

2005-2006 PUSD State of the District Report SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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Donald A. Phillips, Ed.D.

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District**

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**For more information about
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this State of the District
Report, please contact
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*Thank you to all PUSD staff
who contributed to this
report. Thanks to Ray Wilson
and Karen Eccles and the
Assessment & Accountability
team, whose expertise made
this report possible and useful
to the public, parents, and
staff in our work to enhance
student learning. Special
thanks to Sharon Raffer and
Marlene Cowell.*

Dear Community,

This is the fourth annual State of the District Report. We are very fortunate to live in a community that historically places a high value on education. Over the years Poway Unified has been an innovative leader in education and has a strong local, state, and national reputation for the quality of its educational program.

We remain committed to moving Poway Unified to the next level of excellence. The School Board adopted a strategic plan that builds on our tradition of excellence while raising expectations for each and every student. In particular, we are striving to significantly increase literacy skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. We believe that almost all of our graduates will pursue additional postsecondary training and education. Therefore, we are committed to having our students college-ready upon graduation from high school so they will have a full range of options

We have established measurable graduation targets and additional key indicators throughout the grade levels to help understand how our students are progressing and to initiate improvement efforts. These data are reflected in this annual State of the District Report and are part of our accountability and improvement system.

This year as you review the annual report, you will see we are making significant progress toward our measurable goals. In fact, in some areas we have already reached the target. You will see this noted where applicable on the charts indicating student progress. We attribute this continued growth to five primary factors:

1. Staying the course with our literacy 2002-2008 literacy and facilities goals and measurable targets set by the PUSD Board of Education.
2. The focus on state academic standards, alignment, and articulation by teachers, principals, and staff.
3. Utilizing student performance data much more critically to inform what transpires in the classroom.
4. Empowering students to set their own goals, track their own progress, and make adjustments to their own learning.
5. Continued passion of PUSD parents for academic excellence.

We recognize that at the heart of our work has been our partnership between home and school. Parent involvement and support, along with a willing and able student population, coupled with our dedicated and talented staff and leadership, have made and continue to make Poway Unified one of the finest school districts across the country. Having said this, we remain committed to getting even better over time. We look forward to working together with our community to continue to move our district forward.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Phillips, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Don Phillips visits an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) class at Mesa Verde Middle School. The school is a demonstration school for the AVID program.