney Summer Stephan, *"San Diego County ranks in the top three areas in the state for human trafficking,"* and *"in the area of sex trafficking, minors are particularly vulnerable targets. Social media is one way traffickers access and exploit children."* Given that predators have turned to technology to lure potential victims, GUHSD empowered parents with the GoGuardian Parent tool which allows them to monitor their student's use of their district-issued devices – including browsing history, internet searches, and more.

We also recognize that students play an important role in keeping our campuses safe. If students witness potentially criminal behavior (violence, drugs, suspicious activity, etc.), speaking up can keep their friends safe and, in some cases, save lives. But speaking up is not always easy. That's why we've provided students with easy access to the P3 tip line on their district-issued devices so they can share anonymous tips with San Diego Crime Stoppers.

The reality is that teachers can't teach, and students can't learn, if they don't feel safe. These are just a few of the concrete measures we're taking to build a culture of safety at GUHSD.



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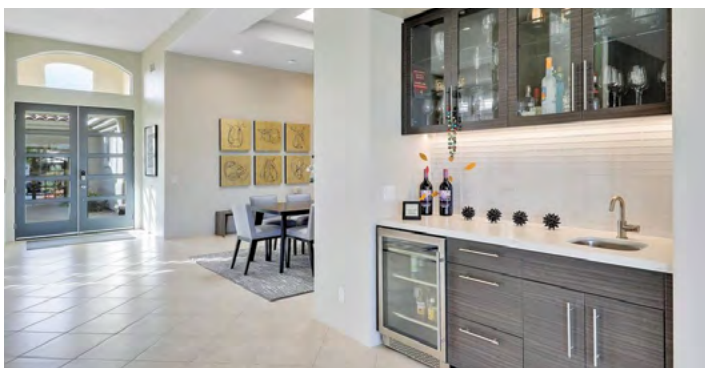
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# It's All About the Kids



**Elizabeth Bystedt**  
Superintendent

The Jamul-Dulzura Union School District was formed in 1949 and encompasses 163 square miles of semi-rural rolling hills in eastern San Diego county. Our district serves approximately 600 students in our two traditional schools and one charter school: Jamul Elementary School (TK-5) and Oak Grove Middle School (6-8). Our Greater San Diego Academy Home School serves an additional 200 students.

We believe we have one of the finest school districts, not only in San Diego county but the State of California. We have received awards for California Distinguished Schools at all three schools as well as the Blue Ribbon Award at Oak Grove Middle School. We are constantly striving to upgrade our educational program for students in our community.

- Mission Statement:** As a school-centered community in a diverse and changing world, we are committed to educating, enriching, and challenging every child by providing to all, excellence in leadership, instruction, opportunities, and resources that develop creative, cooperative, and caring lifelong learners, independent decision makers, and contributing citizens.
- We Believe In:** Respect, honesty, and integrity; Developing nurturing relationships; Taking personal responsibility for one's own actions
- We Believe:** Learning is a lifelong process; Everyone should have the opportunity to reach their full potential; People need to know they are valued; Diversity enriches society; It is the responsibility of the family and society to provide a safe and supportive environment for individual growth; Each of us has the responsibility to further the good of our community and society

# 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:
- [www.lmsvschools.org/enroll](http://www.lmsvschools.org/enroll)
  - [www.instagram.com/lmsv.schools](https://www.instagram.com/lmsv.schools)
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  - [www.youtube.com/@lmsvschools](https://www.youtube.com/@lmsvschools)

# Committed to Student Success




**Dr. Rhonda L. Taylor**  
Superintendent

Lakeside has a team like no other! We work together to create a unique learning environment for our students. It does not matter if one is in the maintenance department, driving a bus, preparing food, or performing many of the hundreds of duties it takes to keep this system running; we are committed to the success of the students in the Lakeside Union School District.

The lockdown that accompanied the Coronavirus Pandemic taught us to appreciate the small things we missed. Seeing our student's beautiful smiles and just being together in a rich learning environment were lost for a time. We now welcome and appreciate attending back-to-school nights, in-person parent conferences, and student performances with new enthusiasm and gratitude.

Like most in America, our students suffered academically and socially from the Pandemic. We are committed to providing tiered systems of support to help our students achieve at high rates. We are refocusing our efforts on creating students that fit our student profile. Students who Think Critically, Learn Continuously, Collaborate Constructively, Communicate Effectively, Persevere Relentlessly, and Care Deeply! In order to achieve this goal, we offer many pathways to connect our students to their learning environment and prepare them for their future. LUSD commits to developing students who are prepared for college or whatever career and/or work path they choose.

Our solid educational programs and diverse offerings attract families to our little town. We are proud of Lakeside, our students, and our families. The best is yet to come!



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[pacificmmc.org/distance-learning](http://pacificmmc.org/distance-learning)





# Endless Possibilities for Students



**Dr. Patrick Keeley**  
*Superintendent*

As a proud graduate of the Mountain Empire Unified School District, I am humbled by the opportunity to lead our school district community. Our collective efforts as a school district community this past year have launched many exciting new initiatives, including our Early Literacy Program, Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP), Senior Project Development, Adult School Classes, the opening of Pine Valley Preschool, and the upcoming consolidation and restoration of Mountain Empire Junior High.

We have begun laying the groundwork for our long term Strategic Vision, which is beginning with our Profile of a Graduate work. Our Profile of a Graduate is being developed by a team of educators, students, parents, and community members to define the skills (both academic and interpersonal) and competencies that all graduates from MEUSD will have. Our Strategic Vision will build off of this. While this work is certainly not finished, I am reminded each day of the endless possibilities for our students that are born from the hard work of so many dedicated people and a community that never stops rising to the occasion on behalf of the children.

Mountain Empire will continue to focus our efforts on prioritizing relationships, strong support for social and emotional health, building a foundation of learning through early literacy and meeting the needs of the greater Mountain Empire community.

# A District in Transformation



**Dr. Julie Vitale**  
*Superintendent*

The Oceanside Unified School District continues to prioritize the needs of our students. We are dedicated to a new vision guided by our Portrait of Graduate. This work was the culmination of a months-long journey with students, staff and community members. We created a shared vision of what a successful graduate looks like. In order to achieve that, we also examined what needs to be true about the adults and the system that supports our students.

Our Community Schools program has expanded to more campuses, now totaling six. These sites are designed to facilitate, and coordinate community partnerships, programs, and services while working with site administrators to ensure that the community has access to District programs.

Our dedication to providing students social and emotional support coming out of the pandemic remains strong. We increased staff support by adding Assistant Principals and school counselors full time to all of our campuses. Students also have access to extensive community resources.

We are a district in transformation. Thanks to the voters of Oceanside for passing Prop H and Measure W, millions of dollars are being used to renovate and modernize campuses across our district.

Follow us @OsideUSD across all social media, as we spread positivity online.

# Diversity as Value-Added



**Dr. Leighangela Brady**  
*Superintendent*

National School District (NSD) is a special community, and this year we are celebrating diversity as value-added. Diversity as value-added begins with trust. Trust is built by appreciating our identities and amplifying our abilities. Our identities are embedded in who we are. We identify by ethnicity, gender, religion, age, orientation, occupation. Our identities are not just in one descriptor, but a combination of descriptors that are unique to each one of us. Together we shape the identities of our students so that they see themselves in our district, and can imagine themselves in their future occupations.

To be value-added, we take time to recognize our unique identities and what we each individually bring to the table. We also embrace our abilities and what we do. It's the extra time we take to ensure that we shine, and teach students to care about the world that they live in. How we work together in the National School District creates a strong culture of belonging and mattering. This value-added culture is a collective effort that we all embrace. Each of us are leaders of this effort, and learners. Our commitment to adding value to our district, reinforces our core values of children first, relationships matter, and whatever it takes. It opens the doors to strong partnerships and adds value to our students' futures. Together we make a collective impact, not just in our district, but also in our National City community and the world. To learn more about the National School District and our value-added journey, follow us on Twitter at #NSDnow.

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# Poway Unified School District

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

## Continuing to Innovate and Improve



**Dr. Marian Kim Phelps**  
Superintendent

As we look ahead to 2023, what does the future of education hold for the Poway Unified School District? While our test scores remain among the highest in San Diego County and our accolades are many, PUSD must continue to innovate and improve. Our focus includes these key priorities:

**Mental Health and Wellness** - We significantly increased counseling and mental health supports in response to our students' heightened needs following the pandemic. This means school staff can recognize and respond to issues earlier, ensuring that students are getting help before they reach a crisis.

**Multiple Pathways** - No matter a student's learning style, passions, or strengths, there is a learning pathway for them. Our new Poway to Palomar Middle College allows dual enrollment in both high school and college classes. Our Connect Academy hybrid school blends the best of virtual and in-person teaching and learning. Our global language expansion will expose ALL elementary students to multiple languages. Expanded CTE opportunities include eSports, app creation, and data science.

**School Safety** - We are continually assessing and modifying our school campuses: reducing points of entry and exit, replacing outdated, compromised locks, improving fencing and exterior lighting, updating our video surveillance and security systems, and training our staff and students.

**Fiscal Outlook** - The state of the district's financial affairs is strong. Our school board and leadership team has been focused on enhancing fiscal transparency, stability, and trust related to the district's finances.

I look forward to a year with hope and optimism as PUSD works toward our vision of empowering world-class learners now and into the future.

# Ramona Unified School District

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

## Preparing Students for Their Future



**Dr. Brian Thurman**  
Superintendent

RUSD has a well-established vision of "Preparing Today's Learners for Tomorrow's World." As a result of dedicated district employees and an extremely supportive community, our students have opportunities unlike many school districts in southern California. Our athletic teams are led by talented, supportive coaches bringing home many awards, titles, and championships. Our students 'do' Science in many venues including Catalina Island field trips, Vernal Pool exploration of naturally occurring Fairy Shrimp on district property, and overnight camps to the mountains. Our students demonstrate high-level job skills in state and national Skills-USA competitions winning state and national competitions with students receiving awards this year in the following categories:

- Power Equipment Technology • Automotive Service Technology
- Commercial Baking • Motorcycle Service Technology • Individual Carpentry
- Engineering Technology/Design • Diesel Equipment Technology
- Maintenance and Light Repair • Masonry • Electrical Construction Wiring

Our NJROTC students compete in Marksmanship competitions qualifying for the Navy Nationals to be held in Utah. Our Future Farmers of America (FFA) students excel throughout the county, state and the nation including recent graduates receiving the American FFA Degree, the highest honor awarded through the FFA organization which only about 1% of the National FFA Membership of 850,853 participants receive each year. RUSD offers Career and Technical Education pathways including:

- System Diagnostics, Services & Repairs • Welding & Materials
- Graphic Production & Entertainment • Software & Systems Development
- Food Services & Hospitality • Engineering Design • AgriScience

RUSD and our supportive community are very proud of all 5000 of our TK-12th grade students!



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# Preparing Lifelong Learners



**Tina Douglas**  
Interim  
Superintendent

The San Dieguito Union High School District (SDUHSD) has consistently earned its reputation as a high-performing district with exceptional students, exceptional educators and quality programs built to engage students, inspire achievement and service to others, and prepare them to be lifelong learners.

With five middle and five high schools covering the North County of San Diego, SDUHSD serves over 12,000 students with over 1,000 employees working together to make our school communities some of the best in the state.

I have been at SDUHSD for almost six years as an Associate Superintendent of Business Services, but for the 2022-23 school year I graciously accepted the temporary role as the Interim Superintendent of this wonderful district as a familiar face to best continue our path forward.

New school years always bring about an element of change, from the thousands of new students that transfer in or join us from an elementary feeder district, to the new staff members who guide our students academically and run our schools efficiently, to the new principals who bring new energy and ideas for our students. However, one thing remains constant and that is the exceptional service that we provide to our students and the belief from our community that we are preparing them for whatever their futures may hold.

This year working as the Interim Superintendent has reinforced my love for this District and dedication to the students, teachers and staff that make SDUHSD such a special place.

This is why I end every message to our school community with the same words because I truly believe them when I say to our SDUHSD students, parents and employees that “It is my honor to work for you!”

# A Fresh Vision: Future Ready



**Dr. Andrew S. Johnsen**  
Superintendent

At the San Marcos Unified School District, over this last year we realized the time was right to cast a fresh vision to ensure we are preparing students with the experiences and skills they will need after graduation. The result was nearly a year of work that culminated into our Portrait of a Graduate, our vision to ensure our students leave the SMUSD ready to pursue whatever future path they choose, or as we call it, Future Ready. This also resulted in a Strategic Plan which serves as the roadmap for how we will achieve this—it is our Strategic Promise to all SMUSD students.

In addition to casting this fresh vision to lead SMUSD into the future, we have also just completed the reconstruction of Richland Elementary School. Previously the oldest school in the San Marcos Unified School District, built in 1960, Richland is now a brand new modernized campus, equipped for Future Ready learning.

We have also taken this last year to refocus our efforts on all the components of school safety. We are the first school district in San Diego County to have a team from each school site and the District Office engage in the rigorous Diamond Safety Training to help keep our students and campuses safe.

But safety extends farther than physical surroundings and staff training, this is why we are also simultaneously addressing student mental health. We have just launched a new mental health program for all students: “Let’s Face It. Together.” This program and campaign includes Wellness Teams and a 24/7 crisis text line for students.

We are honored to be engaging in such important work that will help shape the future of our students and SMUSD for years to come.



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## San Ysidro School District

4350 Otay Mesa Rd., San Ysidro, CA 92173 • 619/428-4476 • <https://www.sysdschools.org>

### Rise Above! ¡Asciende!



**Dr. Gina Potter**  
*Superintendent*

Each school year our district embraces a theme that encompasses and inspires us to achieve our goals for the new school year. As a learning community, we also ensure that our annual school year theme tightly aligns with our mission statement; “Quality Education and Opportunity For All Students To Succeed.” This school year’s theme is “Rise Above/Asciende!” During our yearly district family “Back to School Event”, we proudly unveil the theme of the year and celebrate and promote it with pins and banners displayed throughout our district. This year’s theme is reminiscent of the incredible work our district family did over the last few years of the COVID pandemic to save lives, feed our children and community, ensure a high-quality education for students, and help our families survive and thrive.

Our district formed an ecosystem of support for our students, staff, and community. Over 40 partners stepped up to provide extensive support and resources to help navigate the challenges that were created during the pandemic and clear the path for a successful learning environment. Our district family remained united and focused on collectively providing humanitarian efforts to help our students and their families recover from the residual effects of the pandemic.

Our district is now poised and determined to “Rise Above/Asciende” the learning, social and emotional challenges that our students and staff faced during these unprecedented past two years. We have built a positive school culture and learning environment to ensure our students achieve success academically, socially, and emotionally as they continue their educational journey.

## Santee School District

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

### Great Expectations for 2023



**Dr. Kristin Baranski**  
*Superintendent*

This year our district is devoted to great expectations for student learning and well-being and professional growth for our employees. Amidst the various obstacles over the past few years, our students and staff learned to be more resilient, thoughtful, and creative. We are building upon the successes we encountered in educating our students through those challenges by reimagining our expectations for how our team can meet student needs. Through district-wide professional learning opportunities, collective site leadership goals, and the ongoing analysis of multiple assessment measures, district leadership is focused on providing various opportunities for staff to cultivate their craft.

This reimagining of expectations is driven and supported by a governing team that remains active in policy development and implementation to ensure our students and staff have the resources they need to learn and grow.

I look forward to sharing the many ways we have reimagined how to provide an extraordinary education in an inspiring environment with caring people.

**A man’s mind, stretched by new ideas,  
may never return to its original dimensions.  
– Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.**

## South Bay Union School District

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

### Reflect, Redefine and Rebuild



**Jose Espinoza**  
*Superintendent*

South Bay serves 6,500 students in one Preschool, nine TK/K-6 campuses, one TK-6 Virtual Academy, and two dependent TK-8 charter schools in south San Diego County. Our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) establishes our goals for the next three years.

Goal 1 ensures academic excellence through a differentiated, responsive, and well-rounded program based on instructional practices that make a significant difference in the lives of students. This goal is critical to support literacy and language development, and to provide an education that is responsive and engaging.

Our next goal advances equity and inclusion through the elimination of systemic barriers to individual success and the development of culturally responsive practices. Given the population of the community we serve, it is imperative to advance equity and access for every student.

Our final goal centers on providing welcoming, safe, and nurturing environments that support the social-emotional needs of students and foster a sense of belonging and connectedness. We also recognize that supporting the social-emotional needs of students is imperative if we are to see academic gains.

This year, we are reflecting on the entire system to measure our progress on these goals. We hope to redefine success for our students and staff and rebuild South Bay to accomplish our goals and provide an outstanding educational experience for all.

I am proud to lead South Bay and am grateful for the support of our staff, families, and community.

## Solana Beach School District

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

### Committed to Equity in Schools



**Jodee Brentlinger**  
*Superintendent*

Solana Beach School District (SBSD) is committed to learning environments where students feel heard and safe to express themselves as individuals. The SBSB Board of Education adopted policy regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in spring 2020 which began the district’s long-term focus on equity. The 2021-22 school year launched the district’s refreshed Mission and Vision complete with systemwide support for access to learning experiences with successful outcomes. Partnering with SDCOE, SBSB’s Board and district leaders established an Equity Committee comprised of representatives from the district office and school sites.

Throughout 2022-23, SBSB expanded professional learning across the District and school sites; training focused on fostering inclusive environments and creating a sense of belonging for all. Efforts prioritized honoring the diverse backgrounds of families, and the broader world in which our students live. In addition, SBSB is intentionally focusing on asset-based language and student strengths. This deliberate reframing allows us to hone in on the positive potential of students and reinforce a growth mindset.

SBSD also partnered with TransFamily Support Services to provide workshops for every staff member. These informative, empathy-building sessions were welcomed and appreciated in order to better assist supporting gender diversity. These are just a few of the ongoing efforts by SBSB. Recontextualizing language to respect and uplift our communities, developing and implementing actions that include and support everyone is essential to creating welcoming environments where students and staff feel a sense of belonging and inclusion. As this important work continues, stakeholders have shared their stories and worked to create brave spaces where open dialogue and challenging conversations are welcome and encouraged.



# Acceleration of Teaching and Learning



Dr. Moisés G. Aguirre  
Superintendent

This year our focus in the Sweetwater Union High School District (SUHSD) has been recovery from the pandemic with a specific emphasis on acceleration of Teaching and Learning. This acceleration is focused on supporting our students’ learning, as well as their physical and mental well-being. In Sweetwater we continue to take pride in course offerings that are analyzed by student data with monitored evidence-based practices that best support our students.

The Sweetwater District is referring to Michael Fullan’s “Coherence Framework” which includes the following:  
1) Focusing Direction 2) Cultivating Collaborative Cultures  
3) Securing Accountability and 4) Deepening Learning.

This acceleration also extends to district-wide school site construction, improvements, and modernization projects. In 2022, the district completed four major construction and modernization projects that include: a new Track and Field, Aquatics Facility, Science Building, NJROTC Modernization Building, and future projects in store. Any, and all improvements to our school site facilities is something we strive to prioritize in maintaining and modernizing our campuses. With each new building and project, we are committed to work towards upgrading schools to enhance the learning environment of all students.

We believe in our steadfast approach to providing quality service to our stakeholders, as well as a constant review of our instructional and operational practices to help us be the learning organization that our students and our community needs.

On behalf of myself and the entire SUHSD network, we take pride in the work being done each day to invest in our staff to ensure we have the tools and support to guide our students academically.

# We Serve. We Lead. We Grow.



Ron McCowan  
Superintendent

Valley Center-Pauma is one of California’s most beautiful areas, from the rolling pastures to the magnificent mountain views. For the past five years, I have had the privilege of serving as the Superintendent of Valley Center-Pauma Unified. Our community is growing, all the while retaining the rural atmosphere that so many people are seeking. As more and more families call our country paradise home, we welcome them with open arms. A large number of alumni return here to raise their families and many have gone on to work and teach in our district. This fact alone speaks volumes about the quality of life in our community. Our district serves nearly 4,000 students and

comprises four elementary, a middle, a high school, and an alternative high school, plus an independent study program. Our technology is state of the art. We are proud to offer career technical opportunities such as culinary arts, woodworking, auto-shop, and music and agricultural programs. Our smaller size allows our students to take advantage of many extracurricular activities. It is not unusual for our high school students to play multiple sports while also participating in performing arts and clubs.

I have been honored to serve over the past 30 years as an educator in Valley Center-Pauma. For me, Valley Center-Pauma represents the best Southern California has to offer. It is truly an exceptional place to live, learn and work.

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

# Onward and Upward!



Meliton Sanchez  
Superintendent

The faculty, staff, and students at Vallecitos School District had the unique experience of meeting four different Superintendents from July 1 through December 1 of the current year. Despite the leadership changes, our team pulled together, persevered, and worked hard to maintain continuity of services and sustain the expectations and programs that VSD offers to the community of Rainbow. Our District begins the 2023 calendar year fully staffed with a powerful sense of optimism about our ability to remove barriers to learning by increasing access to learning supports and nurturing the whole child.

This effort includes strategies to support the physical well-being of our students. We are expanding our nutrition program to include supper, which will offer a nutritious afternoon meal to all youth under the age of eighteen and will benefit the entire community of Rainbow. We also hired a teacher dedicated to providing age-appropriate instruction in Health and Physical Education to support the physical health of students across the TK-8th grade span.

VSD received the Community Schools grant, which will strengthen our collaboration with the agencies that support nurturing the whole child and their family’s needs. We hired a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Coordinator and a Social-Emotional Learning Specialist who work to ensure that students successfully manage stress, anger, trauma, and other emotions that impede their learning. Vallecitos also offers a before and after school program that provides a safe place to support our students’ development and growth. We remain excited and optimistic for what our future holds.



**Philatelist**

C.E. Hall is an independent fire investigator that collects stamps in his spare time. He sees each stamp as a small piece of art with a history from the time it is printed to its last owner. Returning from an investigation he buys a stamp album that belonged to an old German woman that was not what she appeared. Now a powerful, influential secret organization that wants its album back at all cost. The album could expose political business to embarrassing and unlawful acts over the past 56 years. C.E. is in a race to discover the secret of the album before the organization finds him and the album. The trail is littered with murder and secrets of the past.



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# Vista Unified School District

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## A New Vision for the Future



**Dr. Matt Doyle**  
Superintendent

The Vista Unified School District sees the pandemic as an opportunity to accelerate changes in education so that students become active agents in their learning pathway. We engaged our entire community over the past year to co-construct a Framework for the Future that contains our vision, a set of portraits, and our values. We will be focusing our efforts throughout the year operationalizing our new Framework for the Future so that all students have the opportunity to learn and grow in the most dynamic, relevant, and supportive educational environment possible.

A “vision” is a bold leap into the future, painting a vivid picture of a destination - a “north star” that guides collective action and shapes the strategies to make it a reality.

*Our vision is that every student graduates from Vista Unified as a resilient, agile learner and creative problem solver who navigates the world with confidence and kindness and eagerly embraces local and global challenges.*

We have also worked with our community for more than ten months to develop three key portraits (Learner, Adult, and System) within our organization that will guide our efforts to realize our new vision for the future. The first, a Learner Portrait describes the community’s aspirations for what learners will know, be, and be able to do in order to thrive in their lives and careers. This includes the following key attributes: **Kind and Confident, Curious and Connected, Capable and Knowledgeable.**

Transformation in education is upon us locally, nationally, and globally. Vista Unified is committed to creating new learning environments and opportunities for students that better prepare them for an ever expanding and increasingly complex global society.

# Warner Unified School District

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

## The Warner Hub



**David MacLeod**  
Superintendent

Warner Unified School District has some very exciting news coming soon about innovation. We have partnered with a large corporation to bring new technology and education innovation into our classrooms. Sadly we can’t announce this until the end of February. We have made great strides in closing the digital divide in our district.

Warner Unified is currently developing its community school program called the Warner Hub. We are working hard at building partnerships with other organizations in the backcountry and within the county to make sure our students and families have their needs met before arriving at our schools.

We have completely remodeled one of our buildings to be the new Warner Hub headquarters. There is significant evidence to support this approach. Research shows that integrated student supports are associated with positive student outcomes. Students receiving school-based supports often show significant improvements in attendance, behavior, social well-being, and academic achievement. The Warner Hub will develop partnerships with community-based providers and connect students and families with available services, as well as foster a positive and healthy school climate. We have already partnered with several local tribal communities and other nonprofits.

We are proud of our students, teachers, support staff, and administrators who are dedicated to improving student achievement and well-being each and every day. We encourage all parents and community members to visit our schools and see the great things happening. Go Wildcats!



# HistoryDepot



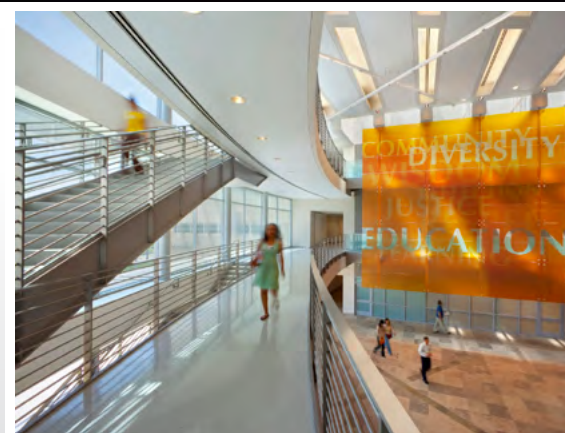
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