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A Shared Call for the Year Ahead: All. Together. Now.



Dr. Stefan Bean
Superintendent

Four lads from Liverpool known as The Beatles wrote plenty of songs about love, possibility and the human experience. (And at least one about an octopus.) But there's a title from their varied catalog that sounds less like a song and more like a call to action: All Together Now.

Of course, this is a phrase that a conductor, bandleader or music teacher might use just before everyone joins in. But when we separate those three words, the meaning becomes something more:

All. Together. Now.

Now it can be heard as an urgent rallying cry — and one that speaks directly to our work. It captures both the shared responsibility we have to support students, families, educators and school communities across Orange County and the gravity of this moment. As such, it's a theme I plan to return to throughout the year, including at our next State of Education event.

Let's quickly break it down.

"All" means every student, every family, every educator and every community. It's about recognizing that students come to us with different experiences, strengths and needs while holding the same belief for each of them: You belong here. Your future matters. You deserve the opportunity to become the best version of yourself.

"Together" reminds us that education is a shared endeavor. Students succeed because people notice them, believe in them and open doors for them. Teachers work alongside families. Schools work alongside community partners. Districts learn from one another. Across Orange County, progress happens when we come together, listen, lift one another and build systems that help every student see what is possible.

And then there is "Now."

We are at a defining moment of consequence and possibility for public education. Enrollment patterns continue to shift, creating financial pressures for school systems whose funding is closely tied to student attendance. Districts are being asked to plan carefully, manage rising costs and make difficult decisions while continuing to provide strong educational programs.

At the same time, new investments are creating opportunities to strengthen student supports, expand professional learning, advance literacy, support special education and sustain important work through community schools and expanded learning programs. Our responsibility is to use these opportunities wisely, thoughtfully and with a clear focus on results.

At OCDE, our work takes two forms: We support Orange County's 28 school districts through fiscal oversight, technical assistance, instructional leadership and specialized services, and we directly serve the county's most vulnerable students through our own schools and programs. To bolster both responsibilities, we are aligning our organization around two complementary pillars: educational excellence and operational excellence.

Educational excellence reflects our commitment to strong instruction, innovative programs and meaningful support for students, schools and educators. Operational excellence ensures that the people, systems, resources and services behind that work are aligned, responsive and prepared for what comes next. Neither pillar stands alone. Together, they create a stronger foundation for everything we do, based on the vision of [our 5-3-1 Strategic Plan](#).

Now let's get back to those three words: All. Together. Now.

As we begin a new school year, let this become more than a song title or familiar phrase. Let it be our shared cue for the year ahead — to include all, to work together, to focus on what matters and to begin immediately.

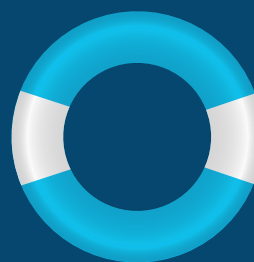
And yes, I realize I may have just put a Beatles song in your head. But maybe this particular earworm is a good thing.

It reminds us that inspiration can come from anywhere, and that timeless messages — like timeless songs — have a way of staying with us.

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At AESD, Together We Rise



Jesús Chavarria
Superintendent

Before students can reach their full potential, they need more than strong instruction. They need to feel safe, supported, and happy to come to school. At the Anaheim Elementary School District, that belief guides how we serve every student, every day. It is also the meaning behind this year's District theme, Together We Rise. When our employees, families, and community partners work together for children, we create schools where students feel they belong and have every opportunity to succeed. This year, all 23 AESD schools earned recognition from the California PBIS Coalition, reflecting our commitment to safe, positive, and welcoming schools. Through PBIS, students learn clear expectations, are recognized for positive behavior, and receive support when they need it.

Our responsibility also extends beyond the classroom. As Community Schools, all 23 campuses connect families with resources supporting academics, health and wellness, family engagement, and basic needs. We listen, connect families with assistance, and work alongside community partners to help remove barriers to learning. Our Promise to Every Student by 2030 keeps us focused on our most important responsibility: ensuring every child receives a strong education. Our goals include improving literacy and mathematics, strengthening belonging, helping every child discover a passion, and increasing student success.

There is much to be proud of, and more work ahead. With the leadership of our Board of Education and the commitment of our employees, families, students, and community partners, we continue moving forward together. When we remain focused on children and work together as one Anaheim community, our students rise, our schools rise, and our community rises. Together, We Rise.

Redesigning Schools Around the Whole Child



Dr. Jaron Fried
Superintendent

At Anaheim Union High School District, we believe the future of education depends on reimagining what school can be and who gets to shape it. Through our Community Schools approach, we are redesigning learning around the whole child, recognizing that students thrive when schools are deeply connected to their families, communities and the world around them. Our vision extends beyond traditional content standards. While academic knowledge remains essential, we intentionally create opportunities for community-based learning, civic engagement and the development of the 21st-century skills we call the 5Cs: communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and character. These experiences help

students connect what they learn in classrooms to authentic challenges and opportunities beyond school.

Central to this work is shared leadership. We are committed to uplifting the voices of students, families, educators, community partners and local leaders to co-create the learning experiences taking place in our classrooms. When those closest to our students have a meaningful voice in shaping their education, learning becomes more relevant, purposeful and powerful.

California has recognized AUHSD as one of three deep-dive transformational districts leading this work statewide. We are honored by that recognition, but even more excited by the opportunity to learn alongside others. We have had the privilege of hosting "Leading and Learning" visits for educators from across California and the nation, opening our schools and classrooms so that we can share what we are learning while learning from others.

Redesigning schools is not a destination. It is an ongoing commitment to ensuring every student has the opportunity to discover their purpose, develop their voice and contribute meaningfully to their community and world.



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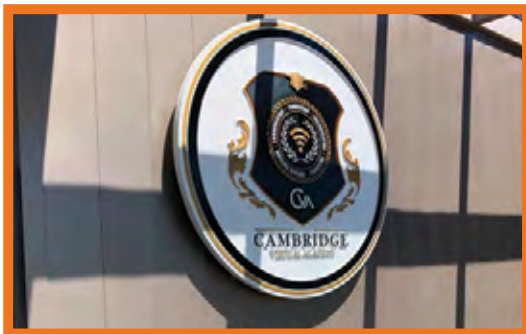
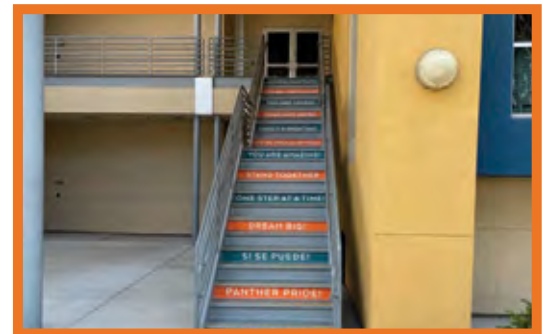
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I am often asked what makes BOUSD different. We are proud of our programs, facilities, and opportunities, but what truly distinguishes our district is much more meaningful. **The Bread Difference is our people**—and what they make possible for students. That commitment is reflected in the extraordinary accomplishments of our students. BOUSD is home to award-winning academics and athletics, outstanding arts programs, innovative STEM and technical education, dual-language learning, early college, and programs that prepare students for a rapidly changing world.

Our work toward modernizing and improving our facilities continues. Thanks to our community's support of Measure H, exciting work is happening across the District—investments that will benefit generations of Brea students and families for many years to come.

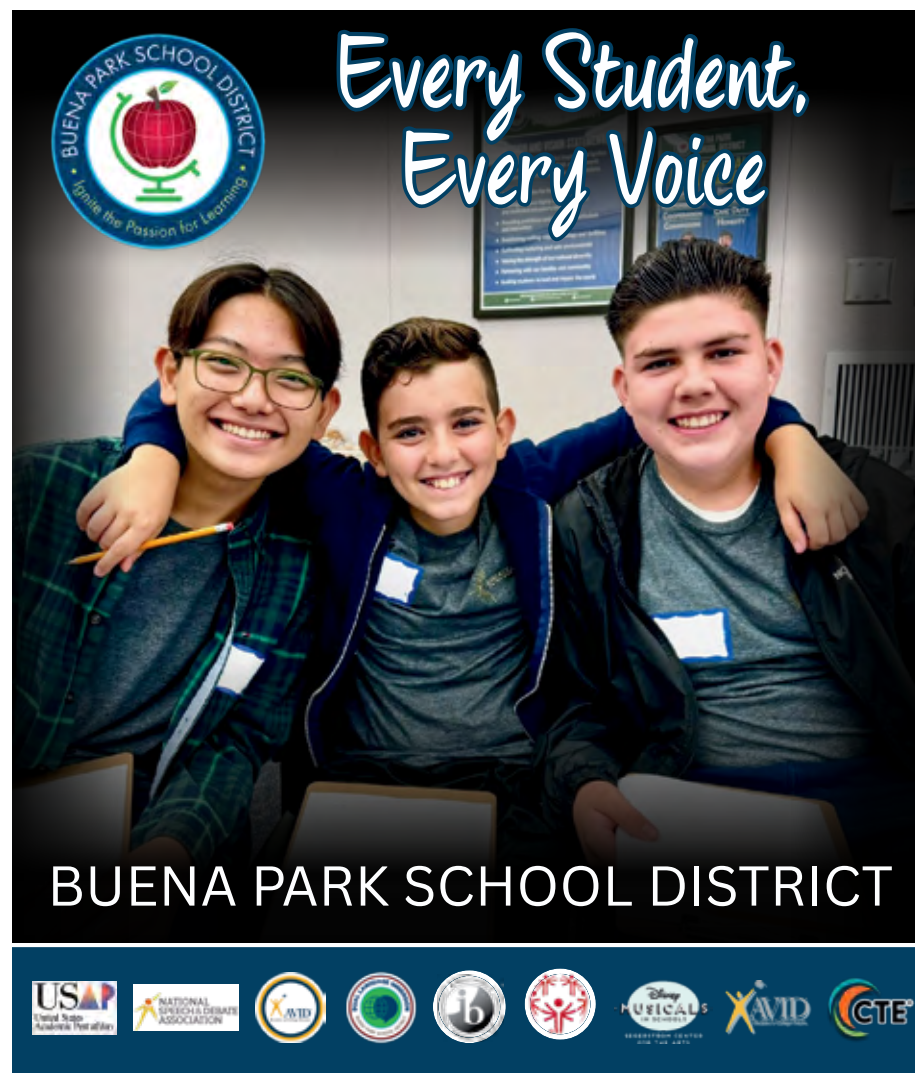
Brinda C. Leon
Superintendent



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Dr. Julianne Lee
Superintendent

Our pride in the CLSBA L.E.A.D. Award reflects our pride in the spirit that it embodies. Every student is important and deserves to be heard. The significance of this award lies in the strength of that belief and in the many ways that BPSD teachers and students put it into practice every day.





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Continuing to Grow and Thrive



Dr. Christopher Brown
Superintendent

We completed another incredible year in Capistrano Unified School District. This is truly a remarkable district with exemplary students, dedicated faculty and staff, and collaborative families. Here are some of our notable accomplishments from 2025-26:

- CUSD students, on average, are 52.9 points above standard in English Language Arts and 26.4 points above standard in Math, continuing our trend of annual improvement.
 - Early education growth remained strong. DIBELS end-of- year results reached a historic pinnacle of approximately 80 percent.
 - Marco Forster Middle School Teacher Ryan Healy was named an Orange County Teacher of the Year, the second-consecutive year for CUSD.
 - Our secondary counseling and guidance teams helped achieve impressive college and career readiness outcomes- 68.8 percent of students met College and Career Indicator benchmarks and students submitted more than 14,000 college applications.
 - Our EdTech team debuted the first cohort of the AI Institute, with 200 teachers trained and actively using AI for curriculum development while piloting student-facing tools.
 - The brand new stadium at Capistrano High School was finished at the end of the year, and will be ready for competition in the fall.
- CUSD continues to grow and thrive. This fall, our independent study program rebrands as the South County Virtual Academy, offering online and hybrid learning for all grade levels. It will also feature to new programs- the Elite Performance Academy for middle school students and Middle College Academy for high school students.
- We are so excited to see what 2026-27 has to offer in CUSD!

CESD is Powered by Possibility



Norma E. Martinez
Superintendent

This year, Centralia ESD kicks off its school year with a reminder that we are powered by possibility! With goals set high, we are preparing to launch our most successful year yet.

Two new curriculum programs, Eureka2 for mathematics and Studies Weekly for social studies, will provide new opportunities for students to demonstrate mathematical application and civic engagement. Our schools continue to provide strong visual and performing arts programs during the instructional day. Each school uses Design Thinking for problem-solving activities that build communication and collaboration while exposing students to technology, including safe AI for elementary students.

CESD is indeed powered by possibility, and it is our honor to announce that 100% of our schools have, once again, earned the PLATINUM level of awarding from the CA PBIS Coalition! This award recognizes the strong systems in place in all schools to promote safety and well-being for all. Each school has a mental health team that serves as the lead for supporting the well-being of students, with rich opportunities for engagement.

As CESD continues to move forward, one thing remains true; we are an elementary school system dedicated to providing the strongest foundation of literacy possible for our students. It is in this spirit that we launch one of our most important projects: Centralia Reads – at home and at school! We are asking parents to reconnect with our students and with literature through the re-investment in reading at home. Just 20 minutes of night reading can go a long way to expand a child’s thinking. At school, we are also committed to bringing back this practice, 20 minutes of quiet reading in the classroom. While some may call it SSR (Silent Sustained Reading), DEAR (Drop Everything And Read), or simply reading time, we are investing in our students to rekindle the joy of reading.

Ultimately, reading is power and we are powered by possibility!

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Empowering Students. Building Hope.



Dr. Grant Litfin
Superintendent

As we start school for the 2026/27 school year, Cypress School District is primed to continue inspiring and empowering every student for every moment and every opportunity! From STEM labs and Career Connected Learning to Supplemental Music and Drama programs, our teachers are ready to engage students and bring their learning to a new level. For years, Cypress School District has experienced high academic achievement by carefully balancing rigorous instruction with a warm and supportive atmosphere. This combination, along with small group instruction and evidence-based teaching practices, nurtures and supports students as they grow into tomorrow's leaders.

This year, we have a special emphasis across our campuses on empowering students and building hope in our youngest learners. We want to inspire them, engage them, and help them see a future full of open doors. As educators in Cypress School District, we are intentionally creating classrooms where:

- Every student belongs
- Joy fuels learning
- Relationships matter most
- Growth is the goal
- We make a lasting difference

In partnership with our families and community, we are providing the very best educational opportunities for our students. Together, we will help every child be prepared to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

What Hasn't Changed



Dr. Katherine Stopp
Superintendent

After celebrating 150 years of education in the Fountain Valley School District, we find ourselves looking ahead to a future our earliest educators could never have imagined. Technology is evolving at an extraordinary pace, and artificial intelligence is reshaping how we learn, work and communicate. The pace of change makes it increasingly difficult to predict the world for which we are preparing our students.

And yet, what children need from us has remained remarkably constant. They need adults who know them. They need to learn to think. They need to struggle with something and discover they can do it. They need to communicate and work with people who think differently. They need to belong. And they need someone to see something in them that perhaps they don't yet see in themselves.

In Fountain Valley School District, as we embrace new opportunities, new technologies and new ways of preparing students for what lies ahead, we remain equally committed to these needs that will always matter. Strong instruction matters. So do relationships, high expectations, meaningful challenges and classrooms where students know their ideas and contributions matter.

Some things are worth changing.

And some things are worth holding onto.

From all of us in FVSD, best wishes for a wonderful school year.

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Fullerton Joint Union High School District

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FJUHSD...Every Student, Every Day



Dr. Steve McLaughlin
Superintendent

The 2026–27 school year is underway in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District, and we are proud to begin with a new theme: *Every Student, Every Day*. More than a slogan, these words represent our commitment to ensuring every student feels known, supported, connected, and provided meaningful opportunities to succeed.

That commitment was evident on the first day of school. Through the efforts of our Human Resources team, site leaders, and staff, FJUHSD opened the year with no teacher vacancies. Every classroom was staffed with a qualified educator ready to welcome students, inspire learning, and build relationships.

We are also investing in our campuses. Thanks to our community’s support of Measure L, seven facility projects totaling \$172 million are underway to modernize learning environments, strengthen safety, and support excellence for years to come.

Our work begins before students enter high school. We continue strengthening connections with our articulation partners in the Fullerton, Lowell Joint, Buena Park, and La Habra City school districts. Through collaboration and aligned efforts, we are creating smoother transitions and stronger pathways into our schools.

Once here, students can explore Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge, AVID, CTE, ROP, Troy Tech, dual enrollment, and additional academic pathways. Learning and belonging extend beyond the classroom through athletics, ASB, clubs, visual and performing arts, speech and debate, internships, and community service. In fact, 94% of students participate in at least one activity outside the classroom.

Thank you to our families, staff, and community partners for helping make these opportunities possible. Your continued partnership strengthens our schools and allows us to fulfill our commitment to serving *Every Student, Every Day*!

Fullerton School District

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New Era of Innovation and Leadership



Dr. Gretchen Janson
Superintendent

Fullerton School District has entered an exciting new era of leadership with the appointment of new Superintendent Gretchen Janson, Ed.D. Selected by a unanimous Board of Trustees vote, Dr. Janson officially assumed her role on July 1, bringing nearly 30 years of public education experience defined by innovation, strong fiscal stewardship, and student-centered decisions.

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Gretchen Janson as the next superintendent of Fullerton School District,” Board President Ruthi Hanchett said. “Dr. Janson brings strong instructional leadership and valuable experience in navigating complex financial challenges. We are confident in her ability to support continued success for our students, staff, and community.”

Dr. Janson began her career as a classroom teacher before advancing to instructional coach, principal, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Deputy Superintendent. Most recently, as Assistant Superintendent of Business Services at Lynwood Unified, she aligned fiscal strategy with student priorities, managed a \$250 million classroom reconstruction project, and supported staff raises while reducing the district deficit.

Bilingual in Spanish and English, Dr. Janson holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from USC. Beyond her professional achievements, she values family and wellness, sharing three adult children with her husband.

“While I come into this role with nearly 30 years of experience, I also come with humility,” Dr. Janson said. “I am committed to listening, building relationships, and ensuring our decisions always center on what is best for students. Together, we can continue to foster innovative opportunities and build an even brighter future for Fullerton.”



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The Garden Grove Way = Student Success



Dr. Gabriela Mafi
Superintendent

In my 14th year as Superintendent of the Garden Grove Unified School District, I remain deeply grateful for the shared commitment of our students, staff, and families. Together, we are focused on our 3 goals: equipping every student with the academic skills (Goal 1) and personal skills (Goal 2) needed for lifelong success (Goal 3).

GGUSD continues to earn recognition at the county, state, and national levels. For seven consecutive years, our SBAC scores have exceeded county and state averages in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. Nine of our 17 secondary schools were named 2026 California Distinguished Schools—the most of any district in Orange County and the third-highest number in California.

We continue to expand our award-winning dual language programs, which recently received two statewide awards for excellence. Building on this success, we announced plans to bring our Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion program to a second elementary school: Anthony Elementary.

Our commitment to college and career readiness remains strong. Supported by our robust AVID program, 64.5% of graduates completed the rigorous a-g college entrance requirements and participation in CTE’s 15 Career Pathways remain strong. We also opened our third Early College Academy, giving students the opportunity to earn college credits—and even an associate degree—at no cost while in high school.

GGUSD has also become a model for Community Schools. With 22 Community Schools currently in place, we are working toward becoming a districtwide Community Schools District by 2027.

We remain committed to ensuring every student feels safe, supported, included, and prepared to succeed—because that’s the Garden Grove Way.



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Grounded and Growing



Dr. Leisa Winston
Superintendent

As we welcome the 2026–2027 school year, Huntington Beach City School District enters a milestone moment. We are completing our five-year Strategic Plan and beginning to shape the next chapter, an occasion to honor what we’ve built together and to imagine where we’re headed next. We’ve chosen a theme to guide us: Grounded and Growing.

Grounded means honoring the values, relationships, and progress that brought us here. HBCSD is a community in the truest sense: many of our staff grew up in these schools and now send their own children through our classrooms. That continuity is something we hold with pride.

Growing means staying open to reflection, fresh thinking, and what comes next. As we listen, plan, and build alongside our families and staff, we carry forward what works while remaining curious about what’s possible.

This spirit was on full display this past year through our Shoreline Standouts recognition program, which completed its inaugural year celebrating employees, from classroom teachers to office managers to support staff, who bring our Learner Profile traits and Strategic Plan focus areas to life every day. Their stories are a reminder that HBCSD’s strength comes from dedication across every role and every campus.

Every voice helps shape where we grow next. We’re proud to welcome our community into this new year, grounded in purpose and growing together.



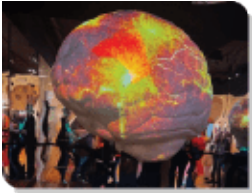
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Empowering Student Ownership



Dr. Carolee Ogata
Superintendent

As we enter the 2026-27 school year, we are excited to build upon last year's momentum and continue our emphasis on student success and ownership. Throughout 2025-26, our administration, teachers, and staff worked together to learn, collaborate, and align practices for a district-wide focus on empowering students to take charge of their high school experience and learning.

HBUHSD students have truly embodied what it means to take ownership of their learning through our Career Technical Education programs. With advocacy and mentorship from their teachers and staff, our students have increased opportunities to assume responsibility for their futures. During the 2025-26 school year, one of the ways our students took ownership was by creating award-winning projects and earning recognitions across the region and state in programs including Future Farmers of America, Virtual Enterprise, Robotics, and more.

Whether through collaborations with industry partners, field trips, or participation in competitions, our 124 CTE courses provide meaningful exposure to a variety of potential careers and industry connections. Students who participate in CTE pathways learn to be innovative thinkers, collaborate with one another, overcome adversity, and celebrate many successes. Last year, we're proud to have had 5,149 students across all grades complete one or more CTE courses. With our 59 total CTE pathways, which include 12 new emerging pathways, we look forward to providing even more opportunities for more students to explore careers, develop valuable skills, and take ownership of their futures during the 2026-27 school year.

Irvine Unified School District

5050 Barranca Pkwy., Irvine, CA 92604 • 949/936-5250 • www.iusd.org

Belonging: A Foundation for Learning



Cassie Parham
Superintendent

Irvine Unified's goal for the 2026-27 school year is to create school communities where ALL children feel a strong sense of belonging, connection, hope, and joy. This goal is important because we know that these conditions are prerequisites for ensuring students learn at the highest levels.

Cultivating a sense of belonging isn't a "soft" goal. It requires an intentional focus on relationships and instructional strategies that ensure we see, understand and anticipate students' needs. It is a pathway to deeper learning and to developing the self-efficacy students need to be successful. When students feel connected, safe, supported and empowered, they are more likely to ask questions, take intellectual risks, and invest in their learning.

Before the start of the school year, our teachers and many classified staff participated in professional learning focused explicitly on creating this sense of belonging by removing barriers and designing welcoming learning environments where students from every background and at every level can thrive.

To help us realize this goal, our Leadership Team continued its work with *The Dignity Index*, a framework which provides us with a shared language and tool for navigating conflict productively, constructively and respectfully so that we create spaces where our students can do the same. Spaces where they know their voices matter, where healthy conflict is important and inevitable, where wildly creative solutions are the norm, and where, regardless of background or beliefs, every student, and every member of our school community, knows that they belong.

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Powered by Purpose



Dr. Mario A. Carlos
Superintendent

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year filled with opportunity, growth, and renewed commitment to our students’ success. At La Habra City School District, we are Powered by Purpose. This is a shared purpose to educate, uplift, and empower every student, every day. Whether your child is beginning their educational journey in Early Learning or preparing for the transition to high school, our commitment remains clear. To provide exceptional learning experiences that prepare every student for success in school and in life.

This year, our work will be guided by four district priorities: Instructional Excellence, Inspired Leadership, Equitable Access and Outcomes, and Connection and Belonging. These priorities reflect our commitment to providing high-quality instruction, strong leadership, equitable opportunities, and schools where every student and family feels welcomed, valued, and connected.

We are also excited to introduce our new Portrait of a Learner, which reflects the knowledge, skills, and character we strive to develop in every student. We are committed to helping students become **Learners** who embrace growth, **Thinkers** who solve problems, **Innovators** who create and explore new ideas, **Leaders** who act with integrity, **Communicators** who collaborate and advocate with confidence, and **Citizens** who demonstrate empathy and make positive contributions to our community.

You will see our purpose in action every day through engaging instruction, innovative learning experiences, strong social-emotional supports, and meaningful partnerships with families. Together, we will create safe, challenging, and inclusive learning environments where every student is known, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential.

As we begin this new school year, let us move forward together, united in our commitment to ensuring every student thrives. Let’s be Powered by Purpose.

High Stakes, Clear Choices



Dr. Donald B. Austin
Superintendent

In education, the stakes have always been high. Behind every budget line or planning document is a student in a classroom, a family trusting a school, and an employee supporting that student. The stakes are not new, but the speed, complexity, and visibility surrounding our decisions continue to grow. Communities rightly expect greater transparency into how decisions are made and resources are directed.

In Laguna Beach Unified School District, our focus this year is clarity: clarity about where we are going, what we are investing in, and how those choices connect.

The budget is a good example. It can become a procedural exercise shaped by timelines, codes, and required approvals. Yet a budget tells a story. It may be one of the clearest stories an organization tells about what it values. Our Local Control and Accountability Plan adds a chapter by showing how we intend to direct support toward students with the greatest needs.

Our responsibility is to help people see the full picture. That requires processes and communication tools that show our community what we are working on, why a decision is being considered, and what may come next. Those conversations must begin early enough for participation to matter.

Clarity does not guarantee agreement, nor should that be the standard. It gives people a way into the story. When our community sees the connection between priorities and investments, people are better positioned to participate thoughtfully, ask informed questions, and feel confident in the education system serving their children. That confidence gives educators the trust and support they need to keep students at the center.

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Defying Expectations



Dr. Andrew Pulver
Superintendent

In Los Alamitos Unified, we believe every student deserves to be known, challenged, supported, and given opportunities to discover what they are capable of achieving. That belief is reflected in our theme for the 2026–2027 school year: **Defying Expectations.**

For us, Defying Expectations is not simply about exceeding a benchmark or earning an award. Sometimes it is a student reaching a milestone they once thought was out of reach, discovering a new strength, persevering through a challenge, or finding a pathway that gives purpose to their future.

We see that spirit across our schools every day. Students pursue rigorous academics and advanced coursework, explore their talents through athletics, activities, and the arts, and prepare for college and careers through expanding opportunities such as our new Business and Entrepreneurship Career Technical Education pathway. Our student-athletes compete for CIF and State Championships and have represented Team USA on the world stage. Our educators continually create opportunities, inspire growth, and help students recognize what they are capable of becoming.

What makes Los Alamitos Unified special is the combination of high expectations and meaningful relationships. Our families are deeply engaged, our community proudly supports its schools, and our staff remain committed to creating exceptional experiences and outcomes for students.

Defying Expectations is not something new for Los Alamitos Unified. It is a name for what our students, staff, families, and community have been doing for years: refusing to allow assumptions, obstacles, or expectations to define what is possible. That is the promise we make to every student who walks through our doors.

Academically Challenging for Success



Dr. Rhonda Overby
Superintendent

Since 1906, Lowell Joint School District has proudly served the communities of La Habra, La Habra Heights, and Whittier with an unwavering commitment to academic excellence, strong character, and meaningful opportunities for every student. Our long-standing tradition of high expectations continues to guide our work as we prepare students to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Across our six schools, dedicated educators create engaging learning environments that challenge students academically while nurturing creativity, collaboration, and personal growth. Lowell Joint students consistently perform above county and state averages, a testament to the strength of our instructional programs and the invaluable partnership between our schools, families, and community.

In addition to rigorous academics, Lowell Joint offers innovative programs that prepare students for the future. Opportunities include coding and robotics, STEAM Innovation Labs, and Dual Language Immersion, along with vibrant visual and performing arts experiences through our Arts for All initiative. Students participate in band, choir, theater, media arts, and visual arts, and pursue honors coursework and advanced learning in fields such as engineering, robotics, computer science, world languages, and eSports.

Equally important to academic achievement is our steadfast commitment to character education. Core values including integrity, responsibility, respect, and leadership are woven throughout daily learning and school culture. These values help shape students who are not only skilled scholars, but also compassionate and engaged members of their communities.

Together with our families and community partners, Lowell Joint continues to build a district where students develop the knowledge, character, and confidence to excel in high school, college, and beyond.

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Magnolia School District

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Continued Focus on the Whole Child



Dr. Frank Donovan
Superintendent

All our schools continue to provide our students with exemplary educational programs that address the needs of the Whole Child, including rigorous academics, social-emotional learning, music and the Arts, nutritious meals, and safe and secure campuses with truly caring staff members.

All nine of our schools have been recognized as America's Healthiest Schools by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation for advancing whole child health. This prestigious national award program recognizes schools for implementing evidence-based policies and practices designed to support academic success and lifelong well-being.

Our Expanded Learning Program (ELP) provides free child care to eligible students in TK-6th grade. The program runs after the school day, during winter, spring and summer breaks. The Expanded Learning child care program is not part of the required school day and does not have the same requirements as the regular school day. The focus is on academic, social-emotional, and physical needs and interests of students. Snacks and dinner are provided through our Supper Program at no cost to our families.

We have many construction and renovation projects in process that can be seen on the Investing in Our Schools link on our website. Within the next few years, our Maintenance Department will move into a new building that will be built at Dr. Jonas Salk School, and our students at Juliette Low School of the Arts will be performing in a new Performing Arts Center.

Newport-Mesa Unified School District

2985-A Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000 • web.nmusd.us

Preparing Students to Thrive



Dr. Wesley Smith
Superintendent

At Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD), every student deserves an exceptional education that inspires purpose, develops confidence, and prepares them to make a meaningful impact in the world. Serving students from preschool through 12th grade across Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, and Corona del Mar, we are committed to ensuring every graduate is prepared for college, career, and life.

Our Strategic Plan establishes a clear promise for every learner: academic excellence, cognitive ability, and character developed in schools where students are seen, heard, supported, and safe. We want NMUSD graduates to be critical thinkers, confident and adaptable learners, responsible technology navigators, powerful communicators, and thoughtful collaborators.

That promise begins with exceptional teaching. High-quality instruction, rigorous, relevant learning experiences, high expectations, and purposeful use of evidence help every student engage deeply, grow, and achieve their potential.

Student success is strengthened when our educators work together. By sharing ideas, reviewing student learning, and planning instruction as a team, we provide consistent, high-quality learning experiences that help every student succeed.

Students also thrive when they feel they belong. Caring relationships, positive learning environments, responsive support, and opportunities to participate in academics, career technical education, the arts, athletics, dual-language immersion, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and other enriching experiences help students develop their talents and connect learning to their lives and futures.

As we move forward, NMUSD will continue focusing our time, talent, and resources on what matters most: exceptional teaching and learning, strong relationships, safe and welcoming schools, and meaningful partnerships with families and our community. Together, every student benefits.

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Opportunities Beyond the School Day



Dr. Julianne Hoefer
Superintendent

As Ocean View School District welcomes students, families, and staff back for the 2026–27 school year, the District is looking ahead to a year filled with opportunities to strengthen student success, support employees, and deepen connections with the community.

One of the District’s most impactful initiatives returns for a second year as OVSD continues to offer free after-school childcare for students in transitional kindergarten through sixth grade. The program provides valuable support for working families while offering students enriching opportunities beyond the school day.

OVSD is also making investments in classroom instruction through its mathematics textbook pilot, with Board adoption anticipated in spring 2027. District educators are reviewing instructional materials to ensure students have access to resources aligned with California’s academic standards.

Building on the success of last year’s recruitment efforts, the Human Resources Department will continue to host Districtwide job fairs. These one-stop hiring events allow applicants to apply, interview, meet department representatives, and complete fingerprinting on-site. In 2025–26, OVSD onboarded nearly 400 classified support staff.

Looking ahead, the OVSD Board of Trustees continues to explore long-term opportunities for the District’s vacant Sun View and Pleasant View properties. Early planning is underway to expand the existing public green space and to evaluate the feasibility of developing workforce housing for District employees. This reflects the Board’s commitment to the thoughtful use of District property to benefit both employees and the surrounding community.

As the 2026–27 school year begins, OVSD remains committed to creating opportunities that support students, families, staff, and the community while continuing to build a strong foundation for the future.

Opportunities to: Learn. Grow. Thrive.



Dr. Rachel H. Monárrez
Superintendent

As children across Orange County return to their classrooms, I am filled with optimism about the year ahead at Orange Unified. I like to think of the start of a school year as our New Year: a time for fresh starts, new possibilities, and the chance to imagine what is possible for our children and communities.

I often think of Orange Unified as a kaleidoscope. Every school, division, and individual is a distinct piece. Each one matters, but it is when those pieces come together in alignment and partnership that the fuller picture comes into focus. Every part of OUSD has a role in creating the conditions for our staff and students to learn, grow, and thrive.

As a district office, our responsibility is to support our schools and the people who serve students. That means understanding what students and staff need, removing barriers, and creating the conditions for success. In 2026-27, we are focused on building a culture of belonging, where every student owns their learning, every teacher feels supported, and every graduate is ready for college, career, and life. This work is guided by our long-term plan for becoming a District of Excellence.

Our commitment is simple: **Valuing every dollar... Excellence for every scholar.** It means using resources wisely, listening to families and employees, building strong partnerships, and improving outcomes for children.

I believe in the power of public education and what becomes possible when we bring our strengths together. When we work with shared purpose, we create opportunities for each child. Here’s to a school year filled with possibility, purpose, and opportunity.



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Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

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PYL Promise



**Dr. Kym
LeBlanc-Esparza**
Superintendent

As more than 22,500 students returned to Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District campuses for the 2026–2027 school year, they were welcomed by caring teachers, dedicated staff, and supportive administrators, all committed to helping students feel connected, supported, and ready for the future.

That commitment is at the heart of the PYL Promise, the district's new five-year strategic plan shaped by the voices of students, families, employees, and community partners.

Last spring, PYLUSD hosted more than 30 in-person listening sessions and heard from over 1,000 members of the community about their hopes and aspirations for the future of the district.

Their feedback highlighted PYLUSD's greatest strengths while helping identify opportunities to build upon its proud tradition of excellence.

Those conversations became the foundation of the PYL Promise and its three priorities: Rooted in Connection, Ready for Tomorrow, and Stronger Together.

Rooted in Connection focuses on creating schools where students feel seen, supported, safe, and connected to caring adults and meaningful opportunities.

Ready for Tomorrow ensures students develop strong academic foundations, career awareness, real-world experiences, and the skills and confidence needed for their futures.

Stronger Together recognizes that investing in employees, strengthening systems, and building meaningful partnerships benefits every student.

More than a strategic plan, the PYL Promise represents a shared commitment to the future of PYLUSD, one shaped by the community and centered on ensuring students and staff see themselves, their aspirations, and their opportunities reflected in the work ahead.

Saddleback Valley Unified School District

25632 Peter Hartman Wy., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-1234 • www.svusd.org

A New Mission for a New School Year



**Dr. Crystal
Turner**
Superintendent

The 2026-27 school year marks a new chapter for the Saddleback Valley Unified School District with the launch of SV Elevates, a renewed mission focused on empowering each and every student to achieve academic excellence and well-being through engaging, rigorous learning experiences that build on their strengths.

That commitment is reflected in continued progress across the district. The latest California School Dashboard results show growth in graduation rates, English language arts, mathematics, attendance, and college and career readiness, including encouraging gains among student groups that have historically faced greater challenges.

Students across SVUSD also benefit from a wide range of academic and enrichment opportunities, including International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, Dual Language Immersion, STEAM, Career Technical Education, athletics, arts education, student leadership, Unified Sports, intramurals, and more. Together, these experiences help students discover their strengths, build meaningful connections, and prepare for future success.

SV Elevates also reflects the shared responsibility behind student achievement. Employees, families, and community partners all contribute to creating strong schools and meaningful opportunities for students.

That collective commitment has helped SVUSD earn recognition as South Orange County's Best School District for four consecutive years.

Across every classroom, campus, and program, SV Elevates represents a shared promise: to build on each student's strengths, expand opportunity, and help every learner grow, thrive, and reach their fullest potential.



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Santa Ana Unified School District

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Committed to Student Success



Dr. Lorraine Mora Perez
Superintendent

As we begin the 2026–27 school year, Santa Ana Unified School District remains steadfast in our commitment to ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive. While the world continues to evolve, our focus remains clear: providing every child with the knowledge, skills, and support needed to succeed in school, career, and life.

This year, our work is guided by three priorities that will shape the future of our students and strengthen our community.

First, we are committed to ensuring every child reads proficiently by the end of third grade. Literacy is the foundation for lifelong learning, and we continue to invest in high-quality instruction, early intervention, and strong partnerships with families so every student develops the confidence and skills to become a successful reader.

Second, we are accelerating English learner success by increasing the number of students who are reclassified as English proficient by fifth grade. We believe multilingualism is one of our students’ greatest strengths, and through rigorous instruction, targeted supports, and meaningful family engagement, we are helping students build the language skills needed to excel academically while honoring the rich languages and cultures they bring to our schools.

Finally, we are preparing every graduate for college and career success. Whether students choose higher education, career technical education, military service, or enter the workforce, our goal is for every graduate to leave SAUSD equipped with the knowledge, skills, and experiences needed to confidently pursue their aspirations.

These priorities reflect our firm commitment to excellence and opportunity for every student. Together with our dedicated educators, staff, families, and community partners, we will continue building bright futures and ensuring every student is prepared to learn, lead, and succeed.

Savanna School District

1330 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3800 • www.savsd.k12.ca.us

Learning, Innovation & Safety



Dr. Sue Johnson
Superintendent

Savanna School District is a place where learning truly comes alive, and we’re excited to begin another outstanding school year! With a continued focus on academic excellence, student success, continuous improvement, and safety, we are committed to helping every student thrive.

This year, we’re strengthening teaching and learning through District-wide Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), giving teachers opportunities to collaborate, focus on essential standards, and use student data to guide instruction. Our newly established IMPACT Teachers will support PLCs, targeted interventions, and data analysis to ensure students receive the support they need.

We’re proud to continue our District-wide Visual and Performing Arts program, with opportunities for all students to experience lessons in dance, theatre arts, and choral music. We’re especially excited that Hansen School was selected for Disney Musicals in Schools, a highly competitive opportunity that selects only four schools annually throughout Disney’s service area.

Student and staff safety remains one of our highest priorities. Savanna is proud to be the first school district in California to implement InformaCast Wearable Alert Badges district-wide. The badges allow staff to immediately alert law enforcement and District personnel during an emergency, helping ensure a rapid response when every second matters. Combined with upgraded speakers, clocks, and communication systems, this technology strengthens our comprehensive approach to school safety.

Beyond the school day, W.I.N.G.S. continues to provide enriching experiences in academics, STEM, arts, and physical wellness, while B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners supports children ages 18 months to 4 years as they build the skills and relationships that prepare them for school success.

Together, we’ll continue creating opportunities that help *Today’s Learners* become *Tomorrow’s Leaders*!

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Celebrating the TUSD Impact



Dr. Mark Johnson
Superintendent

The Tustin Unified School District is an extraordinary community of dedicated, caring, and highly skilled educators who are passionate about the work we do together. Across our 28 schools, we are fortunate to serve communities that value education and embrace the success of every student. This year, we celebrate The TUSD Impact, and the unique opportunities our collective efforts create for students to achieve their academic, social, emotional, and extracurricular goals.

Throughout TUSD, our classrooms and facilities provide safe, nurturing environments where students learn, grow, discover their passions, and prepare for the future. From full-day Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten and robotics to STEAM, 1:1 technology, Spanish Dual Language Immersion, Mandarin Immersion and award-winning visual and performing arts, our students have opportunities to explore and excel. At the high school level, experiences like more than 25 college and career pathways, Early College, International Baccalaureate, Model United Nations, or Tustin Connect provide students with multiple pathways to success.

This past year, we proudly graduated close to 2,000 graduates, many of whom are continuing their education at outstanding colleges and universities across the nation. Their success reflects years of hard work, exceptional teaching, strong family and community partnerships, and our collective commitment to rigorous learning and meaningful real-world experiences.

As we look ahead, celebrating our collective impact reminds us that success is not a destination. It is something we build together, one student, one classroom, and one opportunity at a time. Guided by optimism, curiosity, and teamwork, we will honor TUSD's rich history while continuing to move forward, ensuring every student is prepared for college, career, and beyond.

One District. One Team.



Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen
Superintendent

The start of a new school year always brings a renewed sense of possibility, and that feeling is especially strong across Westminster School District as we begin 2026-27 together. This year's theme, One District. One Team., reflects our commitment to the WSD core value of Connect and the belief that meaningful relationships are at the heart of student success.

That spirit of connection can be seen throughout our district. It is reflected in the recognition our schools continue to earn, in the trust families place in us each day, and in the dedication of our employees who work together to support students both inside and outside the classroom. We are proud to begin the school year building on that momentum.

Creating environments where students feel safe, supported, and ready to learn remains a top priority. Families choose Westminster School District because they know their children will be welcomed by caring educators, strong school communities, and a district focused on helping every student succeed.

That commitment extends beyond the school day. As families continue to seek high-quality opportunities for their children, WSD remains proud to offer expanded learning and after-school programs across all school sites. We also continue to invest in our award-winning Dual Language Immersion pathways, providing students opportunities to become bilingual, biliterate, and prepared for an increasingly connected world.

As we look ahead, I am excited for all that we will accomplish together. The year is off to a strong start, and I know that by working as One District. One Team., we will continue creating outstanding opportunities for the students and families we serve.



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Preparing Students for What’s Next



Dr. Brian K. Dozer
Superintendent

At Coastline ROP, our mission is clear: empowering students with skills and experiences to ensure success in college, career, and life. In 2026, that mission continues to guide our work as we help students connect classroom learning with real-world opportunities.

For today’s students, “what’s next” may mean college, career training, military service, or entering the workforce. No matter the path, students need technical skills, professional skills, confidence, and experience. Coastline ROP helps provide all of these through high-quality career technical education.

A major focus for us this year is expanding work-based learning. Through partnerships with local businesses, industry professionals, and community organizations, students learn by doing. They participate in internships, mentoring, hands-on projects, and other experiences that help them explore careers before they leave high school.

Coastline ROP’s internships are especially powerful, allowing students to apply what they learn in professional settings while building communication, problem-solving, teamwork, and workplace readiness skills. These experiences help students see themselves as future professionals.

Certifications are also an important part of preparing students for success. Whether in healthcare, emergency services, automotive, construction, or other career areas, certifications allow students to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and readiness for the next step.

Last year, Coastline ROP students earned more than 2,000 certifications and participated in more than 400 internships. These outcomes reflect the strength of our students, staff, partner districts (Irvine Unified, Newport-Mesa Unified, Saddleback Valley Unified, and Tustin Unified), families, and business partners.

In 2026, we remain committed to expanding work-based learning, internships, certifications, and partnerships so students are prepared for what’s next.

North Orange County ROP

385 N. Muller St., Anaheim, CA 92801 • 714/502-5800 • www.nocrop.org

Driven with Purpose



Dana Lynch
Superintendent

Every student has a story waiting to be written. Sometimes it begins with a spark of curiosity. Other times it begins with a hands-on project, an internship, or a teacher who recognizes potential before the student recognizes it within themselves. Those experiences help students discover purpose. Once they do, purpose becomes a powerful motivator that inspires learning, perseverance, and achievement.

At North Orange County Regional Occupational Program (NOCROP), we believe career technical education helps students discover that purpose. Through authentic, real-world learning experiences, students develop technical knowledge while strengthening the transferable skills that matter in every career, including communication, collaboration, critical thinking, adaptability, and professionalism. Our instructors bring current industry experience into the classroom so students can connect learning with meaningful career opportunities.

Purpose also drives our work as an organization. Together with our seven partner school districts, business and industry leaders, colleges, and community organizations, we are creating pathways that prepare students for college, careers, military service, and lifelong success. Whether earning industry certifications, participating in work-based learning, or developing leadership skills, students leave with more than technical abilities. They leave with confidence, direction, and a personal narrative that sets them apart.

As workforce needs continue to evolve, so must career technical education. NOCROP remains committed to innovation, strong partnerships, and expanding opportunities that help every learner reach their full potential.

When students are driven with purpose, they become more than career ready. They become leaders, innovators, and contributors who strengthen their communities. Helping students discover that purpose is at the heart of everything we do.

College and Career Advantage (ROP)

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Building Futures through Partnerships



Chris Carter
Executive Director

The Futures Program is a pilot designed to expand throughout Orange County through partnerships among ROPs, chambers of commerce, and schools. It began with a belief that career exploration becomes more powerful when students connect with the people and organizations shaping their community.

Launched in fall 2024, Futures is a partnership between College and Career Advantage, the San Clemente Chamber of Commerce, and San Clemente High School. Inspired by an idea from Chamber Executive Director Suzie Lantz and developed collaboratively, the program provides a work-based learning continuum focused on a business or organization.

Throughout four or five sessions held during the school’s tutorial period, students learn about the participating business or organization, hear from the employees about their career journeys and responsibilities, participate in a question-and-answer session, tour the workplace, and complete a real-world business challenge.

Over the past two years, students have engaged with Hoag Hospital, PoolRx, and South Coast Water District. They have offered valuable perspectives on authentic business needs, including marketing strategies and the design of a visitor center.

The program evolved after Chamber and CCA representatives traveled to Washington, D.C., to learn about the national EPIC Challenge program. This past year six San Clemente High School students traveled to Washington where they collaborated with industry professionals and government leaders.

Futures helps students build confidence, professional networks, and awareness of pathways that may lead to mentorships, internships, and future careers. This year, the program is expanding into Laguna Beach Unified School District, bringing these college and career opportunities to even more students.



Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



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This is our 20th edition of the Orange County Superintendents K-12 public schools publication, which we publish annually. Thank you for including *School News Roll Call* among your reading choices.

The quality of our communities are directly related to the quality of our public schools and we have much to be proud of. 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.

All of our publications are posted on www.schoolnewsrollcall.com.



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