



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Poway Unified Test Results Exceed County and State Averages

The Poway Unified School District is pleased with the recently released results for the California Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment, administered to our students in the spring of 2017. This year's assessments were taken by over 18,500 Poway Unified students in grades 3 – 8, and 11. Our students continue to perform at levels that exceed both the county and state average for students performing at the "Met or Exceeded State Standards" target levels. This year, 74% of our students in English Language Arts and 67% of our students in mathematics achieved this goal.

In the area of English Language Arts, the district noted gains in the number of students meeting or exceeding standards in several grade levels. From last spring's assessment data, students' achievement improved in grades 5, 6, and 11 with grade 3 remaining the same in terms of overall number of students meeting standards. Last year's fifth grade students, as a collective group over a three year period, have demonstrated an eight percentage point increase in the number of students meeting or exceeding the standards. This data aligns with our district's commitment toward improving literacy proficiency in support of our district's goal of ensuring college and career readiness for all students.

In mathematics, 67% or 12,479 students met or exceeded standards. This result is reflective of the work our teachers have been engaged in that align with the new rigorous California State Standards in mathematics.

The Smarter Balanced Summative assessments are now in their third year enabling schools and districts to examine trends, and track student growth. While the overall District mathematics score remained steady and English Language Arts decreased 2% from 2016 to 2017, the trend is still positive over three years. A primary goal of the District has been to increase the achievement of all students by focusing on equity in meeting the individual needs of our students. In analyzing the data, our African

American, Latino, and Economically Disadvantaged students have made gains in English Language Arts. While in mathematics, our Latino and Economically Disadvantaged have also continued to show improvement over time. In focusing on our 2017 spring data, the most significant gains occurred with our students receiving special education services.

While we are proud of our students' accomplishments, the data denotes areas where we will continue to focus to meet the needs of our students. Specifically, we are committed to refining and aligning our systemic practices in supporting all students through programs such as Response to Intervention. The data also reveals a need to continue to develop and implement instructional strategies and programs designed to address the needs of our English learners.

PUSD Associate Superintendent of Learning Support Services Dr. Mel Robertson noted: "Data from assessments is used as part of a broader picture of student achievement. Teachers use these results in conjunction with site and classroom assessments and observations, to help tailor instruction throughout the school year. Consistent strong results are indicative of system-wide collaboration by parents, teachers, and school staff to facilitate student success."

For more information on understanding student scores on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), please visit <http://testscoreguide.org>.