



2024-25

Strengthening
Education
for Resilient
Communities

ANNUAL REPORT



**Los Angeles County
Office of Education**

An Official Publication



**Los Angeles County
Office of Education**

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Debra Duado, M.S.W., Ed.D.
Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools

A Message from the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools

Dear Los Angeles County Students, Families, Educators and Community Members,

The 2024-25 school year was one of the most challenging in recent memory for our school communities. We felt the impact of the Eaton and Palisades Fires, which displaced families and staff, and disrupted learning. We navigated immigration-related fear stemming from federal directives, and we faced deep federal funding cuts to education programs and services, all changes that created uncertainty for schools across Los Angeles County.

In these moments, our strength as a Countywide education community shines through. The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) worked side-by-side with our districts, stepping in quickly with information, guidance and practical support. We connected schools to wildfire recovery resources and partnered with educators to ensure students, staff and families affected by immigration issues receive the help they needed.

What I witnessed this past year was resilience in action, district leaders working tirelessly, educators going above and beyond and communities coming together for their children. These challenges reminded us why LACOE's role matters: to be a steady, trusted partner when the unexpected happens and to make sure no school faces it alone.

As we look ahead, I remain inspired by the dedication and heart of the people who make up our school communities. Together, we will continue to build the safe, supportive and equitable learning environments our students deserve.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Debra Duarte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Debra" and last name "Duarte" clearly distinguishable.

Debra Duarte, M.S.W., Ed.D.

Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools



Coming

Soon.

FINALS!!!

MON TUES WED

8:30-

“

Everybody has the potential to be a leader. If you just put yourself out there and give yourself a chance, then good things can happen.

Liam Lecuona
Las Virgenes Unified School District
Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Member

Executive Cabinet



Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.
Los Angeles County
Superintendent
of Schools



Ruth Pérez, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent



Daisy Esqueda, Ed.D.
Chief of Staff and
Strategic Initiatives



Alicia Garoupa, LCSW
Chief of Wellbeing and
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José R. González
Chief Technology Officer



David Hart
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Maricela Ramirez, Ed.D.
Chief Education Officer



Ruben Valles
Chief Academic Officer



Kanika White, Ed.D.
Chief Human Resources
Officer



Vibiana M. Andrade
General Counsel



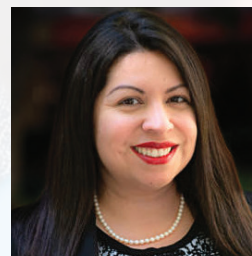
Pamela E. Gibbs, J.D.
Executive Director
of Governmental
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Elizabeth Graswich, Ed.D.
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of Public Affairs
and Communications



Eric Rowen
Executive Director
of Classified
Human Resources



Kerry Franco*
President, Chief Deputy
of Strategic Partnerships
Greater Los Angeles
Education Foundation

*Philanthropic and Strategic Partnership



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I think I've grown the most in advocacy, and that's really in noticing that advocacy is not about yourself, but in the people that you talk to and interact with.

Evelyn Lam
Temple City Unified School District
Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Member

About LACOE

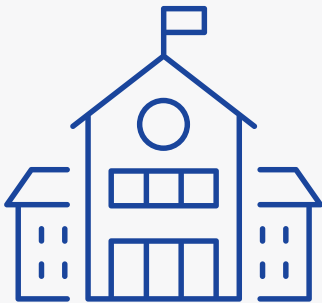
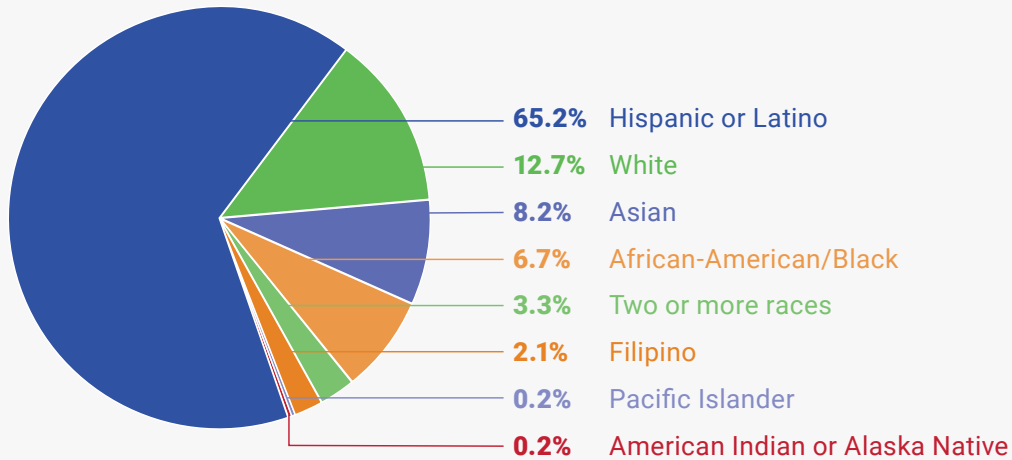
As the nation's largest regional education agency, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) serves nearly two million students across 80 school districts in L.A. County's 4,084 square miles. Our commitment spans from early childhood through high school, with a focus on supporting the County's most vulnerable youth, and extends into adulthood through programs like GAIN, which helps adults access job opportunities and career pathways. LACOE functions as both a direct provider of education and a liaison between local districts and the California Department of Education. Our programs include California's largest Head Start and State Preschool network, juvenile court and alternative education schools, and two specialized high schools: the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts and the International Polytechnic High School.

Beyond direct instruction, LACOE promotes equity and student wellbeing through its Community Schools Initiative, which supports more than 468 schools, the largest concentration in the nation. LACOE also provides oversight and essential services to districts, including budget approvals, charter school authorizations, financial monitoring and appeals on expulsions and inter-district transfers. Districts rely on LACOE for support in fiscal operations, human resources, technology, curriculum and accountability, making the agency both a regulator and a trusted partner. Operating in one of the most diverse regions in the country, LACOE grounds its work in the values of equity, integrity and collaboration, with a vision to improve student outcomes and strengthen the educational community across Los Angeles County.

A snapshot of Los Angeles County education—highlighting the students, schools and communities we serve.

Total K-12 Enrollment:

1.2 Million Students



**80 K-12
School Districts**

Largest:

LAUSD • 516,685

Students

Smallest:

**Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes
Union Elementary • 195**

Students

48 Unified		26 Elementary		5 High School	
1,787 Schools		358 Charters		62,342 Teachers	
				71,116 Classified Staff	

**LACOE
Employees:
1,570**

51%
Unrepresented

3%
CSEA

12%
LACEA

34%
SEIU



209,529
English Learners



46,404
Unhoused



7,555
Foster Youth



188,745
Special Education

7/10

Students are
Socioeconomically
Disadvantaged



**L.A. County High
School for the Arts**



556
Students

95% of grads
college/arts career bound

IPoly High School



485
Students

97% of grads
college bound

**Head Start and
Early Learning**



7,696
Children (Prenatal to
Age 5)

16
Delegate Agencies



Community Schools



264,571
Total Number of Enrolled
Students

468
Community Schools

**Alternative
Education Programs***



**Juvenile Court
Schools**

1,854 Students

123 Student Graduates



**Alternative
Education**

310 Students

54 Student Graduates

*Because juvenile court schools serve students who often enter and exit multiple times, we capture enrollment as a one-time count rather than tracking them as a traditional cohort. Unlike districts, most students are not with us long term, so it isn't appropriate to apply four and five-year graduation rates—though some do graduate with us, the majority transition back to their home districts.

The Year at a Glance

In 2024–25, LACOE demonstrated exceptional leadership and resilience in the face of multiple crises, including devastating wildfires and immigration-related disruptions. Working in coordination with districts and partners such as the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation, LACOE mobilized mental health professionals, distributed educational resources and secured millions in grants to maintain uninterrupted learning. With a steadfast commitment to student success, LACOE empowered educators, strengthened school communities and advanced innovative learning across Los Angeles County.



Courageous Crisis Response

Two major wildfires in January 2025, the Eaton Fire in the San Gabriel Mountains and the Palisades Fire along the coast, disrupted the lives of students, educators and families. School closures, evacuations and property losses created significant barriers to learning and community stability. LACOE worked closely with impacted districts to connect them to

recovery resources, coordinate with emergency agencies and ensure that students displaced by the fires could access education without interruption.

From January through March 2025, LACOE's Wellbeing and Support Services mobilized a robust response to support students and school communities impacted

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The Eaton Fire tested our community in ways we could not have imagined, but Pasadena Unified was never alone. LACOE stood with us from the very beginning, deploying on-the-ground mental health professionals when schools reopened, lending its entire communications team and mobilizing resources and donations for our students, families and staff. I am especially grateful that LACOE Superintendent Dr. Debra Duardo made herself available to me for guidance and support. LACOE’s partnership gave us strength in our most difficult days and continues to help us recover and rise together.

Elizabeth Blanco, Ed.D.

Superintendent of the Pasadena Unified School District



by the wildfires. Over a six-week period, more than 45 certificated staff—including counselors, social workers, directors, project directors and coordinators—were deployed to 17 schools across Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD), where they provided essential mental health support, facilitated healing circles and offered additional care for students and staff. In parallel, the team distributed nearly 84,000 English-language children’s activity books and more than 15,000 Spanish-language activity books to several districts, including Santa Monica-Malibu Unified, Pasadena Rosebud Academy, Alhambra Unified, Temple City Unified, El Monte City School District, LAUSD and PUSD.

During the same timeframe, the Employee Assistance Service for Education (EASE) Program delivered a total of 972 services to employees, including 91 direct mental health counseling sessions tailored to individual needs. Beyond one-on-one support, EASE facilitated 29 school site visits, consultations and support groups, engaging 881 participants across a wide range of districts. These included LACOE, LAUSD, Aveson Schools, Alma Fuerte, Odyssey Charter Schools, Pasadena USD and County-wide wildfire support groups. Recognizing the urgency and scale of the crisis, LACOE and the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation (GLAEF) partnered to ensure that every impacted local educational agency had access to EASE services—regardless of their membership status at the time. This inclusive and collaborative approach underscored the foundation’s commitment to equitable recovery and positioned it as a critical partner in helping school communities heal and rebuild.

In response to the urgent technology needs following the wildfires, LACOE’s Technology Services Department partnered with GLAEF to secure nearly \$2.5 million in grants and donations from leading technology companies, including Google and Hewlett Packard. These funds enabled the coordinated delivery



of essential devices such as: tablets, headsets, monitors, printers, webcams and Wi-Fi hotspots to ensure students and educators could maintain internet access and continue learning without disruption. Beneficiary schools included Alma Fuerte Public School, Aveson Charter Schools, Glendale Unified School District, LAUSD, Odyssey Charter Schools, Pasadena Unified School District, Rosebud Charter and San Marino Unified School District.

To further support recovery and safety, LACOE's Facilities and Construction Division provided more than 2,100 air purifiers and more than 130,000 masks to affected schools and facilitated connections with local and state agencies for guidance on rebuilding efforts. Meanwhile, the Public Affairs and Communications Department played a critical role in helping Pasadena Unified School District draft timely and essential communications to keep their communities informed and engaged. LACOE's Governmental Relations team

also led advocacy efforts to address the needs of students, local education agencies and educators impacted by the wildfires and windstorms. This included attendance and employee leave flexibility for local education agencies and employees.

Since the launch of the Los Angeles County Education Wildfire Recovery Fund, GLAEF has raised nearly \$6 million to support regional recovery efforts and assist those displaced or affected by the fires. This collective effort, powered by foundations, corporations, nonprofits, community groups and countless individuals, has enabled over 30 local educational agencies with impacted staff to receive much-needed support and resources.

“

I was notified by friends that there’s ICE agents within a one-mile radius from where I live...I’m really nervous because this is my community and it’s really Asian and Hispanic populated. This whole Know Your Rights campaign really means a lot to me as an immigrant, I hope we can continue this campaign the following year of LACOE.

Student Advisory Council Member



Immigration Enforcement and Related Disruptions

Federal immigration enforcement directives during the 2024–25 school year created widespread uncertainty and fear across many school communities, disrupting family stability and impacting student attendance, emotional wellbeing and access to support systems. In response, LACOE’s Immigrant Relations and Services Unit provided districts with clear, timely guidance on their legal rights and responsibilities, developed comprehensive toolkits for schools and offered targeted training

to help educators foster safe, inclusive environments.

From January to June 2025, the unit hosted 19 “Know Your Rights” training sessions, reaching over 1,100 participants from more than 168 organizations. These sessions featured legal experts and wellness professionals who shared critical information on navigating encounters with ICE agents, preparing family emergency plans and accessing legal and mental health resources. Several

workshops were customized for school districts and delivered in person, ensuring relevance and accessibility.

Some sessions were co-led by members of the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council, empowering students and families to understand their rights, build resilience and feel safe within their schools. This work has helped strengthen trust in schools as supportive spaces during times of uncertainty.



Leading Through Complexity

This year also brought significant federal funding threats to key education programs and services. These threats of reductions created strain for districts already working to recover from the pandemic's effects and respond to emerging needs. LACOE helped districts navigate the fiscal impacts by offering financial guidance, advocating for resources and sharing strategies to sustain critical student programs despite reduced budgets.

Beyond the specific crises, the year was defined by a backdrop of political polarization and social change that affected the education landscape. LACOE played a stabilizing role—providing nonpartisan, evidence-based information to districts, fostering collaboration among school leaders and keeping the focus squarely on student success. LACOE's Governmental Relations Department tracked hundreds of bills and analyzed their potential impact on education. The



Superintendent's office issued five official statements on Executive Orders—particularly around Head Start, public benefits and the dismantling of the U.S. Department of Education. LACOE provided guidance to help districts navigate uncertainties and adjust strategically, ensuring essential programs for children and families stayed operational despite the instability.

LACOE engaged directly in shaping the policy environment for education, securing critical funding and reforms for our schools. Dr. Duardo led a delegation that included nine other district superintendents to meet with state leaders in Sacramento, amplifying the voice of L.A. County's schools in advocating for equitable, student-centered policies.



Belonging and Resilience

LACOE delivered extensive wellbeing support to students, families and staff through a multi-tiered, trauma-informed and culturally responsive framework. In collaboration with Kings County and Sonoma County Offices of Education, LACOE launched the GENIUS (Genuine Empathy & Nurturing Intellect of Underserved Students) Initiative in 2025. During a conference, attendees benefited from dynamic speakers, research-based strategies and promising practices aimed at closing systemic opportunity gaps and improving educational outcomes for Black/African American and other historically marginalized students. The initiative is supported by a five-year grant from the California Department of Education.

LACOE also played a key role in the development and delivery of PRISM (Providing Relevant, Inclusive Support that Matters) training materials. LACOE co-hosted three California PRISM Regional Training

Meetings, partnered with the Equity California Institute to introduce the 2024 Safe and Supportive Schools Report Card and trained district staff on supporting and affirming LGBTQ+ students and implementing gender support plans. The PRISM training includes a six-course, web-based curriculum designed to promote LGBTQ+ cultural competency and help school staff create inclusive environments for LGBTQ+ students.

In addition to these statewide initiatives, Student Support Services at LACOE established 160 Wellspaces to promote student wellbeing. The Homeless Education Program hosted a successful symposium and received generous donations from partners, including over 750 pairs of shoes from Soles4Souls and more than 850 gift cards from Supplybank.org, which were used to support families affected by wildfires.



Community Schools

LACOE's Community Schools Initiative (CSI) represents a cornerstone of its commitment to equity, student wellbeing and whole-child education. In 2024-25, the initiative expanded its reach to support 468 schools countywide, making it the largest concentration of community schools in the nation. Grounded in a model that centers the voices of students, families, staff and communities, these schools build on the strengths and assets of their school communities to enhance teaching, learning and overall wellbeing. They integrate wraparound services, family engagement and professional development to close equity gaps and ensure students and families have access to comprehensive support systems.

As a designated Regional Transformational Assistance Center (R-TAC) for California's statewide Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP), LACOE plays a leadership role in helping districts implement the community schools model effectively. The Greater Los Angeles R-TAC unit hosted 77 learning opportunities with over 3,500 participants, and conducted 630 support activities with CCSPP grantees, fostering capacity-building and collaboration across the region.

The School-Based Implementation unit directly supported 24,437 students across community school sites. LACOE staff facilitated 436 referrals, hosted 582 engagement

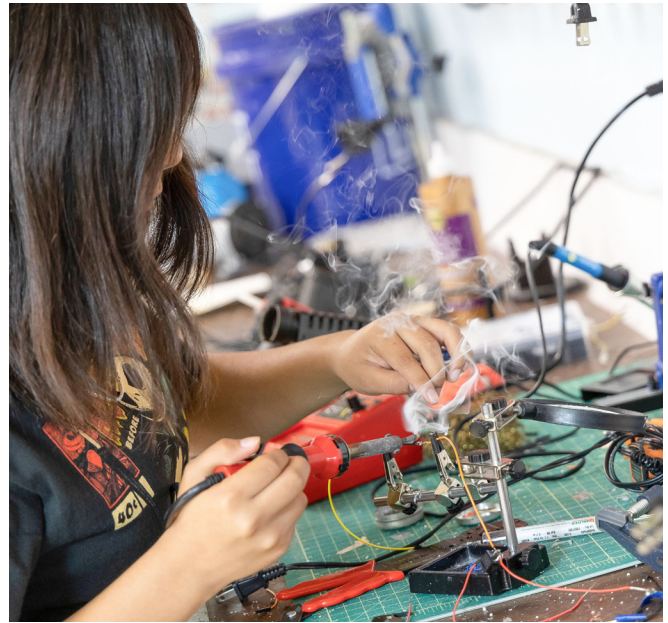
and workshop events and coordinated the distribution of over 10,000 essential items and supply kits. These efforts were bolstered by the development of 102 active partnerships, strengthening the network of care and resources available to students and families.

This work reflects LACOE's broader mission of ensuring that every student has access to the resources and opportunities needed to thrive—academically, socially and emotionally. Through the Community Schools Initiative, LACOE continues to transform schools into hubs of support, connection and opportunity for the communities they serve.



Inglewood Unified School District's Fiscal Solvency

Inglewood Unified School District continues to make strides toward restoring local governance, with notable gains in leadership stability, policy adherence and facilities upgrades. The district showed progress in five operational areas identified by the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT): financial management, personnel management, community relations and governance, facilities management and pupil achievement—marking a strong step toward restoring local governance and fiscal solvency.



Innovative Learning and Academic Excellence

Innovative Learning and Academic Excellence reflects LACOE's commitment to advancing student achievement through forward-thinking instructional practices, rigorous academic standards and inclusive support systems. This category encompasses initiatives that leverage research-based methodologies, promote equity in education and foster environments where all learners can thrive. Whether through literacy reform, project-based learning, early childhood education or charter school oversight, LACOE empowers educators and students with the tools, resources and opportunities needed to succeed. These efforts are characterized by high graduation rates, college readiness, civic engagement and recognition for excellence—demonstrating how innovation and academic rigor work hand-in-hand to elevate outcomes across diverse educational settings.



Getting Reading Right

The “Getting Reading Right” (GRR) initiative, developed by LACOE’s Reading/Language Arts Unit, exemplifies academic excellence through its innovative, research-based approach to literacy instruction. Grounded in the science of reading, GRR equips educators with the knowledge and tools to implement structured literacy practices that are explicit, systematic and effective for students. The program’s design reflects decades of cognitive and educational research, including Scarborough’s Reading Rope and the Simple View of Reading and addresses foundational skills such as phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Supported by a \$5 million Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant, GRR has trained over 8,000 educators across California, spanning grades K–12. This widespread professional development has catalyzed a statewide shift from balanced literacy to structured literacy, strengthening Tier 1 reading programs and helping close achievement gaps. Educators who complete the program earn digital badges and gain access to free resources and assessments, enabling them to tailor instruction to student needs and ensure equitable access to effective reading strategies.

GRR’s impact extends beyond individual classrooms. Customized cohorts allow districts to implement

the program in formats that suit their schedules—weekly, bi-monthly or monthly—creating collaborative learning communities focused on literacy improvement. The initiative also includes a secondary-level program, “Filling in the Gaps,” which supports older struggling readers and integrates structured literacy into content-area instruction.

Recognized with the 2024 Golden Bell Award by the California School Boards Association, GRR stands as a model for transformative literacy education. It not only improves reading outcomes but fosters a lifelong love of reading, affirming LACOE’s commitment to academic excellence and equity for all students.



Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA)

The Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA) continues to demonstrate exceptional academic achievement, with students consistently outperforming both state and national benchmarks. In addition to its renowned arts programs, the school's commitment to academic excellence, equity and student support has resulted in impressive outcomes across Advanced Placement (AP), state testing and special education performance.

AP pass rates at LACHSA far exceed U.S. averages, with a 94 percent pass rate in AP World History—30 percent above the national average—along with 89 percent in AP English Literature

and 85 percent in AP U.S. History. The school's Struggling Learner Roundtable, a new quarterly support program, helped raise A–G completion during the 2024–25 school year from 61 percent to 93 percent, ensuring more students meet college entrance requirements.

Students with special needs at LACHSA also achieved exceptional outcomes, including a 100 percent graduation rate, a 71 percent college acceptance rate and a 60 percent pass rate on the SBAC English Language Arts exam, which is 13 percent above the state average. Overall academic performance remains strong, with students reaching 89 percent



proficiency in English Language Arts and demonstrating year-over-year growth in AP U.S. Government and Politics, with a 19 percent improvement.

These achievements reflect LACHSA's unique ability to blend rigorous academics with a strong arts education, while ensuring every student, including those facing challenges, has the support to thrive and pursue higher education.



International Polytechnic High School (IPoly)

The Class of 2025 at International Polytechnic High School (IPoly) achieved a 100% graduation rate, with 97% of seniors matriculating to college and 93% completing at least one college course. In 2024, all 117 seniors also earned the State Seal of Civic Engagement, recognizing their dedication to service and civic understanding.

IPoly continues to expand its Project-Based Learning curriculum, with a new emphasis on green and sustainability projects that

prepare students to address real-world environmental challenges. A strong system of student support underpins this work, including a one-to-one technology model, tutoring and comprehensive wellness resources provided by a full-time social worker, mental health interns and an Equity and Access Coordinator. Monthly “I Belong

Week” activities and wellness initiatives further foster inclusivity and emotional wellbeing.

Partnerships with Cal Poly Pomona, Mt. San Antonio College and the Center for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (CEMaST) have strengthened STEM pathways, increased access to tutoring and expanded college-level opportunities, ensuring students are well-prepared for both higher education and civic life.





Head Start and Early Learning

LACOE's Head Start and Early Learning Division (HSEL) was funded to serve 7,696 children from prenatal through age five in 2024–25, making it the largest Head Start program in California. Working with 16 delegate agencies across Los Angeles County, HSEL prioritized children from low-income families, as well as those experiencing homelessness, living in foster care or with disabilities.

Through Early Head Start, Head Start Preschool, the California State Preschool Program and General Child Care and Development, services were offered in center-based, home-based and family child care settings. These programs supported holistic child development—integrating health, nutrition, literacy, mental health and

family engagement to ensure children are ready for school and life.

HSEL also invested in the early learning workforce through initiatives such as the Universal PreKindergarten Career Development Initiative (UPK-CDI), which created clear career pathways for assistant teachers, lead teachers and family service professionals. In 2024–25, 149 individuals enrolled in the Assistant Teacher Pathway, and 57% of those who finished the program in 2024-25 have already been hired, reflecting a strong return on investment for families and communities.

LACOE hosted four quarterly UPK Institutes to support districts and charter schools in implementing

Transitional Kindergarten for all four-year-olds. These institutes brought together educators and administrators for hands-on, play-based professional learning experiences that emphasized developmentally appropriate practices. The final institute, themed “Feel the Beat,” featured dynamic sessions integrating music, art and movement to enhance teaching strategies and social-emotional development. With over 1,500 participants across the four institutes, these events underscored the power of creativity and connection in early learning environments.



Charter Schools

In the 2024–25 school year, LACOE’s Charter Schools Office (CSO) oversaw 21 authorized charter schools across Los Angeles County, serving students from elementary through high school in a variety of grade configurations.

Several schools earned statewide recognition for excellence. Lashon Academy was designated as a high-tier school based on 2023–24 test data and was named a 2025 California Distinguished School, joining Aspire Antonio Maria Lugo Academy in receiving

this prestigious honor, as well as Magnolia Science Academy 2 which received this two-year designated honor in 2024. The California Distinguished Schools Award, established in 1985, remains one of the state’s most important ways to celebrate schools that are closing the achievement gap or demonstrating exceptional student performance. Alma Fuerte and Odyssey were able to maintain instruction and testing even while maintaining staff and student safety, navigating extraordinary challenges during the Eaton Fire.

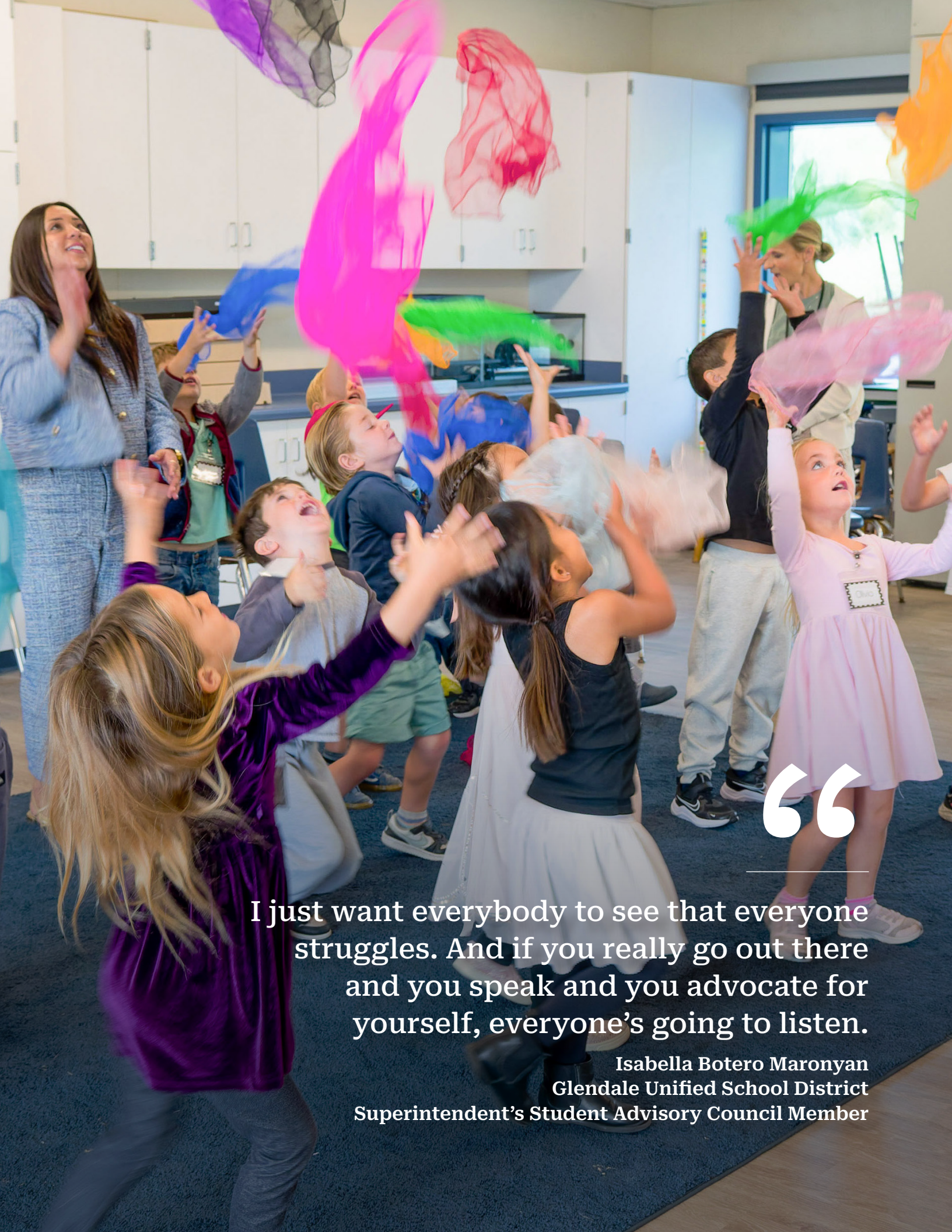
LACOE’s leadership in charter school oversight was also recognized nationally, with the Charter Schools Office receiving the Implementation Excellence Award from the National Charter Schools Institute. This honor highlights LACOE’s commitment to accountability, innovation and support in ensuring charter schools deliver exceptional outcomes for students.



Juvenile Justice Education

LACOE's Juvenile Court and Alternative Education Schools aim to provide a supportive, structured and trauma-informed environment focused on academic recovery and social-emotional development. Our goal is to help students graduate and successfully transition back to their communities, college or careers. In the 2024-25 school year, these programs served 2,164 students. LACOE provides a range of supports for students in the juvenile justice system including offering Career Technical Education pathways in Culinary Arts and Graphic

Communications, implementing the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports framework, and engaging parents in the Parent Family Consultation and Education Program. LACOE also offers dual enrollment classes, allowing students to take college classes while completing their high school diplomas. Students in the camps also received scholarships from organizations like the Association of L.A. County School Administrators (ALACOSA) and the LACOE's Heritage Committees.



“

I just want everybody to see that everyone struggles. And if you really go out there and you speak and you advocate for yourself, everyone's going to listen.

Isabella Botero Maronyan
Glendale Unified School District
Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Member

Collaboration for Collective Impact

Partnerships remain central to LACOE's work, not only in vision but in action. These collaborations help us fund and host impactful events that expand our reach, foster meaningful connections and inspire participants across our educational community. Through strategic alliances, LACOE enriches and creates spaces for learning, advocacy and empowerment—especially in areas where traditional funding may fall short.



Student Empowerment Summit

With generous support from the California Community Foundation, LACOE hosted the Student Empowerment Summit, a fully student-led event that amplified youth voices in community advocacy. Students took the lead in every aspect, from selecting speakers and curating topics like leadership, college readiness and financial literacy, to organizing and facilitating workshops. More than 200 people attended the event, with one student sharing:

"The summit taught me to become more involved in my community, use my voice for better and fight for what I believe in. I feel more in tune and assured by the things I either learned for the first time or had reestablished. Attending has given me power in being an advocate and gave me skills to take on in my professional life as well as my social one."



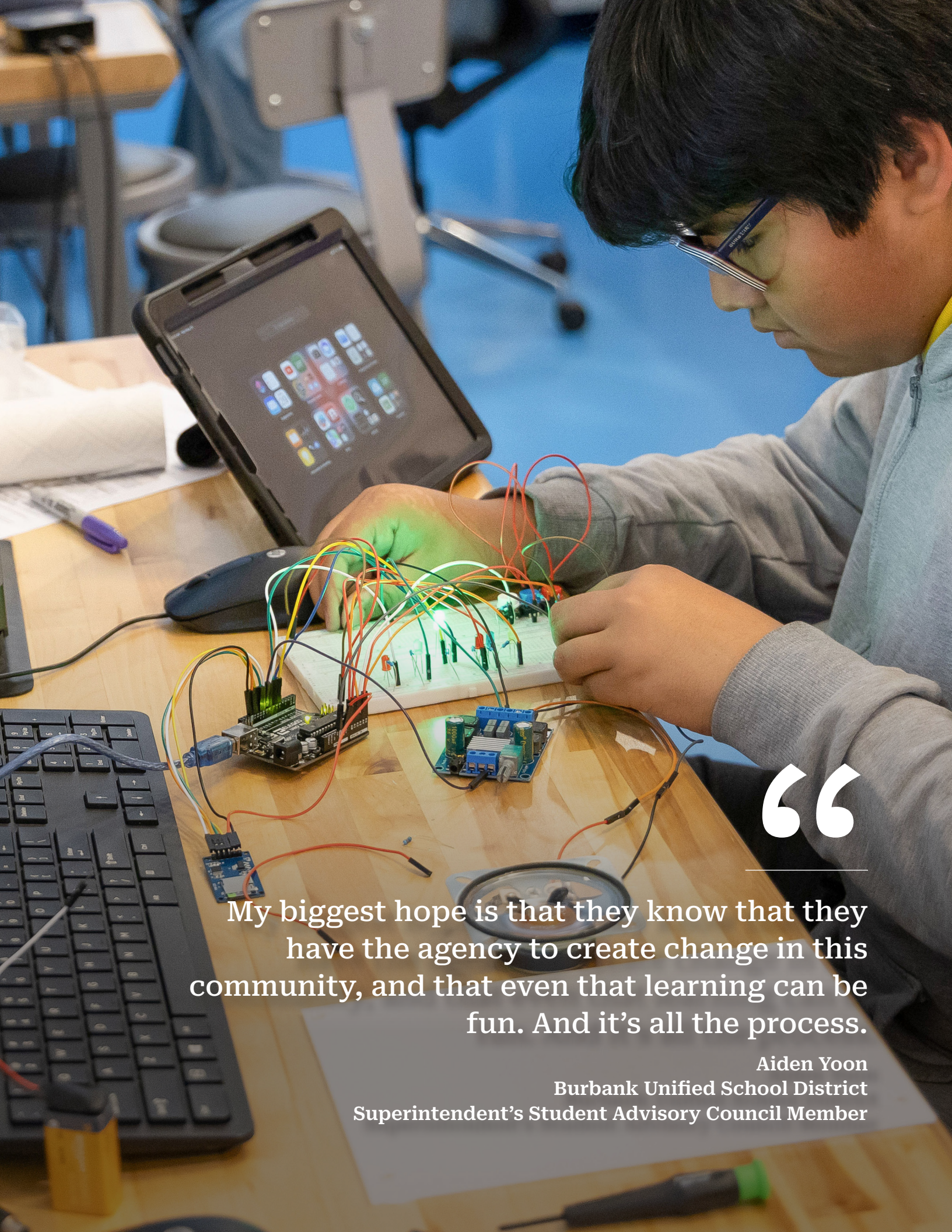
Women's Empowerment Conference

The Women's Empowerment Conference provided a powerful platform for leadership, networking and storytelling. Designed to uplift and connect educators, leaders and community partners, the event emphasized personal growth and collective strength. More than 300 people attended the conference, sponsored by the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation, with some sharing the event's personal impact:



"I really enjoyed that this was for me, as opposed to learning new things that I need to bring back to support my staff. This was the one thing I have done this year solely for myself and I really needed it."

"I enjoyed the transparency of all the speakers. It created a safe space for everyone to openly discuss. We laughed together, cried together and embraced each other through our differences. It was a very beautiful moment."



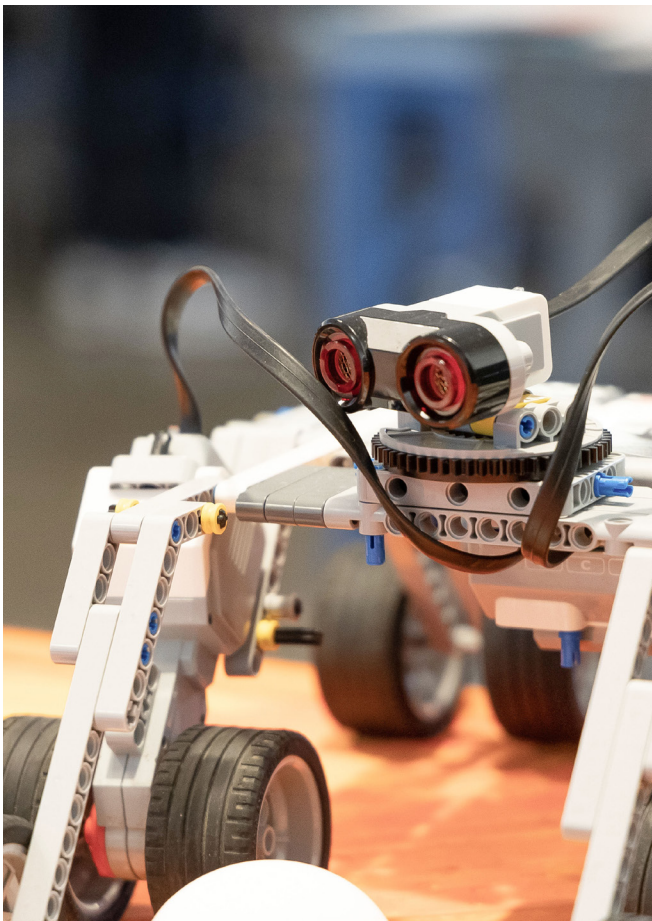
“

My biggest hope is that they know that they have the agency to create change in this community, and that even that learning can be fun. And it's all the process.

Aiden Yoon
Burbank Unified School District
Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Member

Future Focused Preparedness

LACOE is deeply committed to preparing students, educators and school communities for a rapidly evolving future through strategic investments in AI literacy and climate resilience. These initiatives reflect a holistic vision of future-readiness, one that embraces innovation, environmental stewardship and inclusive collaboration to ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive in a changing world.





AI Literacy

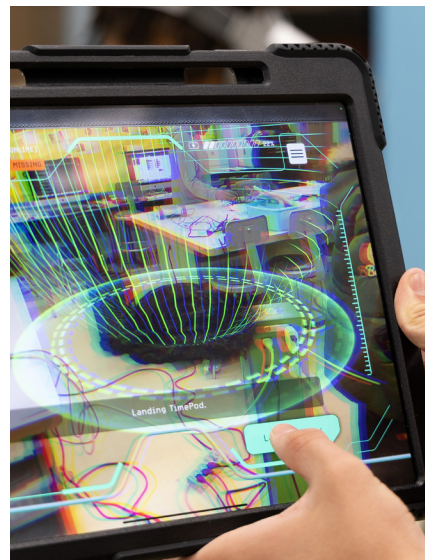
LACOE is equipping educators and staff across the county to be future-ready by integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into both instructional and operational practices. Through a strategic Countywide initiative, LACOE is delivering professional development, training and governance support that empowers internal teams and school districts to confidently adopt and apply AI technologies.

Staff from LACOE's Technology Services Department delivered AI training to nine school districts and one charter school. Governance-focused sessions have also engaged board members from Centinela Valley, Lennox, Hawthorne and Lawndale, ensuring leadership is aligned with responsible AI adoption. Internally, LACOE has trained over 700 staff members, with more than

160 enrolled in its asynchronous AI Literacy course. LACOE's professional learning model blends hands-on training with tools like Gemini, Canva and NotebookLM; asynchronous learning pathways including virtual sessions and the AI Literacy course and leadership development through governance workshops tailored for school boards and district leaders.

In fiscal year 2024–25 alone, LACOE delivered 280 hours of AI-related professional development across 192 sessions, reaching nearly 2,900 participants. This includes targeted support for internal staff, districts and charters and specialized AI consultations.

Emerging trends show that staff across divisions are eager to leverage AI tools to streamline workflows and enhance



productivity. There is growing demand for training on AI-powered platforms such as Zoom AI Companion, Microsoft Copilot and Canva AI, with staff seeking guidance on integrating these tools into daily tasks like scheduling, communication and content creation. Additionally, there is heightened awareness around AI ethics, privacy and data security—critical components of responsible and sustainable AI integration. Through these efforts, LACOE is not only responding to current needs but actively preparing its workforce and educational partners for the future of learning and work.



Climate Resiliency

LACOE is taking bold steps to prepare schools and communities for climate resilience through a comprehensive and collaborative approach. At the heart of this effort is the annual Green Schools Symposium, a leadership event co-hosted with the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation that brings together educators, administrators, sustainability experts and community partners to explore the intersection of environmental and human sustainability in education. In 2025, the Fourth Annual Green Schools Symposium was held at the Museum of Natural Science, attracting 200 participants from 25 local educational agencies, including both districts and charter schools.

Emily Alessandri from MeTEOR Education, shared:

"I had an incredible time at the

Annual Green Schools Symposium! The event was interactive, engaging and left me feeling truly inspired."

Beyond convening thought leaders, LACOE is actively developing a Five-Year Sustainability Action Plan in partnership with GLAEF and the Green Schools National Network. This roadmap will guide efforts across four impact systems: leadership, culture and climate, curriculum and instruction and facilities and operations. It also reflects a broader commitment to modeling responsible resource use and creating healthier learning environments for students.

LACOE's leadership in climate action is further demonstrated through its participation in Clean Air Day, with Dr. Debra Duardo serving as co-chair of the Los Angeles

Area Clean Air Day Committee. Schools are encouraged to take the Clean Air Day pledge, engage in awareness campaigns and implement clean mobility solutions like electric buses and green infrastructure.

Through strategic planning, inclusive engagement and a commitment to equity, LACOE is modeling a path to climate readiness and resiliency while providing resources for districts to do the same. By integrating sustainability into operations, curriculum and community partnerships, LACOE is not only preparing students for the challenges of tomorrow but also ensuring that schools serve as models of environmental stewardship today.



I see issues within my community that I would like to maybe take part on or maybe try to make changes, but I don't know where to start. So I think this is a great first step for me to get involved in and try to make changes that help my community.

Van Do
El Monte Unified High School District

Financial Stewardship and Transparency

LACOE's budget reflects the organization's role as an intermediate service provider between the California Department of Education and local school districts, encompassing a broad spectrum of educational services, including the management of specialized schools, while offering insights into regional educational governance and fiscal planning.

\$734 Million (LACOE Budget)

42%

Specially Funded Projects
\$307 Million

26%

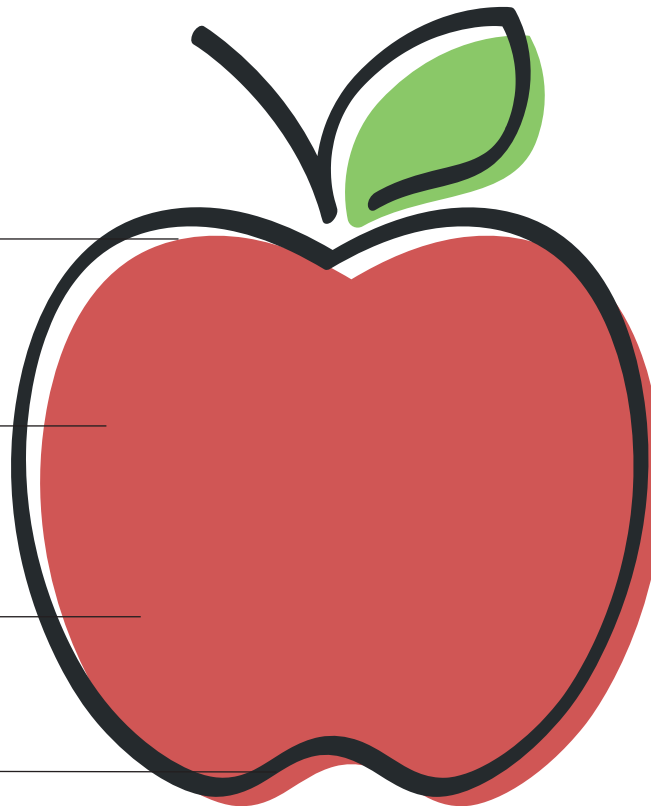
Support and
Administration
\$189 Million

22%

Contracted Services and
Entrepreneurial Programs
\$163 Million

10%

Educational Programs
\$75 Million



Fiscal Services

Monitor district
budgets totaling

\$25.35 Billion

169,000

Monthly payroll warrants
for school staff



“

I hope they walk away feeling empowered to be a leader and changemaker in their own community and fight for change that they want to happen.

Ariana Thurairaja
Palos Verdes Unified School District
Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Member

Acknowledgments and Recognition

In 2024–25, LACOE’s work was honored with numerous state and national awards, reflecting our commitment to innovation, excellence and service to Los Angeles County’s students, families and schools.

Implementation Excellence Award from the National Charter Schools Institute to LACOE’s Charter School Office.

California School Public Relations Association (CalSPRA) – Four awards to LACOE’s Public Affairs and Communications Department:

California Gold Award for AI Guidelines.

Excellence in Communication Awards for AI Guidelines and the “We Are LACOE” Video Series.

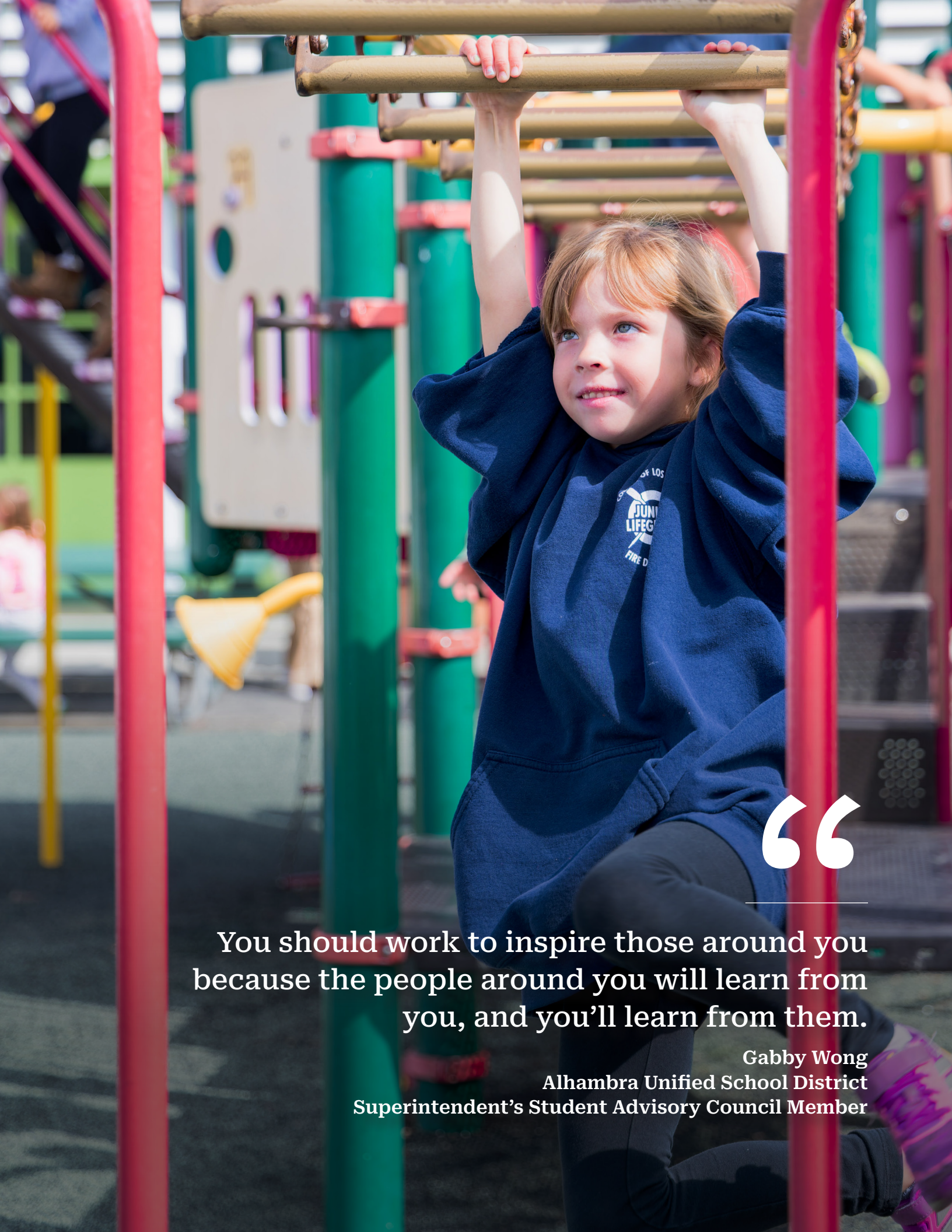
Award of Merit for the LACOE website redesign.

National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) – Golden Achievement Award for the “We Are LACOE” Video Series.

California School Boards Association (CSBA) – Golden Bell Award for Getting Reading Right.

2025 California Distinguished Schools: Lashon Academy and Aspire Antonio Maria Lugo Academy

These recognitions are a testament to the creativity, dedication and passion of our teams, and to the collaborative spirit that drives LACOE’s mission forward.



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You should work to inspire those around you because the people around you will learn from you, and you'll learn from them.

Gabby Wong
Alhambra Unified School District
Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Member

Looking Forward

LACOE is in the process of developing a new strategic plan that will guide our work for the coming years. This plan will serve as a shared roadmap, aligning our priorities with the needs of Los Angeles County's 80 school districts and the students, families and educators they serve.

The strategic plan will not only set ambitious goals, it will also define clear metrics for impact, enabling us to measure progress and remain accountable to our communities. By working together, we will ensure the plan becomes a living document that inspires action and drives meaningful, measurable change.

Recent challenges faced by our education community have underscored the importance of collaboration, resilience and innovation—and together, we have proven that our communities are stronger when we stand united in support of education. As we enter the 2025–26 fiscal year, LACOE remains committed to building on the resilience and progress of the past year while preparing our schools for the challenges and opportunities ahead. Our focus will be on initiatives that strengthen academic achievement, promote equity and ensure our schools are future-ready.

Central to this vision is the power of student voice. Through the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, students are actively shaping conversations on equity, inclusion and opportunity, reminding us that those most impacted by education must also help guide its future. Their insights, along with the student quotes featured throughout this report, demonstrate the leadership, creativity and determination that fuel our mission.

LACOE will continue to be a steady partner to our districts, educators and families, championing equity, academic excellence and student wellbeing. But our mission cannot be achieved alone. We invite our community partners, families and partners to remain engaged, lend their voices, and join us in shaping a brighter, more resilient future for every child.

Together, we can ensure that Los Angeles County schools remain places of opportunity, empowerment and hope—for today's students and generations to come.



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The point of the council is youth voices, you need to be heard. We're not the leaders of tomorrow; we're the leaders of today because we're already leading.

Alexis DiPrima
El Monte Unified High School District
Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Member



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