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Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – MAY 06, 2022

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Superintendent, Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

SUPERINTENDENT – Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

S-1 Robert G. Nelson Superintendent Calendar Highlights

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES – Santino Danisi, Chief Officer

BFS-1 Kim Kelstrom School Services Weekly Update Report

COMMUNITCATIONS – Nikki Henry, Chief Officer

C-1 Maiyer Vang African American Family Engagement
Events
C-2 Maiyer Vang Spring Family Recognition Ceremony

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP – Kim Mecum, Chief Officer

SL-1 Heather Allen San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation
Trust

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number S-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Robert G. Nelson, Superintendent
Cabinet Approval:

Date: May 06, 2022
Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board of notable calendar items:

- Site visit at Bullard High School
- Met with Executive Cabinet
- Met with Batelle for Kids
- Participated in call with Fresno County Superintendents
- Met with DMGroup
- Held Press Conference Addressing Culturally Destructive Social Media Post
- Attending IdeaFest at Chuckchansi Park

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 05/06/2022

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number BFS-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Executive Officer 
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: May 06, 2022

Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Report for April 29, 2022

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board a copy of School Services of California's (SSC) Weekly Update. Each week SSC provides an update and commentary on different educational fiscal issues. In addition, they include different articles related to education issues.

The SSC Weekly Update for April 29, 2022 is attached and includes the following articles:

- 2022-23 Statutory COLA is 6.56% – April 28, 2022
- More than Four in 10 Parents Say Kids Fell Behind from School Closures – April 27, 2022
- The Pandemic Erased a Decade of Public Preschool Gains – April 26, 2022

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Kim Kelstrom at 457-3907.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. 

Date: 05/06/2022



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www.sscal.com

DATE: April 29, 2022

TO: Robert G. Nelson
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

RE: ***SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update***

Legislative Update

It was another busy week of committee hearings in Sacramento, as it was the last week for any bill tagged as a fiscal measure to pass out of first-house policy committees. The bills that have been keyed nonfiscal have until next Friday, May 6, 2022, to clear policy committees. Since it is the second year of the 2021-22 legislative session, any bill that does not meet these deadlines will be considered dead, absent any rule waivers.

Both the Senate and Assembly Education Committees met on Wednesday and approved over two dozen bills, including Assembly Bill (AB) 1948 (Ting, D-San Francisco), which would significantly amend the existing Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) statute. Specifically, the bill would:

- Require, for the 2022-23 fiscal year, the grade span adjusted base grant for a school district or charter school's LCFF entitlement to be increased by 15%
- Amend the “low-income pupil” definition from “eligible for a free or reduced-price meal” to students whose household income level is at or below 250% of the federal poverty level as adjusted annually
- Add homelessness as a category of unduplicated pupils, defined as a student who meets the definition of “homeless children and youths” under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Add language that the fiscal year average daily attendance (ADA) for a school district be computed based on the greatest of current-year ADA, prior-year ADA, or the average of the three most recent prior fiscal years

The authors of this bill, Assemblymember Phil Ting, who chairs the Assembly Budget Committee, and Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento), who chairs the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance, signals that this measure will become a key budget play on the Assembly side when they begin negotiations on the 2022-23 State Budget with the Senate and Newsom Administration. Negotiations will heat up after Governor Gavin Newsom releases his revised State Budget, which he needs to do by May 14.

Some of the other noteworthy bills that were approved by the education committees that will also be moving forward in the legislative process include:

- AB 1797 (Weber, D-San Diego) would require vaccine providers to disclose specified immunization information for the California Immunization Registry (CAIR), and authorizes schools and childcare providers to access CAIR to determine the COVID-19 immunization status of students for local educational agencies (LEAs) that have adopted a local policy mandating COVID-19 immunization for school attendance
- AB 1973 (McCarty) would require, as a condition of receiving the portion of the K-3 grade span adjustment for ADA associated with kindergarten enrollment, a school providing a kindergarten program with large populations of unduplicated pupils to offer full-day programs starting with the 2027-28 school year and all other schools with a kindergarten program to offer a full-day program beginning with the 2030-31 school year
- AB 2044 (O'Donnell, D-Long Beach) would extend the sunset date for the current statute that allows students to use career technical education courses as an option for fulfilling the visual, performing arts, or foreign language high school graduation requirement from July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2027
- AB 2774 (Weber) would, beginning with the 2023-24 fiscal year, adjust the definition of “unduplicated pupils” to also include students that are identified as the lowest performing subgroup or subgroups based on the most recently available California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress math and English language arts scores
- AB 2933 (O'Donnell) would reimburse LEAs for either 100% of its approved home to school transportation costs or 100% of its school transportation apportionment from 2020-21
- Senate Bill 1479 (Pan, D-Sacramento) would require each local educational agency (LEA) to create a COVID-19 testing plan that is consistent with guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), require each LEA and each school site to designate a staff member to report information on its COVID-19 testing program, and require the CDPH to coordinate COVID-19 testing programs in LEAs

All of the above bills have cleared policy committee, which means they have met the April 29 deadline and will be considered next by their respective houses' Appropriations Committee.

Senate Releases Budget Priorities

Just a little more than two weeks before Governor Newsom is expected to release the May Revision, Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) and Senate Budget & Fiscal Committee Chair Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) released the second phase of the Senate's "Putting Wealth to Work" budget proposal [priorities](#). The education priorities in the document include:

- \$5 billion, growing to \$10 billion by 2024-25, for ongoing supplemental base increases for K-12 general purpose funding
- \$10 billion in one-time funds spread over multiple years to mitigate learning loss, protect staffing levels, and other COVID-related impacts

- Ending the charging for school bus rides, eliminating parent-owned debts, and beginning to phase in universal Home-to-School transportation
- \$4.5 billion over three years, above the Governor's proposal, for school facilities and \$1 billion for K-12 deferred maintenance
- Ensure successful implementation of programs established in the 2021 Budget, including Universal School Meals, expanded learning, transitional kindergarten, and others
- Allocate flexible one-time funds for student enrichment materials in music, arts, technology, instructional materials, and others
- \$1 billion to increase provider reimbursement rates and improve benefits, continue family fee waivers, and to stabilize the state preschool program

The document signals the priorities that the Senate will be advocating for when they negotiate the 2022-23 State Budget proposal with their Assembly colleagues and the Newsom Administration.

Leilani Aguinaldo

2022-23 Statutory COLA is 6.56%

By Dave Heckler and Matt Phillips, CPA
School Services of California Inc's *Fiscal Report*
April 28, 2022

Today, April 28, 2022, the U.S. Department of Commerce released the 2022 first quarter value of the Implicit Price Deflator for state and local government goods and services, which provides the last data point needed to establish the 2022-23 statutory cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for K-14 education. Based on this data, the statutory COLA for 2022-23 is 6.56%, an increase from Governor Gavin Newsom's Proposed State Budget estimate that projected the statutory COLA to be 5.33%.

Recall that in late January, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) published a [summary](#) that the statutory COLA would be 6.17%. Six of the eight inflationary data points were known when the summary was released, but all signs were pointing towards 6.17% as a reasonable estimate. Hindsight being 20/20, we now know that both the Governor and LAO underestimated the meteoric rise in inflation, and calculated statutory COLA.

The rise in inflation has been spearheaded over the last several months with headlines such as, "[Consumer prices for food up 7.9 percent for year ended February 2022](#)", which highlights the largest year-over-year increase in more than 40 years. Inflation is felt by both employers and employees which is why the Legislature had the foresight to codify a cost-of-living increase to the funding per student in the Local Control Funding Formula in [Education Code Section 42238.02\(d\)\(2\)](#).

Although the statutory COLA is the legally required minimum percentage to be implemented by law, it's always important to consider whether the state can afford this increase. Based on the current trajectory of tax receipts, the state will have sufficient funds to meet this statutory minimum. During fiscal years where the state does not have revenues to meet the minimum, the applicable education code is suspended. The last time this happened was in the 2020-21 fiscal year when no COLA was provided to local educational agencies.

Note: The Public Policy Institute of California released its annual education survey, which provides glimpses into how Californians, voters, and public school parents feel about the direction education is going in the Golden State.

More than Four in 10 Parents Say Kids Fell Behind from School Closures

But voters still support Newsom's handling of schools

By John Woolfolk
The Mercury News
April 27, 2022

More than four in 10 parents say their kids fell behind academically during the COVID-19 pandemic, when California trailed the country in reopening classrooms to in-person learning, according to a poll released Wednesday.

Now that their kids are back in the classroom, three out four parents support the state's decision to no longer require masks. But two-thirds of them are OK requiring students to receive COVID-19 vaccines once they're approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

The new poll from the Public Policy Institute of California offers a glimpse of how parents in the Golden State feel state leaders and educators have dealt with the turmoil from the pandemic and the impact it's had on the state's 6 million K-12 students.

"I think it's important to note that there are many people who feel that students suffered and that they're concerned about the direction of the school system," said PPIC president and CEO Mark Baldassare.

California, the first state to impose a statewide stay-home order in 2020, was the slowest to resume in-person instruction a year ago amid growing evidence students were falling behind and suffering mentally and emotionally from prolonged remote online instruction that substituted for in-class teaching.

Parent frustrations helped force Gov. Gavin Newsom to face a recall vote last fall. But he handily defeated it, arguing during the campaign that states that reopened schools faster and declined to mandate face masks and vaccines suffered more COVID-19 deaths in their overall population.

The poll reflected that seeming disconnect, with large numbers of parents and Californians frustrated, but majorities supporting Newsom's handling of K-12 schools and saying public education is going in the right direction, though those feelings were sharply divided along partisan lines.

Among the findings:

- 44% of parents with school-age children and 46% with kids in public school say their youngest student "has fallen behind academically during the pandemic." Of those, 19% of parents with school-age children and 20% with kids in public school say their child has fallen behind "a lot." By the same measure, 53% of parents with school-age children and 54% with public school kids say their child did not fall behind.
- 57% of California adults say the state's K-12 public education system "is generally going in the right direction," and 39% in the wrong direction. Though 77% of Democrats say it's going in the right direction, 79% of Republicans and 51% of independents say it's going on the wrong direction.
- 42% of California adults think the quality of education in the state's K-12 public schools has gotten worse, while 13% say it has improved over the past few years.
- 60% of California adults approve and 36% disapprove of the way public education has been handled by Newsom, including 83% of Democrats and 53% of independents approving and 78% of Republicans disapproving.

The poll also found that 62% of California adults and public school parents say teacher salaries are too low. The National Education Association ranks California third among states in average teacher salary at \$85,856 and fifth in starting pay at \$49,933. New York is tops in average salary at \$90,222 and ninth in starting pay, \$47,618.

Megan Bacigalupi, executive director of the advocacy group CA Parent Power and a parent whose sons attend school in Oakland Unified School District, helped organize efforts to urge schools to reopen and drop mandates

sooner. She said her group's own survey out this week also shows high concern among parents about students falling behind.

The Parent Power survey found 61% of parents say their child's education has fallen behind because of school closures, including 23% who say they are "extremely far behind." It also found parents more divided on state leaders, with 40% having favorable and 49% unfavorable feelings about Newsom. Parent Power's survey involved 1,242 interviews in California from April 8-13.

"The vast majority of Californians, 80%, and parents of school aged children, 81%, believe that children will be dealing with the consequences of the pandemic for years to come," Bacigalupi said, "and this presents an opportunity to our statewide leaders, including Governor Newsom, to prioritize the well-being of children in his budget and priorities going forward."

Baldassare said the PPIC poll results in many ways reflect the recall results in terms of parents and voters holding Newsom to account for their frustrations.

"People who were not with him aren't with him," Baldassare said, "and those who were with him are still with him."

But Baldassare added that the numbers expressing concern should make state leaders uncomfortable with elections around the corner.

"I think when you've got numbers of people — it's not a majority, but quite a few — saying schools or the economy are going in the wrong direction, I think that that suggests that in that kind of environment, people are going to be looking at change as a possibility," Baldassare said.

The PPIC poll was conducted from March 30-April 13 of 1,591 California adults in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean. That included 1,059 likely voters, 424 parents, 342 parents with school-age children and 307 public school parents. The margin of error in percentage points was plus or minus 3.3 for the total sample, 6.1 for parents, 6.9 for parents with school-aged children and 7.2 for public school parents.

Note: State-based preschool programs suffered big drops in enrollment and state funding during the pandemic, according to an annual review by the National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University.

The Pandemic Erased a Decade of Public Preschool Gains

By Cory Turner
NPR
April 26, 2022

State-based preschool programs suffered big drops in enrollment and state funding in the teeth of the pandemic, according to an [annual review](#) by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) at Rutgers University. If there is good news in the report, it's that, during the 2020-2021 school year, federal relief money filled the hole left by states' spending cuts.

“There is no time to waste. State-funded programs desperately need the resources to address pervasive problems in access to high-quality early learning and to support teachers,” says Allison Friedman-Krauss, NIEER assistant research professor and the parent of a preschooler.

NIEER has been releasing its annual State of Preschool report for two decades now, and this year’s edition, looking at the 2020-2021 school year, offers a remarkable, albeit dated, snapshot of the pandemic’s impact on preschool in the U.S.

The review is a blizzard of swirling data points, so we thought we’d start by handpicking a few of the most compelling numbers.

Pre-K enrollment declined for the first time in 20 years

According to the report, nearly 300,000 fewer children were enrolled in preschool during the 2020-2021 school year compared to 2019-2020 – an 18% drop. Given the timeframe, researchers attribute the drop largely to pandemic-driven school closures and the challenges of providing preschool remotely. On average, states wound up serving less than 30% of all 4-year-olds. The news was worse for 3-year-olds: States served less than 5%.

“The pandemic wiped out a decade of progress increasing enrollment in state-funded preschool programs,” the report warns.

Some states cut funding, but Congress plugged the gap

States spent roughly \$9 billion on pre-K during the 2020-2021 school year – an inflation-adjusted decrease of \$254 million compared to the previous year and “the largest decline in funding since the Great Recession,” according to the report.

Now the good news: The federal government provided roughly \$440 million in preschool pandemic relief that states were able to use to more than offset that \$254 million drop.

States spent \$5,867 per child, on average, a number that NIEER says “has not improved appreciably in two decades” after adjusting for inflation.

One caveat: This is an estimate, based not on programs’ actual enrollment but on capacity. That’s because with funding largely flat overall but enrollment significantly down, states actually spent more than \$7,000 per child. But NIEER says measuring programs’ spending based on capacity last year, instead of actual enrollment, is a more accurate comparison to previous years.

Similarly, the report notes that, overall, state spending on preschool has more than doubled over the last two decades, from \$4.1 billion in 2002 to roughly \$9 billion in 2021. But when you slice the data another way, looking at state dollars *per child*, spending has been remarkably flat.

“I can tell you, preschool matters,” said U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona on a Monday call with reporters. “Preschool should be available for everyone, but right now it’s not. We made some strides as a nation, but we still have a long way to go.”

Low-income families were hit hardest

Perhaps the most worrying data in the report come from parent surveys that capture the pandemic's impact on preschool enrollment based on family income.

Before the pandemic, nearly half of low-income children, 47%, were enrolled in some kind of preschool. By fall of 2021, though, that number had dipped to 31%. By comparison, before the pandemic, 62% of children from families with incomes above \$25,000 were enrolled in preschool, and, though that number likewise dropped, by fall 2021 it had returned to 58%.

In six states, enrollment dropped by more than 30%

The report includes a color-coded map showing which states suffered the greatest drops in preschool enrollment: Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Kentucky and Nevada.

Interestingly, half a dozen states saw enrollment increases: Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Dakota, Rhode Island and Washington.

Some states were close to universal pre-K before the pandemic

When you combine state preschool, special education and federally funded Head Start programs, NIEER found six states, plus Washington, D.C., were serving at least 70% of their 4-year-olds before the pandemic began: Florida, Iowa, Oklahoma, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Only D.C. continued to serve more than 70% of 4-year-olds in 2020-2021.

Idaho, Indiana, Montana, New Hampshire, South Dakota and Wyoming did not offer a public preschool program during the 2020-2021 school year.

Enough about quantity, what about quality?

NIEER's annual review isn't just about enrollment and funding; it's also about quality control. Researchers evaluate every state using 10 benchmarks of quality, including whether they have early learning standards, small class sizes and well-trained teachers.

Just five state programs scored a perfect 10 out of 10: Alabama, Mississippi, Rhode Island, Hawaii's Executive Office on Early Learning Public Prekindergarten Program and Michigan's Great Start Readiness Program.

West Virginia is one of a handful of state programs that scored between nine and a 10.

"West Virginia has now become the diamond in the rough that everybody missed," said the state's Republican governor, Jim Justice, on a phone call with reporters discussing the NIEER report. West Virginia's Universal Pre-K program operates in every county in the state and met nine of NIEER's 10 quality benchmarks. Justice called investing in preschool "off-the-charts important."

"I don't care if you're a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent – first and foremost, we're Americans. And we need to be constantly doing the right thing for America," Justice said.

At the other end of the spectrum, programs in Alaska, Florida and North Dakota met just two of NIEER's 10 quality benchmarks.

About 40% of all children in state-funded preschool are enrolled in programs that meet fewer than half of NIEER's quality standards.

Whatever happened to President Biden's big preschool plan?

NIEER's review lands at an awkward moment for the Biden administration. The president is an outspoken champion of universal preschool and made the idea a central theme of his Build Back Better agenda, pledging \$10 billion over the next two years to ramp up states' pre-K capacity. That legislation has been stalled for months in the Senate, though Biden did also ask for additional pre-K funding in his 2023 budget proposal.

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number: C-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Maiyer Vang, Interim Executive Director
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: May 06, 2022

Phone Number: 250-1322

Regarding: African American Family Engagement Events

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information regarding Parent University's African American Family Engagement events. The goal of these events is to support and engage African American families and students to improve student attendance in the district. The events will be held at the following school sites:

School Name	Date	Time	Engagement Theme
Lowell	Wednesday, May 11, 2022	5:00 PM-7:00 PM	Family Engagement Night
Heaton	Thursday, May 12, 2022	4:00 PM-6:00 PM	Family Fun Night
Anthony	Tuesday, May 17, 2022	5:00 PM-7:00 PM	Family Fun Night Family Dinner and Resource Night

The African American Family Engagement events allow families and students to participate in educational and fun activities including community resource fairs. Each event has resources and information to promote school attendance and family participation in school engagement activities to build positive relationships with their school site staff and community. Attached you will find the flyers to each event.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Maiyer Vang at 250-1322.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. 

Date: 05/06/2022

LOWELL ELEMENTARY & PARENT UNIVERSITY

African American Family Engagement



Wednesday,
May 11,
2022

5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

FAMILY Engagement NIGHT

SCAN HERE
to register



OR visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/5n86yp4r>

Lowell Elementary opens its doors for an entertaining in-person family engagement event. Families will participate in fun and engaging activities that will serve to support their student's education and school connectedness.

Join us for a night of family entertainment and receive resources to support your student's education.

Resource Kits | Food | Guest Speaker | Games



Location:
Lowell's Cafeteria

Please contact Angelica Campa at Angelica.Campa@fresnounified.org,
or Andy Moua at Andy.Moua@fresnounified.org
or call (559) 457-3390 for more information.



Fresno Unified School District

Registration (559) 457-3390 | parent.university@fresnounified.org

Parent Name: _____ Child's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

School: _____ # of Adults attending _____ # of Children attending _____

HEATON ELEMENTARY & PARENT UNIVERSITY

African American Family Engagement



Thursday,
May 12,
2022
4:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.

FAMILY FUN Night

SCAN HERE
to register



OR visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p92zr2s>

Join us for a night of family entertainment, learn about our Springboard Program and receive resources to support your student's education.

Resource Kits | Food | Guest Speaker | Games



Location:
Heaton's Quad

For more information, please contact Irma.Keith@fresnounified.org or Aura.Convers@Fresnounified.org or call Parent University at 559-457-3390



Fresno Unified School District

Registration (559) 457-3390 | parent.university@fresnounified.org

Parent Name: _____ Child's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

School: _____ # of Adults attending _____ # of Children attending _____

**ANTHONY
ELEMENTARY & PARENT
UNIVERSITY**

African American Family Engagement



**Tuesday,
May 17,
2022**

5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

**FAMILY
Dinner
&
RESOURCE
NIGHT**

**SCAN HERE
to register**



OR visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/5n6rz97p>

Anthony Elementary opens its doors for an entertaining in-person family engagement event. Families will participate in fun and engaging activities that will serve to support their student's education and school connectedness.

Join us for a night of family entertainment and receive resources to support your student's education.



**Location:
Anthony's Cafeteria**

Please contact Estefamia Aguilar at
Estefania.AguilarGutierrez@fresnounified.org
or (559) 457-3390 for more information.



Registration (559) 457-3390 | parent.university@fresnounified.org

Parent Name: _____ Child's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

School: _____ # of Adults attending _____ # of Children attending _____

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number: C-2

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Maiyer Vang, Interim Executive Director
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: May 06, 2022

Phone Number: 250-1322

Regarding: Spring Family Recognition Ceremony

The purpose of the communications is to provide the Board information regarding the Spring Family Recognition Ceremony with the goal to celebrate our Fresno Unified families who attended our family learning, engagement, and/or leadership opportunities. The event will be held in person at the Tower Theater on **Friday, May 13, 2022, from 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**

Approximately 1,000 families participated in Parent University's Family Learning, Family Engagement, and Family Leadership opportunities this spring and all participants will be invited to attend the event. Below are the family learning topics from the spring cohort:

- ATLAS Connect
- High School Expectations
- 12th Grade Expectations
- Introduction to Special Education
- College and Career Expectations
- Family Leadership Program
- Let's Go to College
- Financial Aid
- Family Literacy, Math and Science
- Nutrition Education
- Opening Doors

Families and students will have the opportunity to enjoy a movie and receive resources to support their learning. For your reference, a flyer for the event is attached.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Maiyer Vang at 250-1322.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. 

Date: 05/06/2022

PARENT UNIVERSITY
invites you and your family to our

Spring
2022

FAMILY RECOGNITION *Ceremony*

Friday,
May 13
5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Tower Theater
815 E. Olive Ave, Fresno, CA 93728

Join us as we recognize and celebrate
our families who participated in our
virtual family learning sessions with a
movie and refreshments!



Please RSVP by calling Parent
University's office @ 559-457-3390



Fresno Unified School District

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number SL-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Heather Allen, Executive Officer
Cabinet Approval:

Date: May 06, 2022

Phone Number: 457-6111

Regarding: San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information on the ways in which Fresno Unified currently works with San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (SJRPT) to provide experiences to our students at the river, as well as to share possible areas for future partnership.

The current experiences offered to Fresno Unified students include:

- 3rd Grade field trips – Each year, approximately 3000 Fresno Unified students attend a field trip to the river to support their learning in the Next Generation Science Standards. Every 3rd grade classroom is offered a science field trip experience and schools may select between several local destination options. Each year, over 60% of our schools select an experience at the San Joaquin River – either the River Center, Lost Lake, or Scout Island-- as their destination for this hands-on learning experience.
- Saturday Academy – Beginning in 2021/22, Fresno Unified has worked with the San Joaquin River Parkway to offer several Saturday Academy opportunities for 40 middle school students. These programs include nature exploration, water safety, river life, journaling, and team building.
- River Camps – Beginning in 2021/22, Fresno Unified worked with the SJRPT to reserve seats in River Camp for Fresno Unified students. A Spring Break River Camp was developed for 40 English Learner students in April. In addition, the SJRPT will be offering river camps for 40 students during the month of July for the Summer of 2022.
- Student Art – Fresno Unified has proudly displayed student art at the Coke Hallowell House on various occasions. McLane High School's Art Venture Academy will have art on display in May of 2022 in the new 'Barn' venue at The River Center.

Possibilities for future partnership with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust to expand our students' access and experiences with the river include:

- Expanded Field Trips for Science Learning – There are opportunities to expand hands-on, standards-aligned science learning at the river to students in additional grade levels, such as lessons on habitat, biodiversity, landforms, watersheds, and more.
- After-School Programming – We are looking for vendors to provide high-quality after-school experiences to students that enhance student school-day learning, including Next Generation Science Standards-aligned lessons and experiences.
- Expanded Summer Offerings/River Camps - We would like to secure more spaces for Fresno Unified Students in River Camps during the summer and would love to partner with SJRPT to think through the possibilities of time, space and design that would facilitate increased participation for our students.

- Student Art – We would love to see Fresno Unified student art featured at locations at the river, including outdoor spaces and as part of student/family learning. We can imagine permanent or rotating displays, signs or other area identifiers written and drawn by students at points along the river walk, and many other ideas for Fresno student artwork.
- Physical Education and/or Team-Building – There are possibilities for canoeing, kayaking, a small ropes course, and/or an extended river walk for students in upper elementary grades through high school during the fall or winter.
- Theme Schools/STEAM – There are opportunities for partnership with individual schools that have Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics as their core theme and to offer experiences at the river to all students in these schools.
- CTE Pathways/Environmental Science – We have several STEM-related pathway programs and Environmental Science course offerings at every high school. Students in these grade levels and coursework are perfectly positioned to be leaders in real-world, local problem solving and generating design ideas connected to their experiences and new learning.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Heather Allen at 457-6111.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 05/06/2022