



RIVERSIDE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
EDWIN GOMEZ, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools



2024–2025

Annual Report to the Community





A Message From the County Superintendent

By the end of this school year, the first quarter of the 21st century will already be in the rear-view mirror, and the road ahead for students in Riverside County has never been more abundant with opportunity.

Ensuring that students are academically and socially prepared for college, the workforce, and civic responsibility, is the basis for the daily work of the staff at the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) and the outstanding educators at all 23 districts.

Collectively, we are ensuring that all of the 430,000+ students served in our preschool programs and K-12 schools, all the way through post-high school training, are progressing from surviving to thriving.

In this year's Annual Report to the Community, you'll learn about outstanding educators, generous community partners, innovative programs and services, extraordinary students, and more, that are setting the standard for excellence across the state.

Through a collaborative focus, our goal is for all students in Riverside County to have a competitive edge that sets them apart from all other job candidates or college applicants in the nation, so that they can lead our region and our world into the 22nd century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edwin Gomez".

*Edwin Gomez, Ed.D.
Riverside County Superintendent of Schools*

Riverside County Board of Education Trustee Areas



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The Riverside County Board of Education (RCBE) consists of seven members who represent seven trustee areas of the county. RCBE acts as the appellate agency for student expulsions, interdistrict transfers, and charter school petitions throughout the county. In addition, the trustees serve as the governing board for multiple programs operated by the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools.

RCBE also works with the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools and staff to offer the most effective educational programs possible to the students being served directly by the Riverside County Office of Education.

For more information, contact individual trustees by visiting www.rcoe.us/rcbe.



Kim Joseph Cousins, Vice President
Trustee Area 1
Serving the following districts:
Corona-Norco USD, Lake Elsinore USD (part),
Riverside USD (part)



Ben Johnson II, Member
Trustee Area 2
Serving the following districts:
Alvord USD, Jurupa USD, Riverside USD (part)



Jamie Azpeitia-Sachs, Member
Trustee Area 3
Serving the following districts:
Moreno Valley USD (part),
Riverside USD (part), Val Verde USD



Bruce N. Dennis, Member
Trustee Area 4
Serving the following districts:
Hemet USD, Menifee Union SD, Nuvie Union SD,
Perris Elementary SD, Perris Union High SD,
Romoland SD



Ray "Coach" Curtis, Member
Trustee Area 5
Serving the following districts:
Banning USD, Beaumont USD,
Moreno Valley USD (part), Palm Springs USD (part),
San Jacinto USD



Elizabeth F. Romero, President
Trustee Area 6
Serving the following districts:
Coachella Valley USD, Desert Center USD,
Desert Sands USD, Palm Springs USD (part),
Palo Verde USD



Jennifer Mejares Pham, Member
Trustee Area 7
Serving the following districts:
Lake Elsinore USD (part), Murrieta Valley USD,
Temecula Valley USD

Meet Riverside County Students

Meet National “Yes I Can” Award Recipient Chema Romo

Shortly after Josemaria “Chema” Romo was born, his mother, Janeth Romo, was informed that her newborn boy had a congenital disability of the right ear known as atresia/microtia. After audiological testing, young Chema was diagnosed with severe to moderate conductive hearing loss in his right ear.

Mrs. Romo connected with Riverside County Office of Education Deaf/Hard of Hearing Itinerant Teacher, Theresa Copple, and Chema has been working with Mrs. Copple ever since.

In the fall of 2023, at the age of 10, Chema Romo was selected as one of twelve national “Yes I Can” honorees by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving the success of children and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents.



Read Chema's inspiring story.

Meet the Greater Coachella Valley Students of the Year

Most districts across Riverside County feature Student of the Month events that honor outstanding high school seniors. For the first time in 2023-2024, students of the month in the three desert-area districts and county-operated schools were honored as part of the Greater Coachella Valley Student of the Month Program.

Student of the Month honorees were selected for their character, integrity, a passion for learning, active involvement in school life, sports, community service, and remarkable resilience in the face of life's challenges while maintaining a commitment to education.

Multiple ceremonies recognized seniors from Palm Springs Unified School District, Desert Sands Unified School District, Coachella Valley Unified School District, and the Riverside County Office of Education, and culminated with a Student of the Year event in April 2024 where \$22,500 in scholarships were awarded to graduating students.



Get to know the Greater Coachella Valley Students of the Year.





Meet the Interns

Internship opportunities are essential for college students looking to transition from the classroom to a career. During the 2023-2024 school year, a total of 28 college interns served in various divisions at the Riverside County Office of Education, with an additional 25 chosen to serve over the summer.

Students were placed in assignments in El Centro, Indio, Murrieta, Riverside, and Sacramento, and many experienced organizational life and office-based work environments for the first time. Interns participated in projects, events, leadership development, capstone presentations, and a trip to Sacramento to advocate on behalf of students in Riverside County.

Meet Class of 2024 Graduates

From as far back as he could remember, Joshua Roiz believed he would never graduate from high school. That all changed when Joshua witnessed his father's recovery from a serious accident, and Joshua is now ready to pursue his interests in mechanics, welding, and possibly, the military.

Marcy Palomar completed her registered dental assistance program at the School of Career Education, and is pursuing a career that will support her and her young son.

After working side jobs as a mechanic since he was 12, Adrian Aparicio Torres knew he had the work ethic to complete high school, but he didn't have the tools he needed for success until he started attending the Betty G. Gibbel Regional Learning Center.

Destiny Rodriguez's physical disability may limit her mobility, but her desire to use her hands to communicate with the deaf and hard of hearing through American Sign Language has empowered her in ways she never thought possible.



Get to know the stories of Destiny, Adrian, Marcy, and Joshua.

Meet Riverside County Students

Spelling Bee

The 46th Annual Riverside County Spelling Bee concluded with Avijeet Randhawa, an eighth-grade student from Auburndale Intermediate School in the Corona-Norco Unified School District, clinching the championship for the second consecutive year.

Avijeet represented Riverside County at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in May, finishing tied for ninth place overall. The 2025 Riverside County Spelling Bee is set for March 26.



National History Day



Large exhibit boards, performance groups, website pages, and documentary videos, were just a few of the categories represented by 201 projects from 386 students competing at the 2024 Riverside County National History Day. A total of 72 projects by 131 students advanced to the National History Day-California Competition. The 2025 Riverside County History Day will feature the theme “Rights and Responsibilities in History,” and take place on February 25, 2025.

Science and Engineering Fair

A total of 515 students from 29 affiliate fairs representing public, charter, and private schools, presented their findings in 359 projects spanning 19 subject matter categories at the 2024 Riverside County Science and Engineering Fair. A total of 72 students earned gold medals, including three sweepstakes winners, along with dozens of prizes and entries into state, and international fairs. The 2025 Riverside County Science and Engineering Fair will take place on February 28 and March 1, 2025.



Mock Trial

After seven rounds of legal wrangling, the team of students from Poly High School in the Riverside Unified School District defeated Notre Dame High School in the finals of the 42nd Riverside County Mock Trial competition. Martin Luther King High School and Chaparral High School shared third place. Poly High School represented Riverside County at the California Mock Trial competition finishing fifth overall. The 2025 Riverside County Mock Trial will take place between January 21 and February 18, 2025.



Academic Decathlon

After winning the Riverside County Academic Decathlon for the first time in school history in 2023, Hemet Unified School District's Western Center Academy repeated in 2024. At the state competition, Western Center Academy also qualified for the U.S. Academic Decathlon competition where they finished first overall in the medium-sized division. The 2025 Riverside County Academic Decathlon will take place between January 9 and January 25, 2025.



Learn more about the
2024–2025 student event season.



Meet Educators and Programs

Instructional Assistant Saves Student From Choking

On Thursday, February 15, 2024, while students in Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) Instructional Assistant Jasmin Sandoval's Deaf/Hard of Hearing class at Palms Elementary School in Perris were eating breakfast in the classroom, she noticed that one student's laughter had abruptly turned into something else.

Jasmin looked over and noticed the non-verbal student's face was turning red, he was fluttering his arms, and she immediately wondered if he was choking. Without hesitation, she put her training into action and administered several abdominal thrusts to the child from behind—quickly dislodging the piece of apple from the student's airway.

Visit the RCOE website to learn more about how Jasmin's training, her family background, and her attunement to the needs of others uniquely prepared her for this heroic moment.



Read Jasmin's inspiring story.

Little Hands, Big Science: Introducing Science Beyond Sign Language

To most preschool students, words like "pupa," "chrysalis," and "metamorphosis" are heard for the very first time during early science lessons about how a caterpillar becomes a butterfly.

But, what if students couldn't hear those words?

What if there wasn't a direct way to "say" those words for Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) preschool students who are learning American Sign Language and complicated science terms at the same time?

This is one of several challenges that Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) DHH preschool teacher, Darrian Briggs, has been working to overcome in order to instill a love of science for students in her RCOE classroom.



Visit the RCOE website to learn how the magic of creative teaching and sensory learning is making a difference.



Meeting the Needs of Students and Families

Southern California may not be known for its seasons, but for students and families of foster youth and those experiencing housing insecurity in Riverside County, the holiday season and back-to-school season can represent stress-inducing, economically challenging times.

In response, the Riverside County Office of Education organized Back to School Resource Fairs before the start of school in conjunction with Lake Elsinore Unified School District and Alvord Unified School District. Through volunteers and community partnerships, the events provided nearly 1,500 pairs of shoes and backpacks filled with school supplies to students—to go along with haircuts, dental checks, and overall health physicals.

During the holiday season, Winter Wonderland events provide a meal, games, crafts, family activities, and a gift for each student.



Watch the highlights from the 2024 Back to School Resource Fair.

AVID Riverside County Building Momentum

After years of preparing thousands of students to pursue their college and career dreams, the popular Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program is continuing to grow with the development of AVID Riverside County (ARC) as it serves 287 schools in 16 districts and counting.

In its first full year, ARC has:

- Hosted 84 trainings at the Riverside County Office of Education and 44 trainings at schools and districts
- Trained 2,449 educators and 291 AVID tutors
- Conducted 527 school site and 2,679 classroom visits

The year ended with the AVID Senior Recognition that honored nearly 1,000 graduates in the Class of 2024 along with their families at California Baptist University.



Meet Educators and Programs

Meet the 2025 Riverside County Teachers of the Year



Misty McBee
Riverside County Teacher of the Year



Amy Torres
Riverside County Teacher of the Year



Bob Mauger
Riverside County Teacher of the Year



Amanda Zonker
Riverside County Teacher of the Year

School of Education Preparing Highest Quality Educators and Administrators

The School of Education at RCOE serves as a single-entry point into high-quality preparation pathways for educational professionals. The programs offered range from obtaining a substitute teaching permit to clearing an administrative services credential. This year alone, the unit credentialed 254 new educators, recommended 1,750 practicing teachers for a clear teaching credential, and credentialed 238 educational professionals to serve as administrators.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



The 2025 Riverside County Teachers of the Year include a middle school animatronics teacher, a high school math teacher, an automotive technology instructor, and a middle school humanities teacher.

All four teachers of the year will be honored at the Riverside County Celebrating Educators event on May 13, 2025.

Misty McBee

Menifee Union School District

Misty developed a course to activate the district's investment in a new Garner Holt Animatronics Lab. She created the curriculum, enlisted volunteers for supplies, and recruited students into what has become one of the most popular electives on the middle school campus of Harvest Hill STEAM Academy.

Amy Torres

Desert Sands Unified School District

Amy's teaching career started as a long-term substitute in 2015, and has grown to become the mathematics department chair at Indio High School. Her advanced placement courses in statistics and math are environments where students feel safe and valued with the confidence to try, make mistakes, and learn from it all.

Bob Mauger

Corona-Norco Unified School District

While pursuing a career as a probation officer, Bob discovered an interest in child development, and started a career in education. His lifelong passion for hands-on work and mechanical repair now prepares Corona High School students with technical skills, along with life skills of confidence, a strong work ethic, and how to be a good human.



Amanda Zonker

Riverside Unified School District

Amanda is as much a teacher of history and English, as she is a coach, leader, culture-builder, and lifelong learner who desires to change lives through authentic connections to students. At Riverside STEM Academy, she co-founded a weekly student-produced news program, re-designed student government, and serves as a coach for Science Olympiad and LEGO Robotics, and is co-lead for National History Day.

Meet Community Partners

Local Agencies Partner to Host Fire Careers Expo

A partnership with CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire and the U.S. Forest Service led to an event at the Ben Clark Regional Training Center for 500 high school seniors and counselors from nine school districts to explore the breadth of careers available after high school graduation.

Beyond the traditional firefighter positions, career opportunities at the partner agencies include dispatchers, heavy equipment mechanics, accountants, and information technology technicians.

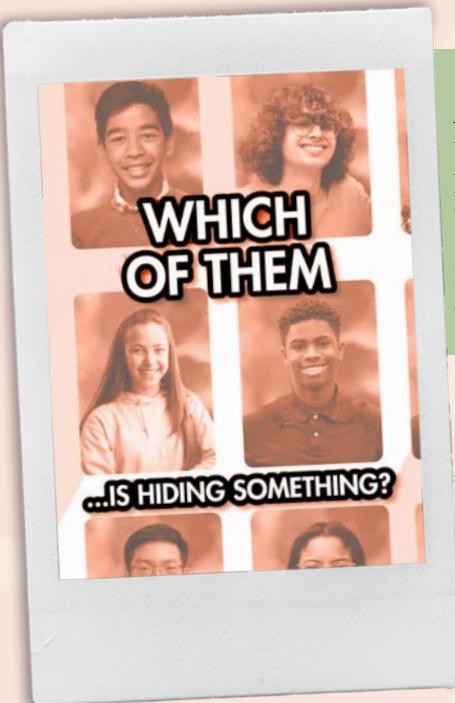


*Watch a video recap
of the event.*

Fighting Fentanyl Together

A new public service announcement that humanizes the statistics of fentanyl usage and dangerous drug overdoses was released in 2024 as part of an ongoing partnership between Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE), the Riverside County Sheriff's Office, and the Riverside County District Attorney.

In 2024-2025, RCOE's partnership with the County of Riverside will include collaboration on the next phase of their award-winning Faces of Fentanyl campaign.



*Watch the short
public service
announcement.*

Partnership Prepares Students for Success in the Coachella Valley

Since 2009, a partnership with OneFuture Coachella Valley continues to enhance student success in the region through collaboration on advancing college readiness, financial aid accessibility, workforce preparedness, and aligning with the broader Coachella Valley Regional Plan for College and Career Success.

In 2023, the Riverside County Office of Education provided \$226,500 in funding, which included support for the Regional Plan and Health Career Connection (HCC) Internships. These efforts improve high school graduation rates, increase college readiness, and prepare students for higher-paying jobs. Since the inception of the HCC Internships, 301 students have benefited from placements at 61 host sites, earning over \$1 million in summer wages. In addition, the partnership focuses on long-term student success through strategic initiatives like the Linked Learning approach and personalized graduation plans.



Supporting Organizations That Support Students



The power of partnership was clearly evident at the first-ever Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Empire (BBBSIE) Mental Health Summit hosted at the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) Conference Center during National Mental Health Awareness Month. This partnership supported mentors and families throughout the region who received training and support from experts regarding mental health and available community resources.

RCOE will continue its support of BBBSIE by hosting the high school mentor leadership training and the second-annual Mental Health Summit in 2025.

Community Leader Recognized for Inspiring Brilliance Through Dedication and Service to Students

Sally Myers received the *Brilliance in Action* award at the 2024 Riverside County State of Education for her dedicated service to Riverside County students and communities. Ms. Myers launched the Student of the Month award ceremony more than 30 years ago and the program has now grown to every region in Riverside County.



Superintendent's Initiatives

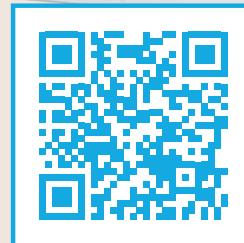
Foster Youth Success

**NEW for
2024-2025**

Data showing educational performance, attendance, suspension, and post-secondary success by foster students consistently fall below the outcomes from almost every other student group.

As a response, a new initiative launched during the 2024-2025 school year by the Riverside County Office of Education will address these challenges directly to help foster students move from surviving to thriving.

From individual student support tools and foster parent resources, to educator training tools and bridging programs to higher education, the Foster Youth Success Initiative aims to build stronger connections between school, community, and government entities, whose supportive programs and services are essential to meeting the needs of students in the foster care system.



*Learn how you can help by visiting
www.rcoe.us/foster-youth-success.*

Mental Health

Multiple grants and expanded partnerships are leading to a proliferation of services, opportunities, and supports to better serve students and educators across Riverside County.

The School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) Grant and Mental Health Services Program (MHSP) Demonstration Grant led to more than 22,000 students being served with behavioral health services. Seventeen school-based licensed mental health providers were hired in partner districts—60% of whom are individuals from diverse backgrounds.

The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) is a 5-year \$4.7 billion statewide initiative aimed at reimagining and transforming the way California supports children, youth, and families. In Riverside County, this is leading to meeting young people and families where they are through supporting early intervention, addressing inequities for groups disproportionately impacted by mental health challenges, and more.

The Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) is also part of a two-year pilot program to develop and test models for rapid reporting and comprehensive crisis response related to youth suicide and suicide attempts. RCOE's CAREspace program offerings that are available at 11 locations in collaboration with nine community partners, have provided more than 20,000 individuals with direct mental health services since 2021.



*Learn how you can help by visiting
www.rcoe.us/mental-health.*



Financial Literacy

More than 30,000 students in Riverside County have already been signed up for CalKIDS accounts that are providing millions of dollars in free savings accounts to eligible students. A dashboard tracking school-by-school updates shows the progress in removing financial barriers to college and career dreams.

California State Treasurer, Fiona Ma, visited three schools in Riverside County to observe the implementation of the CalKIDS program and financial literacy lessons.

The Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) Grant is providing assistance to students and families with Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion. Staff are working on how best to support the newly-signed AB2927 legislation that requires California high school students to complete a semester-long personal finance education course.



Learn how you can help by visiting www.rcoe.us/financial-literacy.

Literacy by 5th Grade

The first Passport to Literacy two-day event attracted nearly 300 educators in February 2024. Topics included the science of reading, and building language comprehension through oral language development.

The Riverside County Writer's Showcase held in May featured original student work exploring the relationship between writing and wellness.

For the coming year, expanded offerings include instructional coaching, on-site implementation support, a county writing roadmap, and Spanish literacy offerings. Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) Training will continue with more than 80 cohorts planned for teachers, administrators, and early childhood educators.



Learn how you can help by visiting www.rcoe.us/literacy-by-5th-grade.

Competitive Edge

Focused work with districts continues with educator trainings including the annual ETE Conference which hosts nearly 1,000 educators each September.

In late 2023, the YES! Conference hosted high school students for real conversations about what is working and isn't in schools in order to craft new visions of educational excellence with creativity, courage, critical thinking, and connection.

Identifying best practices led to 160 success site walkthroughs at 19 schools in 8 districts during the 2023-24 school year. Findings revealed variations in best practices, intentional and visible leadership, empowered students, and sites with high levels of healthy cultures. A logic model has been developed to guide work through December 2024, and includes identifying showcase sites, and more site visits.



Learn how you can help by visiting www.rcoe.us/competitive-edge.



Innovative New Programs

Students Receive Free Dental Screenings Using AI and Smartphones

A new pilot program to bring oral health assessments into schools was launched in Riverside County through a partnership with the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE), Riverside University Health System-Public Health, the Riverside First 5 Commission, the California Northstate University College of Dental Medicine, and Dental.com.

More than 60 students from Nuview Elementary School and Valley View Elementary School in the Nuview Union School District participated in a successful pilot assessment on May 14, 2024.



Using nothing more than a smartphone to take photos of the inside of students' mouths, many of the students were receiving the first oral health screening of their lives while attending school that day.

Read more and watch video highlights of the pilot on the RCOE website.



Thousands Gather at New Educator-Focused Events

Multiple large-scale events aimed at preparing educators to better serve students made their debut in 2023-2024—most of which were hosted at the Riverside County Office of Education's Conference Center in downtown Riverside at 4280 Brockton Avenue.

New events included:

- “The Whole Story” Executive Women’s Leadership Convention
- Artslift Conference
- Artificial Intelligence Summit
- Ethnic Studies Summit
- Chronic Absenteeism Summit
- YES! Conference
- Passport to Literacy: Navigating the Journey to Literacy for All
- Riverside County Wellness Collaborative Social Emotional Learning & Wellness Conference

Beyond these new activities, hundreds of recurring trainings, student events, webinars, conferences, and more take place every year. To view upcoming opportunities, click on “Events” on the front page of www.rcoe.us.

New Ways to Pursue a Career as an Educator

It's never too late to make a career switch and become an educator that makes a difference for the next generation.

New programs offered by the RCOE School of Education offer on-the-job teaching training that include a full salary while preparing adult learners to fill high demand positions in any school district.

The Multiple Subject Intern Program is open to anyone with a bachelor's degree and will fulfill requirements for elementary school classroom teaching positions.

The School of Education is one of the first agencies in California to offer the PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Instruction Credential Intern Program. Completing this program opens the door to applying for always-in-demand preschool and elementary school teaching positions.

To learn more, visit the Center for Teacher Preparation website at: www.rcoe.us/ctp.



What is a Community School?

Schools have long served as a common gathering place in neighborhoods, but the new California Community School Partnership Program is ensuring that schools become a central location for much more than reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Nearly 60 existing schools in Riverside County have been transformed by their districts into Community Schools to better serve their local population.

A Community School is seen as a hub where students, families, staff, and community members collectively share the needs of students and collaborate to offer solutions that lead to student success. Community Schools then use that direct feedback to plan programming, services, partnerships, and much more in order to meet the needs of students and families.

In some districts, Community Schools offer parent workshops and food pantries. Others offer clothes closets and free use of laundry machines. Vision, dental, and mental health screenings and services are frequently available at Community Schools.

To learn more, or to find out what Community Schools offer around your neighborhood, visit www.rcoe.us/ccspp.

CBK Charter School Golf Program

Most of the students in the CBK Charter School classroom of Daniel Choe had never picked up a golf club or been on a golf course before their teacher introduced them to his favorite sport.

After initial classroom instruction, weekly golf lessons for students in the program began at The First Tee Coachella Valley. Students journaled about their experiential learning opportunity and continued writing reflection assignments with every hands-on lesson.

Students in the program aren't just learning how to play golf, they are gaining access to previously inaccessible opportunities, while learning about etiquette, sportsmanship, and character development at the same time.



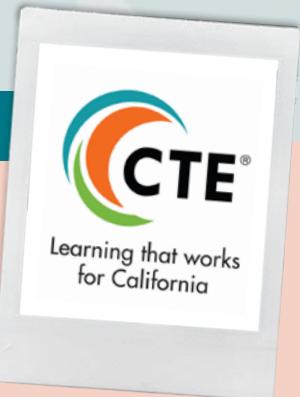
Visit the RCOE website to read more about the CBK Charter School golf program.

Apprenticeships Leading to Career Opportunities for Students

Apprenticeships and innovative pre-apprenticeship programs are opening doors to further education while paving the way for sustainable, long-term success in the workforce for students in Career Technical Education (CTE) programs.

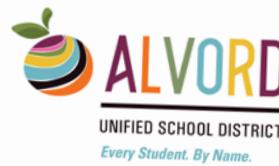
These programs are designed to particularly serve those facing barriers to employment, ensuring they have access to high-wage, in-demand careers in competitive job markets like automotive, mechatronics, building trades and construction, and culinary arts.

In 2023-2024, RCOE offered pre-apprenticeships for the first time with 115 high school students from four local districts completing pre-apprenticeships. Upon completion, students were eligible for apprenticeships at local community colleges and businesses. As momentum builds and districts express their interest in partnering, an additional 500 students are expected to register in 2024-2025.



2023-2024 Highlights

The Norco College Early Childhood Building at Stokoe Elementary School launched four state preschool classes across the district, setting a strong foundation for our youngest learners. The districtwide approach to Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) has launched, ensuring every student receives the support they need. The district earned the prestigious recognition as a model School Attendance Review Board (SARB) district by the state of California. Firsts during the previous year included: Adoption of a new mathematics textbook and materials, science and world language textbooks at the secondary level, social studies textbooks at the elementary level, the rollout of an innovative visual and performing arts strategic plan, and the introduction of a vibrant middle school sports program across all four middle schools. The first round of Measure J projects addressed safety and security as the district embarked on an ambitious longterm plan to modernize facilities.



2024-2025 Goals

The theme for the school year is “We Are Better Together.” By being better together, we can achieve greatness for our students, families, and staff. At the heart of the district’s educational philosophy is the core value: “Every student by name. Every decision every day.” The Community Schools Grant will enable the district to offer and expand wrap-around services, including social workers, social work interns, and community liaisons. This school year also marks the transition to becoming a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) district. The district’s Computer Science Supplemental Authorization (CSSA) coursework program will continue preparing teachers from kindergarten to high school to earn credentials to teach computer science.

2023-2024 Highlights

One highlight was the district breaking ground on a six-classroom expansion of Florida Street Discovery Center. The project is part of the Universal Transitional Kindergarten Facilities State Grant Program. The new 25,000-square-foot facility is being built on the neighboring lot with the intention of connecting it to the current Florida Street Discovery Center campus through a protected walkway. This will significantly expand the capacity of the program and services for students. The project also includes updating the school kitchen, cafeteria, and administrative space for faculty and staff. Construction is expected to be completed in August 2025.



2024-2025 Goals

The district’s theme is “We Are Banning.” This theme will proudly reinforce the positive contributions of the school community in preparing, inspiring, and educating students and staff.

2023-2024 Highlights

The district celebrated the first graduating class of Beaumont Middle College High School by graduating 100% of its senior class with each student earning approximately 25 transferable college credits on average. Nearly 60% of all 11th graders at Beaumont Middle College High School met and/or exceeded standards in English Language Arts and mathematics on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress summative exam. The district is on track to double its senior cohort size during the current year and increase the number of college credits earned to 35+ per senior on average.

2024-2025 Goals

The district seeks to continue to be one of the highest achieving school districts in Riverside County. Specifically, the district will utilize professional learning communities and apply evidence-based strategies to outperform the California State average in mathematics.



2023-2024 Highlights

The district is committed to fostering incremental growth and improving high school graduation rates through Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). Dedicated literacy and math coaches at each school site provide direct interactive instruction to support teachers and staff. The introduction of new academies within the district include virtual reality to enhance secondary-level math and science programs with virtual reality. These efforts have been recognized with state-level awards and a California School Boards Association (CSBA) Golden Bell Award.

2024-2025 Goals

The district-wide vision focuses on the Whole Child Model, emphasizing the importance of meeting students' academic, social, and emotional needs. By valuing students as vital assets to society and uplifting them to higher levels of engagement, the district implements restorative practices and strengthens both the social-emotional and academic frameworks of students. The district is also enhancing its Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) model to provide greater access and equity for all learners. Additionally, the district is committed to strengthening parent engagement and improving communication with parents to support student success.



2023-2024 Highlights

The district held its first-ever Mental Health Summit in March of 2024. This inspiring event brought together approximately 1,200 students from all high schools. The summit provided training for students to foster healthy peer-to-peer interactions, decrease the stigma surrounding mental health, and expose students to valuable wellness resources. Additionally, the summit offered training to help students learn effective coping strategies for their wellness. The district looks forward to continuing to support student well-being by developing systemic opportunities through the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) process.



2024-2025 Goals

In alignment with the strategic plan, the district looks forward to continuing its work in being a model Professional Learning Community (PLC) district. In addition to various trainings throughout the year, this July, the district held its very own PLC Institute for over 700 CNUSD staff members in partnership with Solution Tree. A follow-up with all teachers took place later in the fall, and was conducted by Mike Mattos and Dr. Luis Cruz. This unique opportunity deepens the district's PLC work, aligns strategies, and makes a meaningful impact on student learning and achievement.

2023-2024 Highlights

One highlight was the opportunity to provide social and emotional support for students that came through a Comprehensive Support and Improvement Grant. This initiative included both the ability for students to work with mental health therapists over the phone and the opportunity to interact with a therapy canine while at school. Having these resources available helped to provide safeguards to students experiencing crisis and to minimize the impact on them personally and academically. This effort will continue to help students utilize strategies and coping skills that will support them in their development as youth.



2024-2025 Goals

One goal is implementing a schoolwide initiative that will increase the number of college and career ready students. This endeavor includes committing to the integration of a schoolwide Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) elementary program. This initiative will support the development of teachers' instructional practices and better support their work as a professional learning community. The district will develop students' use of writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization skills, and their reading abilities. The outcomes will support students with academic performance, their transition to high school, and the ultimate increase of students entering and completing post-secondary educational endeavors.

2023-2024 Highlights

The district thrived under the theme “Growing Stronger Together,” emphasizing unity through its mission, vision, and core values. The district excelled in early literacy initiatives, ensuring foundational skills for all students. With a commitment to college and career readiness, the district offered an array of more than 40 different certificates to better equip graduates with diverse pathways to success. Mental health remained a priority, bolstered by comprehensive school-based services that supported the well-being of every student. The district stands as a beacon of holistic education, fostering growth and resilience among its students and community.



2024-2025 Goals

The district's goal is to continue to advance under the theme “The Future is Here,” by focusing on sustaining excellence in early literacy, college and career readiness, and mental health support. Through professional development and targeted interventions, the district aims to elevate early literacy proficiency across all primary grade levels. By expanding partnerships with industry leaders and higher education institutions, the district will broaden opportunities for students to attain college credits and industry certifications, thereby ensuring robust college and career readiness. Additionally, the district is committed to enhancing school-based mental health services and promoting a supportive environment for emotional well-being.

2023-2024 Highlights

At the center of HUSD is US—the students and staff who make the community thrive. Together, the district has been on a remarkable improvement journey, working diligently to enhance systems to better serve every student, every day. Focused on championing student success, the district has decreased chronic absenteeism by 4.6% and increased literacy rates by 4% through the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) Program. Additionally, the district has expanded Career Technical Education (CTE) and pre-apprenticeship programs, earning a rank of 5th in California for pre-apprenticeships.



2024-2025 Goals

The district is committed to a data-driven approach, focusing on innovative ways to equip and engage those closest to the work, to enable long-lasting results. Staff are trained to identify challenges and equipped with improvement tools to collaboratively build a framework for executing data-driven action plans. These plans will result in an organizational scorecard that aims to champion student success, cultivate high-performing teams, carefully and responsibly manage resources, and strengthen community confidence. The district anticipates that real-time solutions in these areas will result in measurable improvements in student outcomes, further enhancing the legacy of the “The HUSD Way.”

2023-2024 Highlights

The district continues to implement its Vision for the Future strategic plan to ensure the best educational experience for all students. The district is closing the achievement gap with a substantial increase in college and career readiness indicators and growth in elementary reading proficiency. The Attend Today, Succeed for Life initiative helped realize a significant decrease in chronic absenteeism and increase in average daily attendance. As the first Riverside County district to implement the Community Schools model, the district continues to lead in this area with an additional six campuses – 18 total – for the current school year.



2024-2025 Goals

The district will continue implementing action steps outlined in the Vision for the Future in the areas of achievement and innovation, systems of support, community and employee relations, leadership and building human capital, and organizational stability and fiscal solvency. A continued emphasis on innovative educational programs, literacy, college and career readiness, school and student safety, social-emotional support, and support for the whole child, and whole family will be critical to ensure that every student can realize learning without limits.

2023-2024 Highlights

The district remained committed to educating, equipping, and empowering every student, every day. Key achievements included two professional development days for staff, leading to improved teaching strategies and student outcomes. The expansion of extended learning opportunities at elementary and K-8 sites to provide essential before and after-school support, and foster student growth and well-being. Additionally, ongoing security and safety enhancements ensured a secure environment, allowing a space for students to thrive academically and social-emotionally.



2024-2025 Goals

Looking ahead, the district will host the State of the District event that will highlight the district's dedication to creating an enriching educational experience for every student. It will showcase student achievements, innovative strategies, and staff dedication. The event will also emphasize the importance of strong educational partnerships with families and the community, reinforcing the belief that collaboration drives student success and ensuring every child has the tools and opportunities to excel academically and socially.

2023-2024 Highlights

The district's strong focus on attendance led to a nearly 2% increase in average daily attendance rate and a significant decrease in chronic absenteeism. The dedicated attendance teams and a partnership with community partners played a pivotal role along with the nationally recognized No-Absence November campaign. Additionally, Academic Saturday Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) Academies boosted attendance and contributed to a 5% increase in science scores.



2024-2025 Goals

Improving academic achievement for all students is paramount. This demands a continued focus on improving attendance, and recognizing its critical role in student success. The district will also continue to refine its Professional Learning Community efforts and develop more effective collaboration and support. Lastly, the district is excited to introduce the Teacher Clarity initiative. Teachers will collaborate to learn how to clearly communicate daily learning objectives, their purpose, and the criteria for success. This framework fosters a culture of assessment-capable students who take ownership of their educational journey. When students have agency, they make strides in stepping into their limitless futures.

2023-2024 Highlights

Moreno Valley High School is one of the 293 middle and high schools honored under the 2024 California Distinguished Schools Award Program. This award program recognizes schools for closing the achievement gap and those demonstrating exceptional student performance.



2024-2025 Goals

The district will continue positively impacting the achievement of African American students and students with disabilities in A-G completion rates, suspension rates, chronic absenteeism rates, and graduation rates by continuously focusing on the district's services and supports at each tier and domain of the district's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS).

2023-2024 Highlights

The district celebrated several highlights that reflect the excellence of its educators and student engagement. Vista Murrieta High School was honored as the 'Most Spirited High School in America' for the third time, showcasing the commitment to fostering a vibrant school community. Five schools earned the 'California Purple Star School' award, the only district in Riverside County to receive this recognition. The year concluded with three schools—Dorothy McElhinney Middle School, Murrieta Mesa High School, and Vista Murrieta High High School—being named California Distinguished Schools, highlighting their outstanding academic achievements.

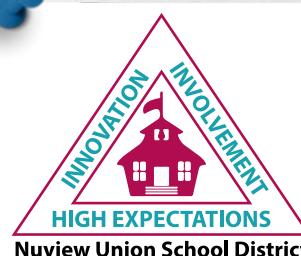


2024-2025 Goals

This year's goals span four categories: student learning, student intervention, professional growth, and climate and culture. A key goal in student learning is workplace readiness. This year, the district will introduce a second educational pathway course at Vista Murrieta High School to support students with a desire to become teachers. Additionally, the district is exploring ways to align middle school elective courses with high school career technical education pathways. The district believes streamlining career exploration from middle to high school is a crucial step in preparing students for life after graduation.

2023-2024 Highlights

The district started Beyond the Bell in the spring of 2023, an expanded learning program that provides students with daily enrichment opportunities and additional instruction in reading and math. Certificated teachers provide extended instruction to the students each day while physical education is provided through a partnership with Elevo Learning. In addition to being provided with additional instruction, students have supper each evening. Thirty additional days are provided throughout the year, including a Thanksgiving Break Camp, Spring Break Camp, and summer school. Students participating in the program are able to participate in several Saturday field trips throughout the year. This year, students in the program went to an aquarium, the Air and Space Museum, and the San Diego Zoo.



2024-2025 Goals

The district is proud of this year's growth in last year's California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), and the goal is to continue raising test scores in math and English for all students. In addition, a goal will be to finalize benchmarks in the "Framework for the Future." These grade-level benchmarks will support students as they utilize multiple ways to demonstrate how they learn best in the district's identified learner profile core areas of being an effective communicator, empathetic collaborator, creative problem solver, global contributor, and critical thinker.

2023-2024 Highlights

Cathedral City High School was selected as a California Distinguished School. The district had 125 teachers complete the Language Essentials for Teaching Reading and Spelling (LETRS) program. The district's first 15 volunteers were part of the Riverside County Office of Education's first group of program graduates in May after having completed eight units of student development and eight days of professional development focused on the science of reading. The course totaled an average of 150 hours of training time over the past two academic years.

PSUSD
PALM SPRINGS
UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024-2025 Goals

The district recognizes the incredible importance of early literacy for students. A major goal is to expand upon the dedication and commitment to ensuring that students are receiving the best possible instruction to garner these crucial skills. To that end, in addition to the 110 teachers who are entering their second year in the Language Essentials for Teaching Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training, the district has an additional 75 teachers who are starting the first year of this work that includes units focused on reading, online videos, assessments, and case study work.



2023-2024 Highlights

The Palo Verde Unified School District began an Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) in August 2023. The district was able to provide after-school programming for students at the school sites as well as a partnership with the local recreation center. Each session was eight weeks long, with a wide variety of offerings including crafts, sports, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities. After a successful first year, the district is continuing this program in the new year.

COMMUNITY STUDENTS PARENTS TEACHERS

2024-2025 Goals

The district will continue to focus on increasing student achievement through improving academic instruction. The district is doing this by providing intensive professional development in instruction and classroom management. The district has also increased the number of academic coaches to provide individualized support with instruction throughout the school year. The district will continue to look at attendance data and work with schools and the community on finding ways to improve daily attendance.



2023-2024 Highlights

Expanding the Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Program was an exciting milestone for the district. At Skyview Elementary School, the program was introduced to Transitional Kindergarten (TK) students and a pathway was established for 7th and 8th graders over the next two years, ensuring continuous bilingual education for DLI learners. Additionally, Good Hope Elementary School welcomed its first cohort of TK students into DLI Program, fostering early bilingual development. These expansions reflect the district's commitment to enriching educational opportunities and preparing students for a multilingual world, by bridging the strengths of the community to school programming.



2024-2025 Goals

The district is advancing its commitment to belonging and wellbeing with a Community Schools grant. The district is establishing fully-staffed wellbeing centers at each school for the direct support of students, staff, and families, along with launching districtwide restorative practices training, and check-in and check-out circles. Each classroom will feature Zen Dens for student self-regulation and calming, complemented by daily/weekly emotional check-ins for a responsive school support system for each and every child. Social-emotional lessons will address current student trends, fostering a nurturing environment that creates a climate of inclusivity and a culture of belonging for all.

2023-2024 Highlights

Students have continued to excel in engaging and rigorous courses, including Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, and Career Technical Education (CTE) programs. Many students are earning college credits through Dual Enrollment and courses articulated with local community colleges. The district's overall pass rate has improved significantly since the COVID-19 years, reaching 87.4%. At the comprehensive high schools, college readiness remains strong, with just over 48% of students meeting the minimum entry requirements for both the California State University and the University of California (A-G).



2024-2025 Goals

The district is going back to basics by focusing on research-based instructional practices, real-time data-driven decision-making, and its graduate profile. The district is continuing its commitment to offering engaging and rigorous courses that include Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, and Career Technical Education (CTE) programs. The district is committed to ensuring that its graduates are scholars, persevering goal-setters, creative and critical thinkers, well-rounded and emotionally intelligent, and global citizens.

2023-2024 Highlights

The district's STEM Academy was U.S. News and World Report's #1 in the state and #10 in the United States. The district renamed Highland Elementary to Harada Elementary in honor of the Harada family's significant contributions to civil and human rights. Additionally, the district began construction on the new Casa Blanca Elementary School, set to open in fall 2025.

2024-2025 Goals

The district will enhance learning and wellbeing for all students, expand programs in the arts, career technical education, and Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), and improve communication with families and the community. The district looks forward to advancing the design phase of the new elementary school on the Eastside, which will provide nearby resources and facilities for local students, and reduce their travel time to and from school.

2023-2024 Highlights

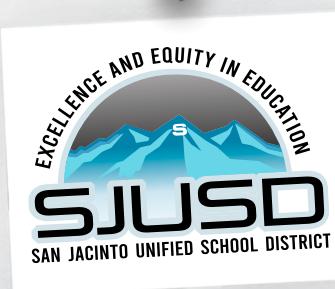
In November 2023, the Romoland School District broke ground on the new Granite Hills TK-8 school in Perris to address growing student enrollment. Community members, officials, and educators attended the ceremony and celebrated the district's commitment to addressing growing student enrollment and enhancing education. The new school, set to open in fall 2025, will reduce overcrowding, provide local access, and improve educational resources for students and families. Parents are excited about the convenience of their children walking and biking to school. This initiative reflects the Board of Trustees' commitment to education and community investment.

2024-2025 Goals

The district will continue its work to establish a Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program to be implemented in the fall of 2025. The DLI program will promote bilingualism and cross-cultural understanding by providing instruction in both a student's native language and a target language. The goal is to develop fluency in both languages, enhancing students' speaking, reading, and writing skills. This new program will enrich educational offerings and serve the district's diverse community. Parent and staff surveys conducted last year showed strong interest in the DLI program, leading to its implementation.

2023-2024 Highlights

The year was marked by a number of significant achievements, including the groundbreaking of Rose Salgado Elementary School, celebrating the district's first two San Jacinto Leadership Academy graduates, and the inaugural year of the Middle College program. The district also saw increased attendance rates, while Dr. Emily Price was honored as Riverside County Principal of the Year. Additionally, a new Family Engagement Center opened, enhancing community involvement and support.



2024-2025 Goals

The district aims to complete Rose Salgado Elementary School to provide students with a state-of-the-art learning environment. A key goal is to ensure students are reading at grade level by the time they enter 4th grade, emphasizing early literacy programs. Additionally, the district will continue to enhance security measures at each campus to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and community.

2023-2024 Highlights

The district celebrated the honor of having two Apple Distinguished Schools, a testament to the commitment to integrating technology and innovation into student education. This recognition highlights efforts to leverage technology as a powerful tool for enhancing learning when combined with data-driven instructional practices. The district will continue advancing these initiatives to foster a dynamic and engaging educational environment for all students.



2024-2025 Goals

Looking ahead, the district's focus is on refining instructional practices to further enrich learning experiences. The district aims to expand Career Technical Education (CTE) and extracurricular programs, providing clear pathways aligned with the college and career aspirations of students. The mission is to elevate opportunities and empower students with the skills and motivation to positively influence their community and beyond. By investing in these areas, the district strives to create an educational environment that supports every student's growth and success.

2023-2024 Highlights

Over the course of the year, the district undertook more than 300 facility projects. Some of the highlights included modernization of three schools to create more conducive learning environments, and equipping every classroom in the district with the latest instructional technology to enhance teaching and learning experiences. A new centralized kitchen will improve food services, and a new maintenance and operations facility will help streamline operations. Outdoor tracks were created at all elementary schools to promote physical fitness and wellbeing. The district believes in the importance of meeting the needs of the whole child, and with the completion of these new facility projects, the district is confident that students and staff will have the best environment to support student learning.



2024-2025

Goals

The district is placing a stronger emphasis on student attendance by implementing several strategies. First, through increased communication with families, the district will keep families informed about the importance of regular attendance and provide updates on attendance policies and expectations. Secondly, to motivate students, various incentives will be introduced for maintaining consistent attendance. Additionally, the Restorative Intervention Supporting Empowerment (RISE) program will continue to play a crucial role in addressing attendance issues through restorative practices and support. Despite the district's efforts, the chronic absenteeism rate has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. The district firmly believes that regular attendance is key to fostering positive student achievement outcomes.

2023-2024 Highlights

California School for the Deaf, Riverside received the 2024 Riverside Hero recognition from the Mayor of the City of Riverside. This award celebrates the school's efforts in promoting the city on state and national stages. Noteworthy accomplishments include national championships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields like aerial drone and the culinary arts, alongside achievements in bilingual education strategies, sports, media, and the arts. This accolade reflects the mission to foster belonging and support for each student's identity and passions. The school would like to thank the students, staff, families, alumni, and the community, for their dedication, and for making the school a symbol of empowerment and inclusivity.

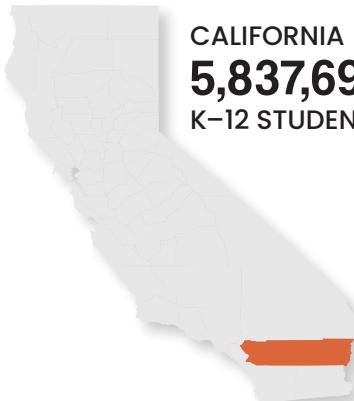


2024-2025 Goals

The overarching goal is to enhance student achievement and foster a collaborative community, aiming to close the achievement gap through targeted initiatives. These emphasize improving academic proficiency in language, mathematics, and science, especially among at-risk student groups, within an equitable and diverse school environment using restorative practices. Additionally, the school will prioritize social-emotional growth, recognizing its integral role in student development and overall wellbeing. Emphasizing shared leadership, the school aims to involve teachers, students, and parents, to further goal setting through dialogue, team building, and policy implementation as part of the annual School Improvement Plan collaboration.

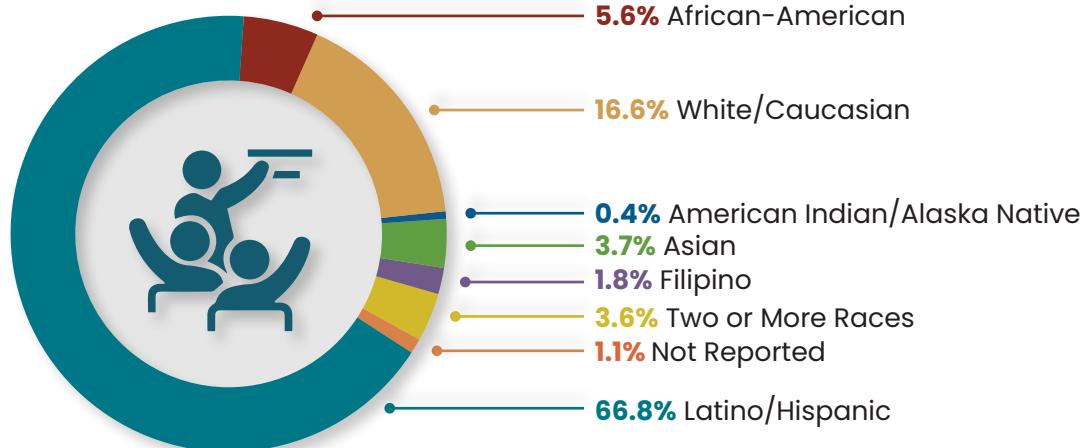
By the Numbers (2023-2024)

Student Enrollment



(4th largest county, 7.2% of students in CA)

Student Diversity by Ethnicity



Student Groups

Charter School Students **32,332**

English Learners **71,427**

Foster Youth **2,934**

Homeless Youth **12,872**

Migrant Education **1,544**

Students With Disabilities **60,528**

Socio-economically Disadvantaged **301,544**



School Data

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS BY TYPE



*Alternative Schools of Choice, Continuation High Schools, County Community Schools, District Community Day Schools, Juvenile Court Schools, K-12 Schools, Opportunity Schools, Special Education Schools, and State Special Schools.

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES



20,498
Classified Employees



18,973
Full-Time Teachers

Student Performance

GRADUATION RATE

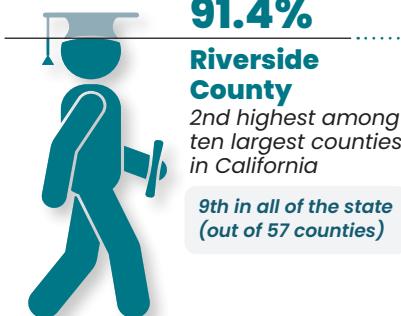
Class of 2023

Of all the students who started high school in California in 2019, a total of 495,492 students graduated four years later in 2023—a statewide graduation rate of 86.2%. The ten largest counties in California graduated 366,682 (74%) of all Class of 2023 graduates in California. Here is how Riverside County students performed compared to students in the ten largest counties in California.



31,160
GRADUATES

in Riverside County

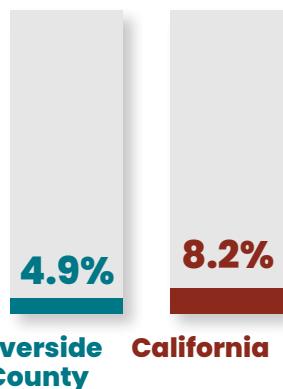


Orange: 91.5%
Contra Costa: 89.7%
Alameda: 87.6%
Santa Clara: 87.3%
San Bernardino: 85.5%
San Diego: 84.6%
Kern: 84.5%
Los Angeles: 84.4%
Fresno: 83.2%
Sacramento: 81.5%

DROPOUT RATE

Class of 2023 dropout rate

2nd lowest among ten largest counties in California



13.7%
Graduation rate improvement in Riverside County from 77.7% in 2010 to 91.4% in 2023



10.2%
Dropout rate improvement in Riverside County from 15.1% in 2010 to 4.4% in 2023

Alvord Unified School District
Banning Unified School District
Beaumont Unified School District
Coachella Valley Unified School District
Corona-Norco Unified School District
Desert Center Unified School District
Desert Sands Unified School District
Hemet Unified School District
Jurupa Unified School District
Lake Elsinore Unified School District
Menifee Union School District
Moreno Valley Unified School District
Murrieta Valley Unified School District
Nuvie Union School District
Palm Springs Unified School District
Palo Verde Unified School District
Perris Elementary School District
Perris Union High School District
Riverside Unified School District
Romoland School District
San Jacinto Unified School District
Temecula Valley Unified School District
Val Verde Unified School District
and
California School for the Deaf, Riverside



Listen to The Torch Podcast

Launched in 2024, The Torch invites listeners to meet the innovative minds shaping education in Riverside County and beyond. Learn more at www.rcoe.us/the-torch or subscribe to watch or listen wherever you get your podcasts.

