

2006-2007 PUSD State of the District Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Donald A. Phillips, Ed.D.

**Poway Unified School
District**

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For more information about any of the topics covered in this State of the District Report, please contact Sharon Raffer, Director of Communications (858) 679-2631 sraffer@powayusd.com

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 Parents and Community,

This is the fifth 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 are committed to continuous improvement focused on increased student achievement. In 2002 the Board of Education adopted a strategic plan that builds on increasing literacy skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. We have raised the academic bar for all graduates because we believe graduates will need to pursue college or other postsecondary training to remain competitive in a global economy. As a result of the District's consistent focus, we have realized significant growth over the past five years.

Academic Performance Index

Level	2002	2006
Elementary	863	895
Middle	833	871
High	769	818

Since 2002 the District's overall Academic Performance Index (API) has grown from 818 to 858. The growth numbers at the elementary, middle, and high schools are on the chart to the left.

The State of California has set a target of 800 or better; currently, only 30% of schools in the state are above 800.

The new high stakes graduation test, the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), took effect for the class of 2006. Only five students in Poway Unified who were on track to graduate did not pass the final test. Our pass rate was 99.97%.

The percentage of students taking one or more advanced placement classes during their high school career has risen from 29% in 2002 to 49% in 2006. The State of the District Report further refines the data by subgroup performance and looks at a host of other measures. This data is tracked over time as one part of our accountability and improvement system.

The Board set forward in 2002 a bold plan to build four additional elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school by the 2009-2010 school year to accommodate the build-out in the northwest quadrant of our school district. Voters passed Proposition U in November of 2002 to support the comprehensive renovation and expansion of 24 schools in the School Facilities Improvement District. In addition to \$198 million from Proposition U, the District has secured \$68 million from state funding and an additional \$90 million from a variety of local funding sources. The program has been very successful in meeting the original objectives of modernizing and expanding our oldest facilities first and providing top-flight high school facilities across the District. While we will not be able to complete all projects set out in the program due to unprecedented levels of inflation, the program will provide first-rate educational facilities for many years to come.

Finally, I wish to thank you for your ongoing involvement and support. We know that the power of our partnership with our parents and community serves as the bedrock of our success in making Poway Unified one of the finest school districts. We look forward to working together to continue to move our district forward for the benefit of all of our students.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Phillips, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Don Phillips visits students at Poway High School during construction. All seniors received "New Look Same Titan Pride" shirts to celebrate the modernization of Poway High.