



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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October 2, 2018

Poway Unified Test Results Continue to Exceed County and State Averages

The Poway Unified School District is pleased with the recently released results from the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, administered in the Spring of 2018. This year's assessments were taken by more than 18,700 PUSD students in grades 3-8 and 11. PUSD students continue to perform at levels that surpass both the county and state averages for students performing at the "Met or Exceeds" achievement levels. In English language arts, 74% of PUSD students met or exceeded standards, compared to 49% of students statewide and 56% of students in San Diego County. In mathematics, 67% of PUSD students met or exceeded standards, compared to 37% of students statewide and 44% of students in San Diego County. This represents a slight growth for PUSD students in both academic areas compared to Spring of 2017.

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are now in their fourth year, enabling schools and districts to examine trends and track student growth over a period of time. A primary goal of our District has been to increase the achievement of all students by focusing on equity in meeting individual needs. In analyzing the data, the following student groups had noted increases in proficiency:

- Economically Disadvantaged Students: 4% increase in English language arts and 5% increase in mathematics
- English Learner Students: 2% increase in English language arts and 1% increase in mathematics.
- Students with Disabilities in grade 11: 3% increase in English language arts.

A significant data point revealed in this year's Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment data were the gains reported in the number of students performing at the "Exceeds" standards level. This positive trend aligns with our district's desire to challenge all students to reach their full potential.

- In English language arts grades 3, 4, 5, and 7 saw a 1% - 6% point increase.
- In mathematics grades 3-7 saw a 1% - 6% increase.

While we are proud of our students' accomplishments, the data points to areas where we will continue to focus to meet the needs of all of our students. A decrease in the number of students performing at the proficient levels in grades eight and eleven in both English language arts and mathematics will be a priority focus for our District. This Fall, Poway Unified teachers will use these results to determine instructional improvements and assist students who are not yet meeting standards, through differentiated instruction and targeted intervention.

PUSD Associate Superintendent of Learning Support Services Carol Osborne noted: "Results from the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) are one data point that support our parents, students, and site leaders with monitoring student achievement. Our school site teams utilize these results in concert with site and district level assessment to inform instructional decisions and ensure all students are making strong academic progress. We value the CAASPP data as an opportunity to collaboratively reflect on program strengths and needs to continuously improve student learning opportunities."

For more information on understanding student scores on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), please visit <http://testscoreguide.org/ca/> and to search for county, district, or school results, go to <https://caaspp.cde.ca.gov/sb2018/Search>

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