Graduation rate of 83.8% -- 4.5% increase that surpasses state rate

All comprehensive high school rates grow, Sunny-side leads the way

Graduation rates for Hispanic and African-American students outpace the state and nation

Fresno Unified students are graduating at the highest rate in at least a decade, a result of the district’s increased efforts to break down barriers that have kept students from obtaining their diploma.

The district’s four-year graduation rate for 2014-15 was 83.8%, an increase of 4.5% over the 2013-14 rate of 79.3%, according to data released in May by the California Department of Education.

The graduation rate increased for several numerically significant subgroups in 2014-15, including all groups with over 50 students.

• Graduation rates for Hispanic students rose from 77.6% in 2013-14 to 82.3% in 2014-15, compared to the national Hispanic graduation rate of 71% for 2011-12 (the most recent data available from the National Center for Education Statistics).

• Rates for African-American students rose from 73.1% in 2013-14 to 82.1% in 2014-15, compared to the national African-American graduation rate of 68% for 2011-12 (the most recent data available from the National Center for Education Statistics).

In addition, the four-year dropout rate for the district cohort is 11.7%, lower than the previous year’s 14.0%, and down from 15.6% in 2012-13.

Keys to Success

The Fresno Unified Board of Education has been relentless in its dedication to improving the graduation rate. The board has focused on making sure students are given an equal opportunity to graduate from high school and have the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options.

Efforts in four areas are having the biggest impact on graduation rates:

• The district has added more academic counselors across the district, bringing it to a 320:1 average student-to-counselor ratio -- one of the lowest in the state.

• Counselors are accessing data to better monitor individual students’ class schedules and make adjustments to make sure they are...
Free Summer Meals Available for Fresno Children at School Sites

Fresno Unified is working to ensure that students maintain good nutrition, even during the summer months. Free meals will be available to all youth ages 1 through 18 at more than 60 locations throughout the city beginning June 14.

No registration, application or demonstration of financial need is required, but meals must be eaten on site. The meals are generally served Monday through Friday from 10-11 a.m. For further information, call the Food Services Department at (559) 457-6250. The program is federally funded and administered by the USDA's Office of Food and Nutrition Services. The district served nearly 200,000 meals last summer.

Alimentos Gratuitos para los Niños Durante el Verano

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno

está trabajando para asegurar que los estudiantes mantengan buena nutrición, aun durante los meses del verano. Los alimentos gratuitos estarán disponibles para todos los jóvenes de las edades de 1 a 18 años en más de 60 localidades en toda la ciudad empezando el 14 de junio.

No se requiere registro, solicitud o demostración de necesidad financiera, pero los alimentos deben de ser consumidos en el lugar. Los alimentos generalmente son servidos de lunes a viernes, de las 10 a las 11 de la mañana. Para mayor información llame al Departamento de Servicios de Alimentos al (559) 457-6250. El programa es federalmente financiado y administrado por la Oficina USDA de Alimentos y Servicios de Nutrición. El distrito sirvió cerca de 200,000 alimentos el verano pasado.

### Free Summer Meals Available for Fresno Children at School Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Zip Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addicott Elementary</td>
<td>2727 N. Cedar Ave</td>
<td>93703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Elementary</td>
<td>1542 E. Webster St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ayer Elementary</td>
<td>5272 E. Lowe</td>
<td>93727</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aynesworth Elementary</td>
<td>4765 E. Burns Ave</td>
<td>93725</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bakman Elementary</td>
<td>588 N. Helm Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birney Elementary</td>
<td>3034 E. Cornell Ave</td>
<td>93703</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbia Elementary</td>
<td>1025 S. Trinity</td>
<td>93706</td>
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<tr>
<td>Del Mar Elementary</td>
<td>4122 N. Del Mar</td>
<td>93704</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ericson Elementary</td>
<td>4774 E. Yale Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ewing Elementary</td>
<td>4873 E. Olive Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homan Elementary</td>
<td>1602 W. Harvard</td>
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<tr>
<td>King Elementary</td>
<td>1001 E. Florence Ave</td>
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<td>Lane Elementary</td>
<td>4730 E. Lowe Ave</td>
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<td>Leavenworth Elementary</td>
<td>4420 E. Thomas Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lowell Elementary</td>
<td>171 N. Poplar Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malloch Elementary</td>
<td>2251 W. Morris Ave</td>
<td>93711</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayfair Elementary</td>
<td>3305 E. Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCardle Elementary</td>
<td>577 E. Sierra Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muir Elementary</td>
<td>410 E. Dennett Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olmos Elementary</td>
<td>550 S. Garden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Powers Elementary</td>
<td>110 E. Swift</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pyle Elementary</td>
<td>4140 N. Augusta Ave</td>
<td>93726</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roeding Elementary</td>
<td>1225 W. Dakota Ave</td>
<td>93705</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slater Elementary</td>
<td>4472 N. Emerson Ave</td>
<td>93705</td>
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<tr>
<td>Starr Elementary</td>
<td>1780 W. Sierra</td>
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<td>Storey Elementary</td>
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<td>Thomas Elementary</td>
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<td>Vang Pao Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vinland Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winchell Elementary</td>
<td>3722 E. Lowe Ave</td>
<td>93702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahwahnee Middle</td>
<td>1127 E. Escalon Ave</td>
<td>93710</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Did you Know?

Fresno Unified students can load Microsoft Office products like Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook and OneNote for free onto their personal computers. To download the products, go to [http://portal.office.com](http://portal.office.com) and log in using your student district login and password. After logging in, click the Install button. The link to a support page for students is [https://www.fresnou.org/dept/it/Pages/office365.aspx](https://www.fresnou.org/dept/it/Pages/office365.aspx).
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

Graduation Rates Soar, Passing State Average, and Fewer Students are Dropping Out

Just a few short weeks ago, I had the pleasure of sharing with our community that our four-year cohort graduation rate has risen to a record, 83.8% -- a 4.5% increase over the year prior, and now exceeding the state average. We are celebrating this milestone as this year’s seniors are walking across the graduation stage. The investments from our board and our community are making a difference for our youth!

Investments in facilities through Measure Q and additional student supports are helping teachers, staff and the community work together to improve student outcomes. The district continues to invest in counselors, giving us a ratio of approximately 320:1, which includes social emotional and academic support and stands as one of the lowest counselor-to-student ratios in the state.

While we will not be satisfied until 100% of our students reach the graduation stage, there is much to be proud of. Each of our comprehensive high schools experienced noteworthy improvements and key student subgroups kept pace, with impressive increases in graduation rates.

• Hispanic students’ graduation rates increased by 10.8% over the past five years to 82.3%
• Asian students’ rates rose 9.9% in five years to 90.9%
• African American students improved rates by 15.2% to 82.1%
• White students’ rates increased 7.8%, moving up to 84.2%

I take great pride in seeing this growth in so many of our student subgroups, which make up the largest portion of our student population. Not only are we lifting our students, Fresno Unified is changing the narrative for our community.

Additionally, the four-year cohort dropout rate for the district also experienced a decrease to 11.7%, down from last year’s 14.0% and 15.6% in 2012/13.

These indicators prove that we are moving in the right direction. District data also indicates that with more students finding success in high school, more are pursuing higher education, with 85% of seniors applying to college this year. With support from employees and the community through our Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund, more students have access to resources to see their dreams come true. I am especially thankful to Francine and Murray Farber, whose generous support is providing scholarships for Tehpute Middle School students and opportunities for elementary students to experience theater arts. The Farbers are true community partners -- and a great model for others.

With the Board of Education, I want to thank our teachers, staff, students and parents who are making a difference for our youth! The commission is proud to have a voice in city affairs and issues important to youth, including crime prevention, jobs for youth, health and wellness, accessible public transportation, recreational facilities and open green space. The commission is a vehicle by which the youth of the city can be heard and provide input to our city council and mayor.

The commission helps policymakers make wiser investments and policy decisions responsive to youth needs. There is great value in having a mechanism for young people to have a voice in city affairs and issues of special concern to youth, including crime prevention, jobs for youth, health and wellness, accessible public transportation, recreational facilities and open green space. The commission is a vehicle by which the youth of the city can be heard and provide input to our city council and mayor.

A year ago the Fresno City Council voted to create the first ever Fresno Youth Commission and provided funding through its annual city budget, and the first commissioners were sworn in April 28. Through these actions, and our partnership with Fresno Unified, the council demonstrated its commitment to engage youth at the local government level and develop future leaders. I am proud to have been the lead sponsor of the legislation that created the commission. However, credit for the idea is owed to all the young people of Fresno who worked for two years to find ways to become engaged in the local policy making process.

The commission addresses the important goal of integrating the voice of young people into local policymaking with the goal of creating positive change to shape the city’s future. Institutionalizing youth voice in the policymaking process both engages young people and helps policymakers make wiser investments and policy decisions responsive to youth needs. There is great value in having a mechanism for young people to have a voice in city affairs and issues of special concern to youth, including crime prevention, jobs for youth, health and wellness, accessible public transportation, recreational facilities and open green space. The commission is a vehicle by which the youth of the city can be heard and provide input to our city council and mayor.

The Fresno Youth Commission is composed of young people from throughout the city, ages 15-22 years old. Through a competitive selection process, 16 youth commissions were appointed and sworn-in earlier this spring for a two-year term, each council member appointing two young people from their district (one voting and one non-voting) and the mayor appointing two at-large.

The commissioners are a reflection of the diversity our city. See www.fresnounified.org for a list of commissioners.

I am proud that our city is willing to invest in our young people. Successful youth engagement strategies require that youth have genuine and meaningful opportunities to work with each other and with policymakers to impact issues of importance. Effective initiatives respect the value of young people in public problem-solving and provide young people and adults with information, tools and support to work effectively together as partners, allowing opportunities for youth to take ownership of parts of the process, mobilize others and become powerful role models and leaders in their own community. I am confident that out of the Fresno Youth Commission will come future council members and mayors who will steer the future of Fresno.

Congratulations to all the 2016-2017 Youth Commissioners on your recent appointment!

Message from Fresno Council Member Esmeralda Soria

Youth Commission Gives Voice to Fresno’s Young Residents

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Congratulations to all the 2016-2017 Youth Commissioners on your recent appointment!
Mariska Karaszi
Bullard High School

GPA: 3.69
College: University of San Francisco
Career goal: Pediatric neuro medicine

About Mariska: ASB president; California Scholarship Federation; lettered in badminton; knows conversational Greek, Spanish and American Sign Language; competes in Greek dancing; lost her father suddenly; sister diagnosed with autism.

I Am Ready: “Ever since I was a little girl, I knew I wanted to change lives. Since my father’s passing, I have worked my hardest to stay on track and focus on the things he would want me to accomplish. I am not afraid to step into the world and fight for what I believe in because I know my father is cheering for me every step of the way.”

Teacher Kristi Robison: “Mariska is a natural leader, intelligent and compassionate.”

Sabrina M. Juarez
Cambridge High School

GPA: 2.9
College: Fresno City College
Career goal: Math teacher

About Sabrina: Completed college courses while at Cambridge; gold medalist in Academic Decathlon; started working at 15 to help the family pay their bills; to shut out turmoil at home, she would retreat to her room to read.

I Am Ready: “A lot of my teachers have had a big impact on me and have motivated me to do my best, and I would love to have the opportunity to do that for someone else. I hope to be an Algebra II teacher.”

Teacher Elva Carlos: “Sabrina’s hard work and determination are just a few of the strengths she has to offer. Sabrina is always interested in supporting others. For example, if there is a student who is having difficulty understanding the content, Sabrina takes the time to help the other student.”
Diana Castellanos  
Design Science High School

GPA: 4.11  
College: UC Davis  
Career goal: Engineering

About Diana: ASB treasurer; Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet; emigrated from Mexico with no English; works as a math tutor in migrant education; father is a field worker; will graduate with more than 50 college credits.

I Am Ready: “I want to be a role model for my brothers and all of the migrant farm workers I have stood alongside in the fields. I have dreamed many dreams and row by row I have thought about the life I want to have. College is the first step in making my dreams come true and I am ready to work hard to make my goal a reality.”

Lee Yang, English college support teacher: “The first time I saw Diana speak in front of the entire school year this year, I was so impressed and proud of who she has become. She went from being a quiet, unsure student to a dynamic leader who demonstrates to her peers that helping others and being responsible is extremely important.”

Daisy Nieto  
DeWolf High School

GPA: 3.17  
College: Still determining  
Career goal: Health information specialist or nursing

About Daisy: Single-parent home; father is on disability.

I Am Ready: “In the beginning of my high school years, it never came across my mind that I would get to this point since I was so far behind in school. Luckily, here I am today already getting ready to graduate.”

Teacher Betty Lee Gong: “Daisy has the combination of a positive attitude and the belief that she can overcome obstacles in her life. Raised in a single household by a father who is disabled, it was her father who mentored Daisy to be successful in school and to never give up. Her financial situation at home was a constant reminder that the key to success was doing well in all her academic subjects at DeWolf.”
Acsa Payan  
Duncan Polytechnical High School

GPA: 3.81  
College: Fresno State University  
Career goal: Kindergarten teacher

About Acsa: Loves to skateboard; fluent in Spanish; found her passion for teaching in the Child Development Pathway; has interned in elementary schools; father immigrated to the U.S.

I Am Ready: “My school has prepared me for the career I want to achieve in the future. Going to this school has made me have a true passion for teaching and has made me want to make a difference in children’s lives.”

Teacher Maria Salinas: “Throughout the school year, I observed Acsa grow in confidence and in understanding of child development practices. In addition, she is reliable, creative and always consistent about completing required class work.”

Jennifer Manivanh  
Edison High School

GPA: 4.21  
College: UC Irvine  
Career goal: Nurse, psychologist or pediatrician

About Jennifer: Fluent in Lao and English; makes origami; plays tennis; a chemistry project on nuclear accidents steered her toward the medical field as a career; parents immigrated from Laos; Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) club activities director.

I Am Ready: “From my parents’ and my own experience, I understand what it is like to struggle. I understand how it feels to receive help from others as well, which is why I now want to help by giving back.”

Math teacher Barbara Simons: “Jennifer is a talented mathematics student. She quickly grasps new concepts and is able to use this knowledge in applied form and abstract form.”
Daniela Hernandez
Fresno High School

GPA: 4.32
College: UCLA
Career goal: Music educator

About Daniela: Ranks No. 1 in her class; president of the Book Club; member of marching, concert and jazz bands and symphonic orchestra; created Crafty Paws, designing and knitting clothes for veterans’ pets; California Scholarship Federation; family struggles financially.

I Am Ready: “[My parents] were never allowed to explore themselves in their education, and so they want me to have the best opportunity to do so. Through this encouragement, I have set my sights on going farther than any of my family members before me.”

Teacher Laura Spongberg: “Daniela is a highly motivated self-starter who is consistently responsible, mature and hard-working. She is a critical thinker who writes well but still excels in math and science.”

Natasha Ann Dixon
Hoover High School

GPA: 3.5
College: CSU Stanislaus
Career goal: Elementary teacher

About Natasha: Math, Engineering and Science Achievement club; lettered in tennis; works as a photographer; was placed in the foster care system at age 10, which made her strive for stability and success so that her life would be different.

I Am Ready: “I became self-determined to make my future amazing. I was going to make sure I did what I loved that helped my community and made me financially stable.”

AP calculus teacher Lucas Ross: “I cannot count the times Natasha has come to me asking to explain a concept further, dig deeper, ask why something is true. This characteristic is rare among the high school age group and Natasha Dixon possesses it.”
**Oscar Aguilera-Panuco**  
**McLane High School**

GPA: 4.32  
College: UCLA  
Career goal: Social worker

**About Oscar:** Speaks Spanish; observing children who have been neglected or abused, experience with a severely depressed family member and a chance meeting with a psychologist inspired him to pursue psychology as a career.

**I Am Ready:** “Helping people has always been my goal, especially helping people cope with depression. That is my purpose, to help.”

**Social Studies Department Chair**  
**William H. Mitchell:** “Over the years, Oscar has proven himself to be a kind and caring student. I have no doubt that he will serve our community well.”

---

**Ruben Aldama**  
**Phoenix Secondary Academy**

GPA: 3.6  
College: Fresno City College  
Career goal: Automotive technician

**About Ruben:** Works to help family pay bills; single-parent home; cares for younger siblings; will be the first from his family to graduate from high school.

**I Am Ready:** “I truly believe that it takes confidence and self-determination to live through everything I have been through and still be able to graduate from high school. I have chosen to live a better life and give my future family everything that I lacked in my life.”

**Principal Brian Radtke:** “Ruben has been with us for two years and has made amazing progress not only in his school behavior but his academic standing as well. Ruben has shown an incredible ability to not allow his past to dictate who he becomes in the future.”
Sukhmanpreet Kaur
Roosevelt High School

GPA: 3.64
College: Fresno City College
Career goal: Doctor or engineer

About Sukhmanpreet: Recent immigrant from India; inspired by grandfather to be a doctor.

I am Ready: “I feel immigrating here has encouraged me to dream big. I really want to get a college education and achieve my dreams but affording the expense is a bit hard for me.”

AP calculus teacher Nathan Boldt: “Obviously, moving across the world in your senior year is a huge change for a teenager. However, Sukhmanpreet has managed this stress with a level of maturity that belies her age. She is now a vocal participant in my calculus class who can work with anyone. I feel this is a huge indicator as to how adaptable Ms. Kaur is and I know whatever college or life has to throw at her in the future she will rise to meet the challenge.”

Cecilia Adriana Prieto
Sunnyside High School

GPA: 3.84
College: Fresno State University
Career goal: Athletic training/kinesiology

About Cecilia: Mother is disabled; she has been her mother’s caregiver since sixth grade; Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Student of the Year.

I Am Ready: “Ever since I was little I knew that I wanted to go to college and study for something that was in the medical field. My passion for sports is what really finally drew me into becoming an athletic trainer. I hope to receive my master’s degree and one day work for FIFA or the NFL.”

AVID teacher/Coordinator Amanda Peterson: “Cecilia strives to learn and is motivated beyond grades -- she is interested in learning for learning’s sake. She has developed remarkable self-discipline in reaction to seeing the challenges her family faces. They encourage her to pursue education so that she will not have the physical demands and stress that come with manual labor and a lack of education.”
Alexis Diaz
J.E. Young Academic Center

GPA: 3.7
College: Fresno Pacific University
Career goal: Psychologist for troubled youth or convicted felons

About Alexis: Enjoy writing short stories and poems; worked on Bernie Sanders campaign; works as a child care provider; enrolled in Advance to College program and took classes at Fresno City College; has a family member diagnosed with bipolar disorder who has been in and out of jail.

I Am Ready: “My decision to pursue a degree in psychology and criminology will give me the opportunity to help my family and many other troubled youth who are faced with this disease.”

Advance to College coordinator Jodie Garabedian: “Alexis is passionate when she talks about her program of study in psychology and criminology and her dream of becoming a psychologist for troubled youth. Her purpose in life is to make a difference in the lives of those who are faced with the challenge of mental illness as they, too, want quality of life.”

J.E. Young Education Center
Enrollment: 474
Fun fact: Students volunteer at Bakman, Burroughs, Powers-Ginsburg, and Anthony elementary schools, Kings Canyon Middle School, Boy Scouts, Catholic Charities, Fresno County Public Library, Fresno Rotary Storyland, Poverello House and Valley Animal Center.
Greatest accomplishment: Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) six-year year accreditation with a three-year review.
Principal: Yolanda Jimenez-Ruiz

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Every Week of Summer!

- We will paint 4 paintings and 2 animal sculptures.
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Christopher R. Gates, D.M.D

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- Friendly patient financing

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www.fresnosmilecenter.com
meeting graduation requirements.

- Summer school has been revamped, making credit recovery a key focus. Students are assigned to attend, requiring parents to opt them out if they are not going to attend.

- Fresno Adult School has expanded its courses so that high school students can take classes they need at night and graduate on time.

“We have worked diligently to ensure that every student -- no matter their economic means, no matter their backgrounds -- graduates successfully on time,” Hanson said. “This latest data is a testament to the hard work of our teachers, support staff, leaders and students, as well as the support of students’ families.”

The district’s 4.5% increase was the second largest graduation rate increase compared to other large school districts that are part of the California Office to Reform Education (CORE) with Fresno Unified. Only San Francisco Unified School District, with a gain of 5%, surpassed Fresno Unified.

**La Graduación Alcanza Niveles Altos Históricos**

Los estudiantes del Distrito Unificado de Fresno se están graduando con los porcentajes más altos de la última década, esto como resultado del incremento de los esfuerzos del distrito para derribar las barreras que han evitado que los estudiantes obtengan su diploma.

See **GRADUATION RATES** in Spanish and Hmong

Continued on page 13
First-Ever Scholarship Dinner
Honors Students

The district’s Fresno Unified Scholarship recipients celebrate May 10 at the district’s first Fresno Unified Scholarship & Awards Banquet, hosted by Parent University at the Golden Palace. Forty-five of Fresno Unified’s most-deserving seniors were awarded $60,000 in Fresno Unified Scholarships, made possible by the generous donations of district employees and the community. The district began awarding scholarships in 2009, but this is the first year to honor the recipients at a dinner. More than 400 attended the banquet, where a special award was also given to Francine and Murray Farber. To read more about scholarship winners from each of the high schools, see pages 4-10.

Do YOU have a connection to farmers, packers, grocers or any organization that may have EXCESS food?

Food to Share can help get that food to neighborhoods with little or no access to fresh produce!

Find out how you can become a donor or benefit from food distributions in your community.

For video, got to vimeo.com/fresnounified/scholarshipdinner16

More Weekend Recreation Space Available

Beginning June 4, the district will open select schools for recreational use for the community, with all 14 schools open by June 18. Schools will be open on the weekends and holidays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. to expand open space for community use, following a vote by the Fresno Unified Board of Education May 1. Schools that will be open for recreational use are:

- Bullard, Edison, Fresno, Hoover, McLane, Roosevelt and Sunnyside high schools
- Addams, Vang Pao, Wilson and Yokomi elementary schools
- Scandinavian, Terronez and Wawona middle schools.

For more information, contact Fresno Metro Ministry at 559-485-1416 or chanel@fresnometmin.org

Dates to Know

June 1 and 15:
Board of Education meetings

May 23-June 8: Graduations (see schedule at www.fresnounified.org)

June 9:
Last day of instruction

August 15:
Start of 2016-17 academic year
El porcentaje de graduación del distrito durante los cuatro años de la generación del 2014-15 fue de 83.8%, un incremento de 4.5% en comparación con el porcentaje de 79.3% del 2013-14, de acuerdo con la información anunciada en mayo por el Departamento de Educación de California.

“El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno está continuamente esforzándose para alcanzar la Meta No. 4 de la Mesa de Educación: ‘Todos los estudiantes permanecerán en la escuela enfocados en la graduación’,” dijo el Superintendente Michael Hanson.

“Nosotros continuamos nuestro trabajo implementando las recomendaciones del Reporte del Equipo de Trabajo para Graduación que mantiene nuestro continuo movimiento cuesta arriba en los niveles de graduación:”

Los porcentajes para los estudiantes Hispanos aumentaron en varios subgrupos numéricamente significativos en el 2014-15, incluyendo todos los grupos de más de 50 estudiantes.

- Los porcentajes de graduación para los estudiantes Hispanos aumentaron del 77.6% en el 2013-14 al 82.3% en el 2014-15, comparado con los porcentajes de graduación de Hispanos a nivel nacional del 71% del 2011-12 (la información disponible más reciente del Centro Nacional de Estadística de la Educación).

- Los porcentajes para los estudiantes Afroamericanos aumentó del 73.1% en el 2013-14 a 82.1% en el 2014-15, comparado con los porcentajes de graduación a nivel nacional de los Afroamericanos del 68% del 2011-12 (la información disponible más reciente del Centro Nacional de Estadística de la Educación).

Adicionalmente, los porcentajes de deserción por un periodo de cuatro años para el distrito es de 11.7%. Más bajo que el 14.0% de los años anteriores y por debajo del 15.6% del 2012-13.

El aumento del 4.5% del distrito fue el segundo incremento del porcentaje de graduación más alto comparado con otros de los distritos escolares más grandes que son parte de la Oficina de la Reforma Educativa de California (CORE) junto con el Distrito Escolar de Fresno. Sólo el Distrito Escolar Unificado de San Francisco, con un aumento del 5%, sobrepasó al Distrito Unificado de Fresno.

El porcentaje de graduación del distrito para Graduación que mantiene nuestro continuo movimiento cuesta arriba en los niveles de graduación: ”dijo el Superintendente Michael Hanson.

“Nosotros continuamos nuestro trabajo enfocado en la graduación,” dijo el Superintendente Michael Hanson.

“Mientras me encuentro motivado por nuestro continuo movimiento cuesta arriba en los niveles de graduación, No estaré satisfecho, ni nuestra comunidad tampoco, hasta que alcancemos el porcentaje de graduación de 100%.”

Los niveles de graduación se incrementaron en varios subgrupos numéricamente significativos en el 2014-15, incluyendo todos los grupos de más de 50 estudiantes.

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La Mesa de Educación del Distrito de Fresno ha sido impecable en su dedicación para el mejoramiento de los porcentajes de graduación. La mesa se ha enfocado en asegurar que los estudiantes reciban una oportunidad igualitaria para graduarse de la escuela preparatoria y tener las más altas cantidades de oportunidades de educación después de preparatoria de una gran variedad de opciones.

Los esfuerzos en cuatro áreas están teniendo impactos muy grandes en los niveles de graduación:

- El distrito ha incorporado más consejeros académicos en todo el distrito, teniendo un promedio de 320:1 de estudiantes por consejero, uno de los más bajos en el estado.
- Los consejeros se encuentran acogiendo a información para monitorear mejor los horarios individuales de clase de los estudiantes y hacer ajustes para asegurarse que estén cumpliendo los requisitos de graduación.
- Las clases de verano han sido renovadas haciendo de la recuperación de créditos su enfoque principal. Los estudiantes son asignados para asistir y se requiere la decisión de los padres para que opten si no van a asistir.
- La Escuela de Adultos de Fresno extendió sus cursos de tal manera que los estudiantes de preparatoria puedan tomar clases nocturnas necesarias para graduarse a tiempo.

“Hemos estado trabajando diligentemente para asegurar que cada estudiante – sin importar su estatus económico y sin importa su descendencia – se gradúa exitosamente a tiempo,” dijo Hanson. “Esta información actualizada es un testimonio del trabajo arduo de nuestros maestros, personal de apoyo, líderes y estudiantes, así como, el apoyo a las familias de los estudiantes.”

Cuando la Mesa de Educación del Distrito de Fresno celebra graduación en 2015, Bullard High School celebra la graduación más alta comparado con los porcentajes de graduación de 100%.

Percival Bolden of Bullard High School celebrates graduation in 2015. Bullard and all comprehensive high schools made significant gains in graduation rates.

Percival Bolden de Bullard High School celebra graduación en 2015. Bullard y todos los liceos completos han hecho avances significativos en la graduación.

Hauv paus tsev kwam ntawv ntxiv mus yog 11.7%, uas yog qis tshaj xyoo tas lawm 14.0%, thiab qis tshaj ntawm 15.6% rau xyoo 2012-13.

*Humphhayj rau kev Ua Tau Zoo*

Hauv Paus Tsev Kwam Ntawv Pawg Neeg Sab Lah mbu daf zag zag ntau cuv los ua hauildwm pab ua kom kev kwam tiav coob nce. Pawg Neeg Sab Lah saibxyuas ua kom muaj kev sab txiq sib luag rau cuv ntxivs kwam ntwav tau txais kev pab nyob rau hauv cov tsev kwam ntawv them siab thiab ua kom muaj feêm msu ntau kau rau cuv tsev kwam ntwav qib siab.

Cov dag zog rau plaub qchaw uas cov tau kev kwam ntwav tiav zoo tshaj yog:

- Hauv Paus tsev kwam ntwav ntxiv cov counselors saibxyuas kev kwam rau cov tsev kwam ntwav ua kom muaj ntxivs kwam ntwav nrog rau ib tus counselors.
- Cov counselors siab tsev kwam ntwav los saibxyuas tub ntxivs kwam ntwav cov kev kwam thiba mbu tsu kom haum raws li cov kev kwam tiav.
- Cia kom muaj kev kho dua txog cov kev kwam thauam lub caij ntuj sov u kom muaj kwam tau txog cov qhab nais poob lawm. Hais cov kom menyuam no yuav tsum mus kwam xwb yog lawv tsis mus

See GRADUATION RATES in Spanish and hmong

Continued on page 15
Being on the Student Advisory Board (SAB) was an amazing and fulfilling opportunity to be involved in the district’s progress through collaboration with representatives from other Fresno high schools. Coming together with representatives from Duncan Polytechnical, Hoover, Sunnyside, Cambridge, McLane, DeWolf, Design Science, Bullard, Roosevelt, Fresno, and Edison twice a month gave me insight into other high schools’ activities and allowed me to bring new ideas back to Hoover.

To see the impact of student government at Hoover is incredibly inspiring. In my four-year SAB and student government experience, we have shaped Hoover into an accepting and encouraging environment. My experience has allowed me to develop team working skills. It’s taught me that hard work doesn’t always result in success, but we have learned how to triumph over the losses and improve as a team.

The Human Element kindness campaign has tremendously improved the mood at Hoover. Coming onto campus, you can feel the care we have for one another. We constantly advocate, “Remember who you are and what you represent.” We do this by having Human Element Week and Multicultural Week, where we have lunch time activities revolving around the day’s lesson or theme.

Being a part of Hoover means being a part of amazing and engaging events, such as our recent Power Puff football game. We switched it up a bit: girls were the football players and the boys were the cheerleaders and performed a halftime routine. To keep the Pates informed and engaged on campus, we’ve created a Snapchat account for the students to follow.

With graduation fast approaching, we are cherishing these last high school memories. One thing I will never forget: How welcomed I felt by the amazing teachers and students in my classes. Attending Hoover was one of the best decisions I have made thus far, and graduating from Hoover is an honor.

Dozens of construction projects districtwide will be in full swing during the summer break. From the repainting of schools and the installation of exterior lighting to repaving play courts to the relocation of portables, dozens of schools will have projects complete by the beginning of the 2016-17 academic year in August.

Changes at Addicott Elementary School over the summer are expected to be among the most dramatic. The school serves students with severe disabilities, including those who are orthopedically impaired, intellectually disabled, have multiple disabilities, are deaf and have other health impairments.

The $2.5 million project will include additional handicap accessible walkways, safety features, and expanded sensory walls and gross motor areas so students can expand their skills.
PREPARING CAREER READY GRADUATES

Michael Hanson
Fresno Unified Superintendent

SUPT. MESSAGE Continued from page 3

community for your commitment to en-
suring our students have the resources to
achieve success. Our hard work is paying off and we are dedi-
cated to keeping this positive momentum go-
ing. With that stated, I want to end with a con-
gratulations to the graduates of 2016. Good luck
in your post-secondary journey!

Mensaje del SUPERINTENDENTE

Hace sólo unas cuantas semanas atrás, Tuve el placer de compartir con nuestra comunidad que nuestro porcentaje de graduación ha aumentado a un record de 83.8% -- un 4.5% de incremento com-
parado con el año anterior y ahora excede-
diendo el promedio estatal. Estamos cel-
ando este logro en la medida en la que
los estudiantes del grado 12 caminan en el
escenario de su graduación. ¡Las inves-
tiones de nuestra mesa y de esta comunidad
están haciendo la diferencia para nuestros
jóvenes!

Las inversiones en las Instalaciones a
través de la Medida Q y los apoyos adi-
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Mensajes del SUPERINTENDENTE

Hace sólo unas cuantas semanas atrás, Tuve el placer de compartir con nuestra comunidad que nuestro porcentaje de graduación ha aumentado a un record de 83.8% -- un 4.5% de incremento comparado con el año anterior y ahora excediendo el promedio estatal. Estamos celebrando este logro en la medida en la que los estudiantes del grado 12 caminan en el escenario de su graduación. ¡Las inversiones de nuestra mesa y de esta comunidad están haciendo la diferencia para nuestros jóvenes!

Las inversiones en las Instalaciones a través de la Medida Q y los apoyos adicionales a los estudiantes están ayudando a los maestros, personal y la comunidad a trabajar juntos para mejorar los resultados de los estudiantes. El distrito continua con la inversión en consejeros, teniendo un promedio de aproximadamente 320:1 el cual incluye apoyo socioemocional y académico y se posiciona como uno de los más bajos niveles de consejeros por estudiante en el estado.

Aunque no estaremos satisfechos hasta que el 100% de nuestros estudiantes estén logrando a su graduación, hay mucho de lo que debamos de sentirnos orgullosos. Cada una de nuestras preparatorias comprensivas experimentan mejoramientos notables en subgrupos de estudiantes clave manteniendo su paso, con incrementos impresionantes en los índices de graduación.

- Los porcentajes de graduación de los estudiantes Hispanos aumentó en un 10.8% en los pasados cinco años, alcanzando el 82.3%;
- Los porcentajes de estudiantes Asiantes aumentaron 9.9% en cinco años alcanzando el 90.9%;
- Los estudiantes Africanos mejoraron un 15.2% de los promedios para alcanzar el 82.1%;
- Mientras que los porcentajes de estudiantes blancos aumentaron un 7.8%, subieron hasta el 84.2%

Nos llena de orgullo el ver este creci-
miento en muchos de nuestros subgrupos de estudiantes, los que conforman la parte más grande de la población estudiantil. No solamente estamos alzando a nuestros estudiantes, sino el Distrito Escolar de Fresno está cambiando la narrativa para nuestra comunidad.

Adicionalmente, la disminución del nivel de deserción del distrito de los estudiante-
antes que iniciaron en el grado 9 hace cuatro años, también experimentó una disminución de 11.7% más abajo que el 14.0% del año pasado y el 15.6% del 2012/13.

Estos indicadores prueban que estamos avanzando en la dirección correcta. La información del Distrito también indica que con más estudiantes teniendo éxito en la escuela preparatoria, más de ellos están continuando con una educación superior, con un 85% de estudiantes del grado 12 solicitando ingreso en el colegio este año. Con el apoyo de los empleados y la comuni-
dad a través del Fondo de Becas de Distrito Unificado de Fresno, más estudiantes tienen acceso a los recursos para ver sus sueños convertidos en realidad. Estoy especialmente agradecido con Francine y Murray Farber, cuyo generoso apoyo está aportando becas para los estudiantes de la Escuela Secundaria Tehipite y oportunidades para los estudiantes de primaria de experimentar artes teatrales. Los Farbes son verdaderos socios comunitarios – y están pagoniendo los ntawm tias xyoo 2016 no. Rau siab mus kawm ua kom tau zog kev neq kev mus kawm qib siab!

GRADUATION RATES Continued from page 13

no lawv cov nim txiv yuav tau tsho lawv tawm.
- Fresno lub tsev kawm ntawv rau cov neeg laua cia kom muaj cov kev kawm yav xtsu tuaj rau cov menyam kawm cov chav lawv poop lawv yawv xtsu tuaj ua kom lawv kawm tas thia sjawm.

“Peb ua haujlwm nyav heev ua kom txhua tus tub nthixas kawm ntawv kawm tau zoo txwam hais tias lawv yav neeg dabtis thiaj muaj ni 5% xwb thiaj yav qiab ni los kom lawv kawm tas thia sjawm,”
Hanson hais. “Cov ntaub ntawv no yog ib qhov kev qhia xtsu cov xib fwb, neeg ua haujlwm pab, cov thawj cov, cov menyam kawm ntawv thiaj lawv tsev neeg siv zog sip pac heev.”

Hauv pauv tsev kawm ntawv qhov kev kawm tau nce 4.5% yao zum thib ob uas kev kawm ntawv tiaj nece siub mpiv los ntawm lvwm cov hauv pauv tsev kawm ntawv loj nyob rau hauv xeev California lub Office to Reform Education (CORE). Tsuas yov Hauv Pauv Tsev Kawn Tntawv San Francisco kawm tau nce 5% xwb thiaj li tshaw Hauv Pauv Tsev Kawn Tntawv Fresno.

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Healthy Minute

Take a Minute for Your Health

Summer 2016
Group Fitness Classes

Join Us
for an active start to the summer. This year, the WellPATH Program is offering group fitness classes open to the Fresno community. Start your summer mornings off in shape by taking one of our 6-week group fitness classes at Oso de Oro Park.

Our group fitness classes are led by Fresno’s own Pinnacle Training Systems. Their certified instructors have facilitated group fitness classes for hundreds of Fresno Unified School District employees over the past couple of years and they are trained to meet the needs of all fitness levels and skills. Beginners are welcome!

WellPATH-eligible Members: The cost is $15 for the entire 6-week session. Sign up for your class today by visiting www.JHMBHealthConnect.com/group-fitness-classes.

Non-Fresno Unified Individuals: The total cost is $5 per class or $30 for the entire 6-week session. To sign up for your class, contact Pinnacle Training Systems directly at (559) 515-3578.

WellPATH seeks to foster a healthy work environment and engage Fresno Unified School District employees in their health and well-being. Participation in program activities is open to active employees, spouses, domestic partners, dependent children age 18+, early retirees, and retirees covered under the District’s health benefit plan.

Summer Offerings
June 18 - July 30, 2016

Yoga
Tuesdays | 7:30 AM
Thursdays | 7:30 AM

Boot Camp
Saturdays | 8:00 AM
(No class July 2nd)