



PRESS RELEASE

15250 Avenue of Science ■ San Diego ■ California 92128-3406
Phone (858) 521-2707 ■ FAX (858) 485-1075

For Immediate Release
August 31, 2011

Contact: Sharon Raffer,
Director of Communications

Academic Performance Index for PUSD Increases to 887

All PUSD Schools Exceed State's 2014 Goal API of 800

21 of 36 PUSD Schools Exceed API of 900

Reports of academic progress for schools in the state of California have been released, and the Poway Unified School District is pleased to report that the overall Academic Performance Index (API) score for Poway Unified went up five points from 882 to 887. For the past four years, all PUSD comprehensive high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools have exceeded the state-designated API target score of 800, which the state set for all schools to reach by the year 2014.

PUSD Superintendent John Collins said, "We are pleased with the overall growth our students are making in academic proficiency. PUSD remains committed to ensuring each and every student is successful. Like other districts in the state, we use these test results as one measurement of our students' success. PUSD principals and teachers do a tremendous job using multiple assessment results to analyze existing programs for areas of strength, and to identify specific areas we can improve. We believe it is this on-going commitment to every student's improvement that has allowed us to demonstrate these gains in our assessment results."

Twenty-five of the thirty-six Poway Unified Schools increased their API scores. (For a complete listing of school API scores, please see the following chart.) The district is also reporting gains in its efforts to close the achievement gap in the API scores of student

groups. Every student group showed growth in its API score, with African American, Latino, Students with Disabilities, and Pacific Islander showing the greatest growth.

The API is reported on a numeric scale of 200 to 1,000. In 2004-2005, four PUSD schools earned API scores over 900. By 2007-2008 the number of schools had increased to 16. The 2011 API results show 21 Poway Unified schools with "900+" API scores. The API is a component of the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements and serves as the cornerstone of California's State Testing, Accountability and Reporting program.

This year, the Federal accountability requirements for Title I schools include a proficiency target of 67.6% in English Language Arts and 68.5% in mathematics , with targets of 77% and 78% respectively in 2012. Valley Elementary School did not meet this percentage, and as a result has entered Year One of Program Improvement.

US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan is in the process of reviewing the NCLB law. Secretary Duncan emphasized that accountability must remain the foundation of education, with schools maintaining a high bar for student achievement. Schools also needed to be granted more flexibility and autonomy.

Secretary Duncan said, "The current law, No Child Left Behind, is far too punitive, it is far too prescriptive, it led to a dumbing down of standards, and it led to a narrowing of the curriculum."

President Obama calls for broader measurement for evaluating schools that will put greater emphasis on graduation rates, evaluating how students do academically over time on a variety of subjects, and "making sure we are graduating students who are ready for college and a career."

"Valley Elementary is a perfect example of what Secretary Duncan and President Obama are describing," said Superintendent John Collins. "I am proud of the Valley staff and community and their collaborative efforts to specifically address the learning needs of each student. Valley has shown great progress and continues to implement innovative practices and research-based programs that have lead to the school's API of 807."

Valley's principal, Dr. Andy Johnsen, staff, students, and parents continue to focus on student achievement, and as a result have seen an increase in the API scores of their Latino and English Language Learner populations over the last three years. When measuring student progress from second to fifth grade, student groups are demonstrating academic growth. Valley received California's Title I Academic Achievement Award School designation in 2008 and 2009.

Sabrina Butler, Valley Elementary School parent, said, "Being in Program Improvement does not reflect the quality of the teachers and staff of Valley Elementary nor the tremendous amount of effort given by the students. My husband and I are very proud that our children have the opportunity to attend Valley and receive such an outstanding education."

###

Poway Unified School District 2011 Academic Performance Index (API)

District and Schools	2011 Growth API	2010 Base API
Poway Unified	887	882
Elementary Schools		
Adobe Bluffs	929	946
Canyon View	941	935
Chaparral	923	928
Creekside	962	947
Deer Canyon	956	954
Del Sur	944	954
Garden Road	894	892
Highland Ranch	905	906
Los Peñasquitos	936	915
Midland	897	911
Monterey Ridge	942	927
Morning Creek	890	882
Painted Rock	930	916
Park Village	949	944
Pomerado	881	857
Rolling Hills	935	924
Shoal Creek	909	908
Stone Ranch	963	953
Sundance	933	913
Sunset Hills	872	867
Tierra Bonita	910	907
Turtleback	916	914
Valley	807	825
Westwood	909	914
Willow Grove	947	939
Middle Schools		
Bernardo Heights Middle	896	899
Black Mountain Middle	892	885
Meadowbrook Middle	868	859
Mesa Verde Middle	933	930
Oak Valley Middle	909	915
Twin Peaks Middle	893	888
High Schools		
Del Norte High	864	856
Mt. Carmel High	825	818
Poway High	854	856
Rancho Bernardo High	841	854
Westview High	860	851

August 31, 2011
Poway Unified School District