



PRESS RELEASE

15250 Avenue of Science ■ San Diego, California 92128-3406

Phone (858) 521-2707 ■ FAX (858) 485-1075

For Immediate Release

Contact: Christine Paik, Chief Communications Officer

October 10, 2019

(858) 521-2707 or cpaik@powayusd.com

Poway Unified Test Results Up Overall, Continue to Exceed County and State Averages

Poway Unified School District students continue to exceed both county and state averages in the recently released results of the California Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment. These assessments were administered to over 18,600 PUSD students in the Spring of 2019. In English language arts, 75.8% of PUSD students met or exceeded standards, compared to 50.9% statewide and 56.6% in San Diego County. In mathematics, 70.0% of PUSD students met or exceeded standards, compared to 39.7% statewide and 45.1% in San Diego County.

Poway Unified students have demonstrated consistent growth in achieving at the target levels, with an overall 2% increase from 2018 in students meeting or exceeding standards in English language, and a 3% increase in mathematics from 2018. The Smarter Balanced Summative assessments are now in their fifth year enabling schools and districts to examine trends, and track student growth over this period of time. 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 further, the following student groups had noted increases in proficiency:

- African American: 4% increase in mathematics
- Hispanic: 4% increase in English language arts and 4% increase in mathematics
- Economically Disadvantaged: 2% increase in English language arts and 1% gain in mathematics

We continue to see a significant trend of more students performing at the highest achievement level, Exceeding Standards, with a 2% increase in English language arts and a 4% increase in mathematics.

Additionally, significant growth was noted in the percentage increase of students performing at the Meeting Standards target level in mathematics with a 6% increase recorded in 8th grade and an 11% increase in 11th grade. This growth is attributed to our concerted efforts in shifting to new instructional materials, assessment practices and teachers applying strategies used from professional learning opportunities.

In our analysis of the Smarter Balanced Summative assessment, data denotes areas of continued focus to meet the needs of all our students. Specifically, our District is committed to continuing to develop and implement instructional strategies and programs designed to address the needs of our English learners and our students with disabilities.

PUSD Associate Superintendent of Learning Support Services Carol Osborne said, “Our focus on empowering world class learners and fostering critical thinking is reflected in our Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment results. While this is one measure of student learning, it reflects our efforts around closing the learning gap across student groups. Our ongoing work is to inspire passion for learning through personalized rich and rigorous learning experiences for each and every student.”

About the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment

Smarter Balanced English language arts and mathematics tests consist of two parts: a computer adaptive assessment and a performance task. The computer adaptive assessment bases follow-up questions on a student’s answers in real time. If a student answers a question correctly, they get a more difficult question. If they answer incorrectly, they get an easier question.

The performance task challenges students' ability to apply their knowledge and skills to problems in a real-world setting. The two parts measure depth of understanding, writing, research, and problem-solving skills.

Scores on the Smarter Balanced ELA and mathematics fall into one of four achievement levels: standard exceeded, standard met, standard nearly met, and standard not met.

For more information on understanding student scores on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), please visit <http://testscoreguide.org/ca/>. To search for county, district, or school results, go to <https://caaspp-elpac.cde.ca.gov/>

###