



For Immediate Release

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FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ***FSD CAASPP Scores Outperform both County and State***

(Fullerton, CA) – The California Department of Education recently released results of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) online test highlighting increased student achievement gains across the state. Students in the Fullerton School District CAASPP scores showed gains larger than both the State of California and Orange County. The English Language Arts (ELA) scores in FSD showed an overall 4 percentage point increase, four times the amount of the County and the State while Math scores in FSD showed an overall 2 percentage point increase, double the increase of the County and State.

FSD's commitment to innovation and personalized learning for all students has been one of the primary driving forces behind the district's success. The District provides an array of targeted individualized learning opportunities for both students who may be struggling with academics and those who may be thriving academically. FSD staff work collaboratively to target the needs of students hence leading to pathways for success.

FSD's student success can be attributed to supportive and talented teachers and staff, in addition to innovative and personalized programs offered in the schools. With input from the community and parents, FSD has developed research-based support programs that help to close the achievement gap. Examples of programs offered in FSD include individual student interventions (RtI), Lindamood-Bell inspired reading clinics, personalized learning (including multi-age classes), Dual Language Academies, 1:1 Visible Innovation Program (VIP), All the Arts for all the Kids, Gifted and Talented Education (GATE), International Baccalaureate, and the Middle College Program. With diverse and personalized learning, FSD students enjoy school and want to attend. This is evident by the incredibly high student attendance rate throughout the district, one of the highest in the State.

A few examples of schools in FSD that are reaping the success of innovative and personalized programs are Fern Drive, Maple, and Orangethorpe Schools. Fern Drive saw remarkable increase in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math scores during the last year. ELA increased 14.4 percentage points and Math increased 8.4 percentage points. The remarkable increases are attributed to a commitment from all staff at the school site to ensure students had all the tools and resources to be successful. The school worked to ensure an ongoing focus on their High Reliability Goals, that the Common Formative Assessments were on task, proper identification of areas of student needs, and the integration of new materials and innovation. It became the norm for teachers at Fern Drive to try new ways to incorporate

morning work in the daily schedule and share with each other great success stories. The renewed focus of the teachers to find innovative methods became a fun activity that challenged the minds of the students and the teachers.

Maple School implemented a concentrated focus on literacy during the last year and the success is evident by a 9.6 percentage point increase in ELA scores for the school. This wasn't at the expense of Math where there was a 5.4 percentage point increase school-wide. Orangethorpe School also experienced tremendous growth, some of which can be attributed to a concerted focus on personalized learning. Personalized learning at Orangethorpe Elementary provides learning opportunities that prepare students for any experience and equips them to be high level problem solvers. Orangethorpe is proud to personalize learning through multi-age classrooms, gamified and experiential learning, passion based learning and continued learning events such as robotics, theater, e-sports, soccer, dance and speech and debate.. This focus has paid off with an astounding 12.1percentage point increase in ELA for the school and a 5.6 percentage point increase in Math.

Statewide, 49.9% of students met or exceeded the ELA standards whereas in FSD, 59% of students met or exceeded the standards. In addition to the overall gains of students throughout the district, Fullerton School District is making progress towards closing the achievement gap of our at risk students. This includes an 8.4 percentage point increase by economically disadvantaged students and an 6.8 percentage point increase by Hispanic/Latino students. These increases represent 6-8 times greater increases than the Orange County and State average increases. Additionally, in Math, 38.7% of students met or exceeded standards in California compared to 50.9% in FSD. The highest gains in Math mirrored ELA with a 4.9 percentage point increase for economically disadvantaged and a 3.4percentage point gain for Hispanic/Latino students. These significant increases for these groups of students show that Fullerton has moved closer to closing the achievement gap for minority students and at risk students.

The Fullerton School District is located in northern Orange County, California and serves over 13,500 students in grades TK – 8th. The Fullerton School District includes 20 schools, 15 elementary schools, two K-8th grade schools, and 2 middle schools. The mission of the Fullerton School District is to work collaboratively with the community to provide an innovative, high-quality educational program for all students in a safe learning environment. The District motto, “*Great Schools - Successful Kids*” exemplifies the belief that all students will achieve academic excellence, acquire interpersonal skills, and develop technological expertise to contribute as productive citizens in a democratic society. For more information, call 714/447-7400 or visit www.fullertonsd.org.

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