



San Ysidro

School District

EST - 1887

QUALITY EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

District Highlights

Superintendent - Gina Potter, Ed.D.
Week of June 6, 2025

SUPERINTENDENT

Gina Potter, Ed.D.

BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPIONS: DISTRICT RETIREES

On June 5, 2025, the San Ysidro School District's Governing Board and Superintendent proudly recognized the district's retirees during a special board meeting. These individuals have dedicated years of service to the district, contributing to the education and well-being of countless students. Their commitment and hard work have left a lasting impact on the community.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the following retirees for their years of dedicated service:

- Irene Herrera-Cevallos, Vista Del Mar Principal: 10 years of service
- Marlyn Moreno, La Mirada Child Nutrition Services Specialist, 16 years of service
- Anita Gillchrest, District School Nurse, 24 years of service
- Alejandra Rodriguez, Willow Elementary Teacher, 31 years of service



BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPIONS: CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

On June 5, 2025, the San Ysidro School District's Governing Board and Superintendent proudly recognized the district's Classified Employees of the Year during a special board meeting. These dedicated staff members have demonstrated exceptional commitment to supporting students, maintaining school operations, and fostering a positive educational environment. Their contributions are integral to the district's mission of providing quality education and ensuring student success.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the following individuals for their outstanding service:

- Yolanda Aguilar (La Mirada Elementary School - Campus Aide), Esmeralda Alvarado (Smythe Elementary School - Instructional Health Care Assistant), Rosa Hernandez (Sunset Elementary School - Campus Aide), John Villalobos (Willow Elementary School - Custodian), Carmen Hernandez (San Ysidro Middle School - Campus Aide), Lidia Aguilera (Vista Del Mar Middle School - Custodian), Luz Gabriela Corona (Child Development Center - Instructional Aide), and Elmy Flores (District Office - District Translator and Interpreter)
- **District-wide Classified Employee of the Year:** Terry Williams (Ocean View Hills Elementary School - Campus Security)



BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPIONS: TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

On June 5, 2025, the San Ysidro School District's Governing Board and Superintendent proudly recognized the district's Teachers of the Year during a special board meeting. These educators have demonstrated exceptional dedication, innovation, and impact in their classrooms, fostering a positive learning environment and contributing significantly to student success. Their commitment to excellence embodies the district's mission to provide quality education and support to all students.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the following educators for their outstanding contributions:

- Catherine Bishop (La Mirada Elementary School - TK Classroom Teacher), Lenore Garcia (Ocean View Hills Elementary School - Kinder Classroom Teacher), Corey Meyers (Sunset Elementary School - TK Classroom Teacher), Katie Bisaga (Willow Elementary School - 5th Grade Classroom Teacher), David Alkass (San Ysidro Middle School - 8th Grade Science Teacher), Jerry Herrera (Vista Del Mar Middle School - 7th/8th Grade Social Science Teacher), Cecilia Cruz (Child Development Center - Preschool Permit Teacher), and Eugene Yepis (District Office - Sci Phy Teacher)
- **District-wide Teacher of the Year:** Maricela Cali (Smythe Elementary School - Special Education Teacher)



GOVERNING BOARD MEETING PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ocean View Hill School Elementary 5th grade student Justin Patriarca proudly led the Pledge of Allegiance at the June 5, 2025, Governing Board meeting. The board and attendees recognized and appreciated her leadership and confidence.



BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPIONS: OCEAN VIEW HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT SAFETY PATROL

On June 5, 2025, the San Ysidro School District's Governing Board and Superintendent proudly recognized the Ocean View Hills Elementary School Student Safety Patrol for their outstanding service during the 2024–2025 school year. These dedicated student volunteers played a key role in ensuring a safe environment for their peers during arrival and dismissal times, demonstrating leadership, responsibility, and a strong commitment to school safety. Their efforts reflect the district's mission to encourage student engagement and community-minded leadership at all levels. Ocean View Hills Elementary's Student Safety Patrol earned Southern Division Safety Patrol of the Year for the fifth consecutive year and placed second countywide under the leadership of Marely Navarro, Sergeant Saul Hurtando and Officer Danny Lopez.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the following students for their exemplary service on the Student Safety Patrol during the 2024–2025 school year:

- Sky Adair, Kevin Afokpa, Aiden Barthuly, Chloe Beason, Maximiliano Biggs, Isabella Cantero, Sofia Cenicerros, Viviana Chavez, Sofia Cochey, Aaron Covarrubias, Annette Duran, Kacie Escobal, Demariana Fallon, Romina Gonzalez, Franchesca Halland, Nikko Kosonoy, Dylan Macabulit, Ariana Moreno, Jeanessa Moreno, Ariana Murillo, Leo Navarro, Mayte Noriega, Danna Orozco, Nicole Osuna, Alexandra Panos, Justin Patriarca, Janette Portillo, Isai Raddatz, Aranza Rodriguez, Victoria Sanchez, Davina Diaz Sosa, Nicolle Trujillo, Eithan Uribe, Victor Villanueva, Mia Velazquez, Daniella Zendejas, Isabella Zendejas



BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPIONS: VISTA DEL MAR MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK & FIELD TEAM

On June 5, 2025, the San Ysidro School District's Governing Board and Superintendent formally recognized the Vista Del Mar Middle School Track & Field Team for their exceptional achievements during the 2024–2025 season. The team demonstrated remarkable dedication, sportsmanship, and athletic excellence, contributing to a vibrant school spirit and setting a commendable example for their peers. Their commitment to personal growth and teamwork aligns with the district's emphasis on

holistic student development. A special thank you to Coach Nikole Kemp-Scarlett for her outstanding leadership, guidance, and support in inspiring the team to excel both on and off the track.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the following student-athletes for their outstanding contributions to the Vista Del Mar Middle School Track & Field Coach & Team:

- **Coach:** Nikole Kemp-Scarlett
- **Track & Field Boys Team:** Abel Avina (7th grade), Adam Ali (8th grade), Adley Opara (7th grade), Braylon Randall (8th grade), Cristofer Rincon (7th grade), Damien Blossom (7th grade), Elijah Brackens (8th grade), Giovanni Leon (8th grade), Izaiah Orta (8th grade), Joel Baffoe (8th grade), Joel Galeana (7th grade), Jose Rico (8th grade), Martin Orozco (8th grade), Nathan Flores (7th grade), Pedro Cano (7th grade), Riad Ali (7th grade), Robert Rico (7th grade) and Xander Nuevo (7th grade)
- **Track & Field Girls Team:** Ariana Escorcía (7th grade), Arianna Villarreal (8th grade), Ashley Gotcher (7th grade), Daniel Garcia (7th grade), Denver Corbett (7th grade), Giselle Garcia (7th grade), Hazel Navarro (7th grade), Jai Toliver (7th grade), Kianna He (8th grade), Kiara Bennerman (8th grade), Kiara Denton (8th grade), Paulette Armenta (7th grade), Shaville Peckoo (7th grade), Sophia Herrera (7th grade) and Susan Orozco (8th grade)



BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPIONS: SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY PROJECT LEAL GRADUATES

On June 5, 2025, the San Ysidro School District's Governing Board and Superintendent honored the graduates of San Diego State University's Project LEAL (Leadership, Equity, and Access for Languages) during a special board meeting. These educators have completed a rigorous, tuition-free certificate program designed to empower teacher-leaders with advanced skills in equity-driven instruction and policymaking for multilingual learners. The LEAL Project, a collaborative initiative between SDSU, the San Diego County Office of Education, and local school districts—including San Ysidro—equips in-service teachers with the tools to lead systemic change in dual language and English learner education.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the following educators for their outstanding contributions:

- Erin Cronin, La Mirada Elementary School Teacher
- Dianna Flores, Ocean View Hills Elementary School Special Education Teacher

- Carly Hale, Smythe Elementary School Teacher
- Erika Meza, Ocean View Hills Elementary School Principal



NEWS: LEGISLATION TO ADVANCE THE CHULA VISTA UNIVERSITY PASSES OUT OF THE ASSEMBLY

PRESS RELEASE RECEIVED BELOW

June 3, 2025

Legislation to Advance the Chula Vista University Unanimously Passes out of the Assembly

Assemblymember David Alvarez (D-San Diego) announced that Assembly Bill 622 – The Chula Vista University Act – passed out of the State Assembly with bi-partisan support. AB 662 establishes the South County Higher Education Task Force—a collaborative body that will bring together representatives from the three higher education institutions, the City of Chula Vista, and other stakeholders to evaluate the governance models, funding mechanisms, and statutory changes required to create a university.

“AB 662 seeks to address long-standing educational inequities in South San Diego County by exploring the creation of a mixed-use intersegmental institution of higher education in the City of Chula Vista,” said Assemblymember Alvarez. “For too long, the absence of a nearby four-year public institution has limited educational and economic opportunities for the families and students of South San Diego County. Together, we are writing a new chapter for higher education in the South Bay—one that is more inclusive, localized, and visionary.”

Chula Vista is the second-largest city in San Diego County, with a population exceeding 250,000, and the largest city in California without a public university offering baccalaureate degree programs. Nearly 600,000 residents in South County are without this access, an area that is commonly referred to as a “college desert.”

To address this disparity, the City of Chula Vista has taken proactive steps by initiating the development of a University Innovation District on over 383 acres of city-owned land. This ambitious project envisions a bi-national, multi-institutional hub for higher education and innovation that includes collaboration with the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), and California Community Colleges (CCC) systems. The goal is to streamline educational pathways and align programs with regional workforce needs.

“The City of Chula Vista is grateful for Assemblymember Alvarez and the Assembly Higher Education Committee for supporting our vision to bring higher education opportunities to the City and the region,” said Chula Vista Mayor John McCann. “AB 662 will continue the planning and research necessary to implement the University-Innovation District on 383-acres of City-owned land.”

The South County Higher Education Task Force will be responsible for:

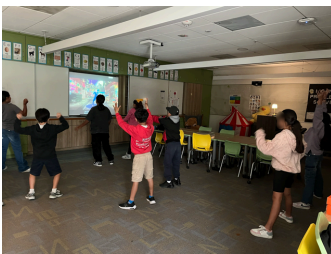
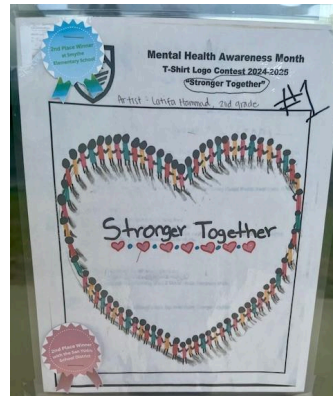
- Evaluating cross-sector collaboration and governance frameworks;
- Identifying new and existing funding sources for construction and operations;
- Recommending legislative solutions to remove barriers to institutional innovation; and
- Submitting a comprehensive report with findings and recommendations to the Legislature by July 1, 2027.

"Southwestern College welcomes AB 662 as a vital step in expanding higher education access in our region," said Dr. Mark Sanchez, Superintendent/President of Southwestern Community College District. "Our partnership in this effort reflects our shared commitment to investing in our local talent pool by creating educational-training opportunities that meet local workforce needs thereby promoting regional economic growth. We look forward to working with all our legislative, city, educational, economic, and business partners to realize this vision for South San Diego."

AB 662 now moves to the State Senate for consideration.

SMYTHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Here are some highlights from Mental Health Awareness Month at Smythe Elementary: The month began with a Mental Health Awareness Logo Competition, encouraging creativity and student engagement. Each morning, students participated in wellness activities such as deep breathing, stretching, and relaxation through storytelling, helping them feel more focused and ready to learn. They also took time to reflect on gratitude by writing notes about what they were thankful for—an activity that students said boosted their mood. In addition, students with perfect attendance were honored with a tablet and treated to a special breakfast with Principal Dr. Bravo in recognition of their dedication throughout the school year.



SUNSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACCELERATED READING (AR) ASSEMBLY

Sunset Elementary School recently held an Accelerated Reader (AR) Assembly to celebrate outstanding student achievement in meeting and exceeding their reading goals. The event highlighted the dedication of students who demonstrated a strong commitment to literacy, personal growth, and academic success. Students were recognized for their progress, perseverance, and love of reading, creating an atmosphere of excitement and pride throughout the school. As part of the celebration, each student with perfect attendance also received a tablet, reinforcing the value of consistency and dedication in both reading and daily learning. The event served as a powerful reminder of the importance of nurturing a lifelong passion for reading and honoring the hard work of young learners.





INTRODUCTION OF LAURA ENGLISH TO SUNSET ELEMENTARY AS THEIR NEW PRINCIPAL FOR 2025-26



On Friday, June 6th, 2025, Dr. Potter, SYSD Superintendent, in the company of Mr. Burciaga, Director of Human Resources, and Mr. Bojórquez, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Leadership and Pupil Services, presented Mrs. English, Sunset Principal for the 2025-26 academic year, to Sunset Staff.

Ms. Alma Laura English has served as the dedicated Principal of La Mirada Elementary School since October 14, 2019. With over two decades of service to the San Ysidro School District, Ms. English brings a wealth of experience and a strong commitment to educational excellence. Throughout her career, she has served in a variety of instructional and leadership roles, including Third Grade Biliteracy Teacher, Teacher on Special Assignment, and Reading Specialist, as well as teaching in bilingual, structured English immersion, and English-only classrooms from kindergarten through sixth grade.

Prior to joining the San Ysidro School District in 2000, she served as a bilingual teacher with San Diego City Schools and began her journey in education as a preschool teacher and teacher's assistant. Her background reflects a deep passion for early literacy, bilingual education, and student-centered instruction.

Ms. English holds a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with a specialization in Sociology from San Diego State University and a master's-level education in Psychology with a Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) credential from National University. She is also BCLAD certified and fully bilingual in English and Spanish, allowing her to foster inclusive and culturally responsive learning environments.

Her commitment to the students, families, and staff of La Mirada Elementary has made a lasting impact on the school community. We are pleased to share that Ms. English will continue her leadership journey as the new Principal of Sunset Elementary School for the 2025–2026 school year.

DISTRICT JOB OPENINGS



Please click on the link to access our current district job openings:

<https://www.edjoin.org/Home/Jobs?countyID=37&districtID=650>

NEWS & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Communications Specialist - Cristina Inzunza

UPCOMING DATES

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Last Day of School for Students	Wednesday, June 11, 2025	All Schools
Last Day of School for Certificated/Teachers	Thursday, June 12, 2025	All Schools
Last Day of School for Students	Wednesday, June 11, 2025	All Schools
School Offices Closed	Monday, June 23, 2025, through Friday, July 4, 2025	All Schools
District Office Closed	Monday, June 23, 2025, through Friday, July 4, 2025	District Office
School Offices Reopen	Monday, July 7, 2025	All Schools
District Office Reopen	Monday, July 7, 2025	District Office
First Day of School for Students	Monday, July 28, 2025	All Schools

TRANSCEND



TRASCENDER