



LAMMERSVILLE
Unified School District

Dr. Kirk Nicholas
Superintendent

Governing Board Members
Mrs. Micaela Vergara, President – Ms. Sharon Lampel, Clerk
Mr. Matthew D. Balzarini – Mr. Shane Nielson – Mr. David Pombo

Meeting Agenda
District Office, Board Room
111 S. De Anza Blvd., Mountain House, CA 95391
August 21, 2013
7:00 P.M. – Regular Meeting

- I. Call to order at _____ P.M.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Mrs. Micaela Vergara, Board President
- III. Roll Call: Matthew Balzarini _____; Sharon Lampel _____; Shane Nielson _____; David Pombo _____; Micaela Vergara_____.
- IV. Approval and/or Corrections to the Agenda:
MOTION BY:_____; SECOND BY:_____; AYES:_____; NOES:_____; ABSENT:_____.
- V. Receiving of Public Comments: (The Board shall give members of the public an opportunity to address the Board either before or during the Board's consideration of each agenda item (Gove. Code Section 54954.3). At a time so designated on the agenda, members of the public also may bring before the Board, matters that are not listed on the agenda of a regular meeting. The Board may refer such a matter to the Superintendent of or designee or take it under advisement, but shall not take action at that time. The Board may place the matter on the agenda of a subsequent meeting for discussion or action. Presentations by the public shall be held to a reasonable length, normally not to exceed five (5) minutes)
- VI. Consent Items for Consideration:
 - A. Approval of Governing Board Meeting Minutes:
 - 1.Regular Meeting, August 7, 2013.....P. 1
 - B. Acceptance of Certificated Resignations:
 - 1. Cam Huyen Thi Nguyen, Speech Therapist, Effective Confidential Packet P. 1
 - 2. Jamie Graham, Teacher – Questa School, Effective..... Confidential Packet P. 3
 - 3. Jennifer Tilton, Vice Principal – Wicklund School, Effective 08/16/13..... Confidential Packet P. 5
- MOTION BY:_____; SECOND BY:_____; AYES:_____; NOES:_____; ABSENT:_____.
- VII. Governing Board Reports:
- VIII. Action Items:
 - A. Consider/Approval of Certificated Hires:
 - 1. Christina Abrams, TK Teacher 1 FTE – Questa School..... Confidential Packet P. 7
 - 2. Deborah Byon, 1st Grade Teacher 1 FTE – Questa School..... Confidential Packet P. 25
 - 3. Allison Mooney, 5th Grade Teacher 1 FTE – Questa School..... Confidential Packet P. 43
 - 4. Nicole Young, Kindergarten Teacher 1 FTE – Bethany School..... Confidential Packet P. 63
 - 5. _____, Special Education Teacher 1 FTE – Wicklund School
 - MOTION BY:_____; SECOND BY:_____; AYES:_____; NOES:_____; ABSENT:_____.
 - B. Consider/Approval of Classified Hires:
 - 1. Laurie Herrera - Special Education Instructional Aide.....Confidential Packet P. 81
 - 2. Shakila Amani - Instructional Aide/Noon Duty Supervisor..... Confidential Packet P. 95
 - MOTION BY:_____; SECOND BY:_____; AYES:_____; NOES:_____; ABSENT:_____.

Lammersville Unified School District

C. Consider/Approval of Certificated Management Hire: _____ Vice Principal, Wicklund

MOTION BY: _____; SECOND BY: _____; AYES: _____; NOES: _____; ABSENT: _____.

D. Consider/Approval of Participation in the San Joaquin County Outdoor Education Program.....P. 3

MOTION BY: _____; SECOND BY: _____; AYES: _____; NOES: _____; ABSENT: _____.

E. Consider/Approval of Updated Inter/Intra-District Transfers.....Confidential Packet P. 109

MOTION BY: _____; SECOND BY: _____; AYES: _____; NOES: _____; ABSENT: _____.

IX. Information & Discussion Items:

- A. MHCS Board Joint Meeting
- B. Board Workshop – Jo Lucy & Phil Quon
 - 1. Roles, Responsibilities, Protocols, & Norm.

X. Board Study Session:

- A. Common Core State Standards & Strategic Planning.....P. 11

XI. Calendar:

- A. Wednesday, August 21stFirst Day of School
- B. Wednesday, September 4th.....Next Regular Governing Board Meeting 7:00 P.M.

XII. Adjourn to Closed Session _____ P.M. (Closed session is in regards to Personnel, and Negotiation Matters as permitted under Gov. Code § 54956.9, 54957, 54957.6, and 54957.1)

MOTION BY: _____; SECOND BY: _____; AYES: _____; NOES: _____; ABSENT: _____.

- A. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Government Code §54357.6)
- B. Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Government Code §54956.8)
 - 1. Property: Mountain House High School
 - 2. Agency Negotiator: Superintendent
 - 3. Negotiating Parties: Lammersville Unified School District & Shea Homes LLC
 - 4. Under Negotiations: Terms of School Facilities Mitigation Agreement

XIII. Reconvene to Open Session _____ P.M.

XIV. Report Action(s) Taken in Closed Session, If Any:

XV. Adjournment of Regular Meeting of the Lammersville Unified School District, August 21, 2013 at _____ P.M.

MOTION BY: _____; SECOND BY: _____; AYES: _____; NOES: _____; ABSENT: _____.

AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES COMPLIANCE NOTICE: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring special assistance to access the Board of Trustees meeting room, to access written documents being discussed at the Board meeting, or to otherwise participate at Board meetings, please contact Mrs. Noel Balzarini at (209) 836-7400. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the Board meeting and to provide any required accommodation, auxiliary aids or services. DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: Documents provided to a majority of the Governing Board regarding an open session item on this agenda, including documents distributed to the Board less than 72 hours in advance of a board meeting are available for public inspection at the front desk of the District offices located at 111 S. De Anza Blvd., Mountain House, CA 95391 during normal business hours.



LAMMERSVILLE
Unified School District

Dr. Kirk Nicholas
Superintendent

Governing Board Members
Mrs. Micaela Vergara, President – Ms. Sharon Lampel, Clerk
Mr. Matthew D. Balzarini – Mr. Shane Nielson – Mr. David Pombo

8-21-13
VI. A. 1.

District Office – Board Room
111 De Anza Blvd., Mountain House, CA
August 7, 2013 – 7:00 P.M.
Governing Board Regular Meeting Minutes

- I. Called to Order at 7:03 P.M.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Mrs. Micaela Vergara, Board President.
- III. Board Members present included: Matthew Balzarini, Sharon Lampel, Shane Nielson, Micaela Vergara. Members Absent: David Pombo
- IV. Approval and/or Corrections to the agenda – Superintendent Nicholas reported some changes and additions to the agenda: Consent Items: A. 1. Updated Regular Meeting Minutes, July 17, 2013; Action Items. A. 5. Susanne Twisselmann, Certificated Teacher, Wicklund School 1 FTE, 6. Stephanie Martin, Certificated Teacher, 1 FTE; B. 5. Tessa Martino, School Secretary II; D. TABLE item.
It was moved by Trustee Nielson to approve this agenda with changes, second by Trustee Lampel with no discussion. Motion carried with four (4) ayes with one (1) absent.
- V. Receiving of Public Comments: No Public Comments were made.
- VI. Consent Items for Consideration
 - A. Approval of Updated Governing Board Meeting Minutes:
 - 1. Regular Meeting, July 17, 2013
 - B. Budget Revisions and Warrants
 - C. Acceptance of Certificated Resignations Effective June 7, 2013:
 - 1. Catherine Abell-Chayrez, Teacher, Wicklund School
 - 2. Megan Von Rump, Teacher – Questa School
 It was moved by Trustee Nielson to approve the consent items as presented, second by Trustee Balzarini with no further discussion. Motion carried with four (4) ayes with one (1) absent.
- VII. Governing Board Reports:
Trustee Balzarini reported that he will participate on a CSBA Legislative Committee phone conference on the 14th.
- VIII. Action Items:
 - A. **Consider/Approval of Certificated Hires: 1. Samantha Broughton – 1st Grade Teacher 1 FTE Wicklund School; 2. Attif Raza – School Psychologist 1 FTE; 3. Nicole Wright – 4th Grade Teacher 1 FTE Questa School; 4. Kristen Carter – Behavior Specialist 1 FTE; 5. Susanne Twisselmann – Certificated Teacher 1 FTE Wicklund School; 6. Stephanie Martin, Certificated Teacher 1 FTE.**
It was moved by Trustee Lampel to approve this action item, second by Trustee Nielson with no discussion. Motion carried with four (4) ayes with one (1) absent.
 - B. **Consider/ Approval of Classified Hires: 1. Mandy Partlow – Language Interpreter; 2. Hazel Tibbetts, Special Education Instructional Aide; 3. Anthony Hunt – I.T. Technician II 1 FTE; 4. Heather Kooreman – Administrative Secretary 0.4 FTE; 5. Tessa Martino – School Secretary II.**
It was moved by Trustee Lampel to approve this action item, second by Trustee Nielson with the following discussion: Trustee Nielson asked if the interpreter hire was based on the needs of the IEP. Superintendent Nicholas responded yes. Motion carried with four (4) ayes with one (1) absent.
 - C. **Consider/Approval of 2013-14 Inter/Intra-District Transfers (See Attached List).**
Superintendent Nicholas reported that one correction was made to the list after it was distributed to the Board. Trustee Balzarini questioned if all the students coming in to the District were screened for discipline. Trustee Nielson questioned the many new transfers approved in to the most impacted school. Superintendent Nicholas responded that all student's backgrounds were verified prior to approval. Dr. Gill reported that she has a planned review of transfers between sites scheduled with the site administrators due to the rapid growth of the District.

It was moved by Trustee Lampel to approve this action item, second by Trustee Nielson with no discussion. Motion carried with four (4) ayes with one (1) absent.

D. Consider/Approval of Revised Job Description, Salary, and Title: From Information Technology Officer to I. T. Officer I.

No action taken – Item tabled.

IX. Information & Discussion Items:

A. Strategic Planning – Superintendent Nicholas introduced and welcomed Julie Corona, our new Director of Special Education.

Superintendent Nicholas reported that a lot of the Strategic Planning work completed was the workshops, parent meetings, and surveys. Babs has requested a Board Workshop on either October 12 or 26. The Board agreed on October 12 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

B. Future Board Workshop – Superintendent Nicholas reported that Jo Lucy, CSBA President elect, along with Phil Quon, have proposed to facilitate a workshop for the Board on roles and responsibilities and establish clear understanding of institutional practices.

Trustee Balzarini commented that CSBA offers trainings that he and Trustee Pombo have attended and other Board members should attend them as well.

Trustee Nielson agreed with Trustee Balzarini on the CSBA trainings as he has attended them in the past.

President Vergara requested to see a proposed agenda on the workshop.

Trustee Balzarini also mentioned that Mr. Gauthier with Lozano Smith offered to provide the Board with Brown Act training free of charge.

Superintendent Nicholas reported that during the next Board meeting he will facilitate the first Board workshop on Strategic Planning, CST scores and the relationship between Strategic Planning and our students. This will provide the Board with a “big picture” on where the District is moving towards.

X. Calendar: The following events were reviewed.

A. Monday – Tuesday, August 19th & 20th Staff Development Days

B. Wednesday, August 21st.....Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board – 7:00 P.M.

XI. Adjourn to Closed Session: 8:20 P.M.

MOTION BY: SLampel; SECOND BY: SNielson ; AYES: 4 ; NOES: 0 ; ABSENT: 1 .

A. Government Code Section 54956.9: Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation. Significant Exposure to Litigation: 1 Case

B. Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Government Code 54956.8)

a. Property: Mountain House High School

b. Agency Negotiators: Superintendent

c. Negotiating Parties: Lammersville Unified School District & Shea Homes LLC

d. Under Negotiations: Terms of School Facilities Mitigation Agreement

XII. Reconvene to Open Session: 9:21 P.M.

XIII. Report of Action Taken in Closed Session:

Micaela Vergara, president of the Lammersville Unified Governing Board, report the following action from closed session:

By unanimous vote, Four ayes with one absent, the Board approved the settlement agreement and release of all claims in the amount of \$25,001.00 for former employee ID#128001.

XIV. Adjournment of Regular Meeting, August 7, 2013 at 9:22P.M.

MOTION BY: SNielson; SECOND BY: SLampel ; AYES: 4 ; NOES: 0 ; ABSENT: 1 .

Respectfully submitted, _____, Secretary

Approved and ordered entered into the Proceedings of the District on August 21, 2013.

_____, Clerk



SJOE

8-21-13
VIII.D.

San Joaquin Outdoor Education

Serving the students of San Joaquin County for 56 years!

To: District Superintendents and School Principals

From: Dan Randrup, Director I, Outdoor Education

Date: August 1, 2013

Subject: 2013-2014 Outdoor Education Program

Thank you for joining us for the 56th year of the San Joaquin County Outdoor Education Program! We are thankful for your continued support of this worthwhile experience. I have enclosed the 2013-2014 Outdoor Education Agreement. Please review the agreement, sign, and return the original to us no later than August 31, 2013. Please mail (or send through district mail) to:

San Joaquin County Office of Education
Attn: Outdoor Education, Frances Whitehouse
2707 Transworld Drive
Stockton, CA 95206

Your prompt response will aid us in our planning, and ensure your Outdoor School adventure is as pleasant and smooth as possible.

The cost of our 5 day, 4 night outdoor education program will be \$280.00 for the 2013-2014 school year. This cost includes transportation, 12 meals, lodging, program supplies, trained naturalists, and an exciting learning experience.

Also enclosed is the Cabin Leader schedule for your district. Please review this, and assign which high school will be providing the number of boys and girls needed (and alternates) for each week your district will have campers going. Please return this schedule with your signed contract as soon as possible. We cannot have your students attend camp until we have received these two items.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Frances Whitehouse at (209) 468-4809 or e-mail fwhitehouse@sjcoe.net. We look forward to seeing you and your students in the coming year, and thank you again for your continued support of the San Joaquin Outdoor Education Program!

AGREEMENT
FOR THE PROVISION OF
SAN JOAQUIN OUTDOOR SCHOOL PROGRAM

AGREEMENT, entered into pursuant to Section 8763 of the Education Code this 1st day of September, 2013 by and between the SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION, hereinafter referred to as "SUPERINTENDENT", and LAMMERSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, hereinafter referred to as "DISTRICT".

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Education Code Section 8768 SUPERINTENDENT has rented and arranged for the provision of certain facilities, known as the San Francisco Y.M.C.A. Camp, located at La Honda which SUPERINTENDENT may utilize to conduct programs for outdoor school; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Education Code Section 8760(a) (1), SUPERINTENDENT has employed necessary personnel and made provision for appropriate equipment, curriculum materials and supplies; and

WHEREAS, DISTRICT has requested the SUPERINTENDENT to provide such services for the benefit of DISTRICT'S sixth (6th) and/or fifth (5th) grade pupils.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AGREED by and between the parties hereto that:

1. SUPERINTENDENT shall provide the program services for DISTRICT'S pupils commencing September 1, 2013 and ending May 23, 2014. The DISTRICT'S schedule is attached to this Agreement and is incorporated herein. (Exhibit 1.)

2. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that the actual cost of providing the program services for a five-day week shall be TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY DOLLARS (\$280.00) per pupil, instructor, or other adult accompanying the class. The cost shall include, 12 meals, snacks, lodging, program supplies, trained naturalists, and transportation, and it is agreed that SUPERINTENDENT is authorized to transfer the appropriate amount from funds of the DISTRICT to the County School Service Fund to pay for said actual costs when the total due has been ascertained.

3. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that SUPERINTENDENT shall supply all bus transportation to and from the program site, provided that DISTRICT supplies supervision of its pupils on each bus by at least one (1) certificated instructor who shall remain at the program site during the period of outdoor instruction and who shall perform such duties and provide such assistance during the term covered by this Agreement as may be requested by the camp director designated as such by SUPERINTENDENT.

4. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that DISTRICT may have to provide transportation to camp or pay for transportation for their students if DISTRICT exceeds the projected number of students for a given week according to Exhibit 1.

5. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that DISTRICT shall provide high school students (boys & girls) to serve as cabin leaders who are students from DISTRICT for periods that DISTRICT has elementary students attending camp (September 1, 2013 and ending May 23, 2014).

6. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that SUPERINTENDENT shall procure and maintain during the life of this Agreement all appropriate insurance coverage, including public liability coverage and motor vehicle coverage, naming SUPERINTENDENT, the County Board of Education, and DISTRICT, and their respective officers, agents, and employees, as additional insured. The prorata cost of said insurance policies shall be deemed to be included in the costs to be paid by DISTRICT, as specified above.

7. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that DISTRICT shall be responsible for notifying each participating pupil's parent in advance of the trip, of the nature and extent thereof and DISTRICT shall provide SUPERINTENDENT with written and executed parental consent forms for each student no later than TEN (10) days prior to the date specified herein for commencement of the program. DISTRICT and/or Parent/Guardian shall be responsible for transporting students home due to any reason such as, but not limited to: illness, injury, discipline, etc.....

8. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that DISTRICT shall not discriminate against or deny any otherwise eligible pupil from participation in this program on account of race, creed, color, sex, national ancestry or ethnic origin.

9. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that SUPERINTENDENT agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless DISTRICT, its ^{PAGE}Board of Trustees, employees and agents from any

and all liabilities, claims, demands, costs and damages (including attorney's fees and litigation costs) arising in any way out of SUPERINTENDENT'S negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of this Agreement, including, but not limited to any claim due to injury and/or damage sustained by SUPERINTENDENT and/or SUPERINTENDENT'S employees or agents.

10. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that DISTRICT agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless SUPERINTENDENT, its Board of Trustees, employees and agents from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, costs and damages (including attorney's fees and litigation costs) arising in any way out of DISTRICT'S negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of this Agreement, including, but not limited to any claim due to injury and/or damage sustained by DISTRICT and/or DISTRICT'S employees or agents.

11. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that SUPERINTENDENT and DISTRICT hereby agree to comply with all federal, state, local, and SUPERINTENDENT and well as DISTRICT'S laws, rules and regulations that are now or may in the future become applicable to both parties, both parties' businesses and/or equipment, the services to be provided by both parties under this Agreement, and the personnel engaged by both parties to provide the services described in this Agreement.

12. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that DISTRICT may terminate this Agreement at any time by notifying the SUPERINTENDENT in writing at least thirty (30) days in advance of the effective date of termination specified in such notice. In the event this agreement is terminated pursuant to agreement, the DISTRICT hereby agrees that SUPERINTENDENT shall be paid for services rendered prior to said termination and shall pay a fee of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000) for each week remaining on the schedule as shown in Exhibit 1. Additionally, should DISTRICT cancel any services as scheduled as shown in Exhibit 1, DISTRICT agrees to pay SUPERINTENDENT a fee of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000) for each week cancelled. Such payments, if any, shall be subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.

13. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that neither party shall assign this Agreement and any attempt to do so shall be void and have no effect.

14. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties here to and their representatives, heirs, successors and assigns.

15. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that if any term, provision, covenant or condition of this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void or unenforceable, the remainder of the provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

16. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that this Agreement may not be modified, altered or changed, except in writing signed by the parties. No waiver of any term, condition or covenant of this agreement shall be presumed or implied. Any such waiver must be expressly made in writing by the party waiving the term, condition or covenant.

17. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that this Agreement and the attached Exhibits constitute the sole and only agreement between DISTRICT and SUPERINTENDENT concerning the subject matter herein. Any prior or other agreements or representations between DISTRICT and SUPERINTENDENT regarding those matters are null and void unless expressly set forth in this Agreement.

18. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that the parties to this Agreement, and each of them, shall bear their own costs, expenses and attorneys' fees incurred in connection with any claims, actions, accusations, demands or appeals of any kind made by the one party against the other party, and each of the parties hereto expressly waives any claim for recovery of any such cost, expense or attorney's fees from the other party.

19. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that SUPERINTENDENT agrees to comply with all provision of Education Code Section 45125.1 et seq. and 44830.1 et seq. and will certify that no personnel who have been convicted of violations as outlined in Education Code Sections 44010 or 44011 or serious or violent felonies as specified, will have contact with pupils, pursuant to this Agreement. SUPERINTENDENT certifies that all such personnel have submitted evidence of freedom from tuberculosis within 60 days prior to commencement of services, and every 4 years thereafter under the terms of this Agreement. All required background checks must be obtained prior to the commencement of any student contact whatsoever.

20. BE IT FURTHER AGREED that this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have affixed their signatures effective the date first above written.

LAMMERSVILLE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

BY: _____

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

TITLE: Director, Outdoor Education

DATE: _____

DATE: _____

BY: _____

TITLE: Contract Officer

DATE: _____

**LAMMERSVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCIENCE CAMP 2013-2014 SCHEDULE (AS OF 8/1/2013)**

Elementary School	# of Students	Camp Dates	High School	Contact Name	Contact Phone #	Contact E-mail	Cabin Leaders Needed		
							Boys	Girls	Total
Wicklund	65	10/21/13-					4	4	8
		10/25/13							
Bethany	85	10/21/13-					5	6	11
		10/25/13							
Questa	80	12/2/13-					4	5	9
		12/6/13							
Lammersville	32	12/2/13-					1	2	3
		12/6/13							

I am sending this to Tracy Unified as well, in hopes that they will help to provide cabin leaders. If you can contact them as well it might help to aid in the process.

8-21-13
X. A.



How U.S. News Calculated the 2013 Best High Schools Rankings

We looked at thousands of public schools to identify the most outstanding.

By ROBERT MORSE

April 22, 2013

To produce the 2013 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools rankings, U.S. News teamed up with the Washington, D.C.-based American Institutes for Research (AIR), one of the largest behavioral and social science research organizations in the world.

AIR implemented U.S. News's comprehensive rankings methodology, which is based on the key principles that a great high school must serve all of its students well, not just those who are college-bound, and that it must be able to produce measurable academic outcomes to show the school is successfully educating its student body across a range of performance indicators.

The methodology used in the 2013 Best High Schools rankings was unchanged from the 2012 edition.

We analyzed 21,035 public high schools in 49 states and the District of Columbia. This is the total number of public high schools that had 12th-grade enrollment and sufficient data from the 2010-2011 school year to analyze. (Nebraska was the only state that did not report enough data and therefore was not evaluated for any part of the rankings.)

National rankings

A three-step process determined the Best High Schools. The first two steps ensured that the schools serve all of their students well, using performance on state proficiency tests as the benchmarks. For those schools that made it past the first two steps, a third step assessed the degree to which schools prepare students for college-level work.

- **Step 1:** The first step determined whether each school's students were performing better than statistically expected for the average student in the state. We started by looking at reading and math results for all students on each state's high school proficiency tests.

We then factored in the percentage of economically disadvantaged students (who tend to score lower) enrolled at the school to identify the schools that were performing better than statistical expectations.

- **Step 2:** For those schools that made it past this first step, the second step determined whether the school's least-advantaged students (black, Hispanic and low-income) were performing better than average for similar students in the state.

We compared each school's math and reading proficiency rates for disadvantaged students with the statewide results for these student groups and then selected schools that were performing better than this state average.

- **Step 3:** Schools that made it through the first two steps became eligible to be judged nationally on the final step – college-readiness performance – using Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate test data as the benchmarks for success, depending on which program was largest at the school.

AP is a College Board program that offers college-level courses at high schools across the country. The International Baccalaureate program also offers a college-level curriculum.

This third step measured which schools produced the best college-level achievement for the highest percentages of their students. This was done by computing a "college readiness index" (CRI) based on the school's AP or IB participation rate (the number of 12th-grade students in the 2010-2011 academic year who took at least one AP or IB test before or during their senior year, divided by the number of 12th-graders) and how well the students did on those tests.

The latter part, called the quality-adjusted AP or IB participation rate, is the number of 12th-grade students in the 2010-2011 academic year who took and passed (received an AP score of 3 or higher or an IB score of 4 or higher) at least one of the tests before or during their senior year, divided by the number of 12th-graders at that school. Any individual AP or IB subject test was considered when determining if a student took or passed at least one test.

For the college readiness index, the quality-adjusted participation rate was weighted 75 percent in the calculation, and the simple AP or IB participation rate was weighted 25 percent. The test that was taken by the most students at a particular school – either AP or IB – was used to calculate that school's college readiness index.

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- 6. 41

Only schools that had values at or above 14.8 in their CRI scored high enough to meet the criteria for gold and silver medal selection. The minimum of 14.8 was used because it's the median (the statistical midpoint) of all the college readiness index values among all high schools with AP or IB test-takers.

The maximum college readiness index value is 100.0, which means that every 12th-grade student during the 2010-2011 academic year in a particular school took and passed at least one AP or IB test before or during their senior year.

To summarize, in order to win a gold or silver medal and be numerically ranked, a high school had to pass Steps 1 and 2 and have a CRI at or above the median benchmark.

In total, U.S. News nationally ranked the 4,805 highest-scoring schools as gold, silver or bronze. A high school's position in the numerical rankings, whether it was awarded a medal or whether it was ranked at all was dependent on how high it scored in all three steps of the rankings methodology.

- **Gold medals:** Schools with highest unrounded college readiness index values were numerically ranked from No. 1 to No. 500 and were the gold medal winners.

There were 15 high schools that achieved the maximum 100.0 college readiness index. In addition, there were instances in which gold or silver medal schools were tied based on their unrounded CRI values (these values, when published online as part of the Best High Schools rankings, are rounded to one decimal place).

To avoid having ties in the numerical rankings, the primary tiebreaker, which measures the absolute level of success in passing AP or IB tests, was the unrounded quality-adjusted exams per test-taker (the number of exams that received passing scores divided by the number of students who took and passed at least one exam).

If necessary, a second tiebreaker used was exams per test-taker, which was the average number of AP and/or IB exams passed per test-taker (the total exams taken divided by the number of test-takers).

- **Silver medals:** The next group of high schools with the highest unrounded college readiness indexes were numerically ranked No. 501 through No. 2,290 and were the 1,790 silver medal winners.

- **Bronze medals:** An additional 2,515 high schools that passed the first two steps in the methodology were awarded bronze medals and are listed alphabetically. A bronze medal school either does not offer any AP or IB courses, or its college readiness index was less than the median of 14.8 needed to be ranked silver.

In addition to the main gold, silver and bronze national rankings, we have also published other numerical rankings for the Best High Schools in each state and for the Best Charter Schools and Best Magnet Schools on a national level.

State rankings

The state rankings methodology is based on whether a high school is nationally ranked gold or silver. All high schools nationally ranked gold and silver are numerically ranked in their states based on their position in the national rankings.

If the highest-ranked high school in a state is No. 60 nationally, then that school is also ranked No. 1 in that state; if the second highest-ranked school in that same state is No. 1,201 nationally, then that school is ranked No. 2 in that state.

Charter and magnet rankings

The charter and magnet school rankings methodology looked at all public high schools nationally that were designated as either a charter or magnet school, or both, as reported to the U.S. Department of Education, and were also nationally ranked by U.S. News as either gold or silver medal winners.

If the highest-ranked high school that is a charter school is No. 6 nationally, then that school is also ranked No. 1 in the Best Charter Schools rankings. If the second highest-ranked high school that is a charter school is No. 8 nationally, then that school is ranked No. 2 in the Best Charter Schools rankings.

This rankings methodology was also followed to produce the Best Magnet Schools rankings.

Highlights of the 2013 Best High Schools rankings

- **Breakdown of the results:** After first eliminating public high schools that had fewer than 15 12th-grade students during the 2010-2011 school year, there were 18,196 schools eligible to be included in the 2013 Best High schools rankings.

As a result of the three-step rankings process, 26.4 percent of the 18,196 eligible public high schools were awarded a gold, silver or bronze medal: 2,515 high schools (13.8 percent of the eligible schools) were awarded bronze medals; 1,790 high schools (9.8 percent) were awarded silver medals; and 500 high schools (2.7 percent) were awarded gold medals.

In order for a high school to receive a gold medal in this year's rankings, it had to have a college readiness index of 45.75 or higher.

• **Lower college readiness threshold to decide medal status:** Starting with the 2012 Best High Schools rankings, U.S. News changed the methodology so that each year's median CRI will be the new threshold used to determine the medal status cutoff for that year's rankings. Therefore, the median CRI is expected to change slightly for each year's rankings.

The premise of using the median as the CRI threshold is that a school had to be performing at or better than half the schools to be eligible for a gold or silver medal. Since the median separates the higher and lower halves of the CRI data, we chose it as the basis for determining the medal cutoff.

As a result, in Step 3 of the 2013 rankings, we used achieving at or above the median college readiness index of 14.8 – versus 16.3 in the 2012 rankings – as the basis to determine the cutoff for schools to be ranked with a gold, silver or bronze medal. Only schools that had CRI values at or above 14.8, calculated on an unrounded basis to many decimal places, scored high enough to meet the criteria for gold and silver medal selection.

For a more detailed methodology, see the technical appendix produced by AIR.

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