



# Press Release

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## Lynwood Unified Early Education Program Commended by State's Quality Rating and Improvement System

**Lynwood** – Lynwood Unified's Early Education program has been recognized by the Quality Start Los Angeles Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for its focus on evidence-based child assessments, working with families to ensure health screenings of all children and creating quality educational environments at its 12 elementary sites.

Lynwood schools improved or sustained their 2016 QRIS rating, which measures schools in areas of child observation, development & health screenings, minimum qualifications for lead teacher, effective teacher-child interaction, ratio and group size, program environmental rating scales and director qualifications.

"We are proud to be recognized for creating successful school environments," Lynwood Unified Early Childhood Education Director Heather Harris said. "It's a reflection of our staff and parents working together to create a culture of achievement for our children."

QSLA is a voluntary program. Assessments are conducted every two years by trained observers who use standards set by the California Department of Education. Schools earn a 1 to 5 rating in seven categories that are averaged to achieve an overall tier rating.

Lynwood Unified achieved at least a tier four rating at 11 of its 12 sites, with Lugo Elementary receiving a perfect five. Schools that reach a tier four receive an incentive grant of \$6,000 per state preschool classroom, up to four classrooms, to be used for quality improvements. Schools rated as a tier five will receive \$8,000 per classroom.

"Early Education builds the foundation of a child's future, so we're constantly pursuing ways to set our young learners on the path of success," Lynwood Unified Superintendent Gudiel R. Crosthwaite said. "Our District has set a strong standard for effective teacher and child interactions and we'll continue to build upon that at all of our schools."

The District made strides in its educational environments, in part, by hiring four site facilitators who visit and support classrooms on a weekly basis; and implementing a staff development plan, timeline and tracking system to ensure staff meet at least 21 hours of professional development each year.

"I would like to congratulate all of our teachers, administrators and parents who have worked to create a positive environment for our children," Lynwood Unified Board President Alfonso Morales said. "This is evidence that we're positioning our students to become scholars from the first day they walk through our school doors."

**MORE**

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The **Lynwood Unified School District** is dedicated to offering students a world-class education to prepare them for success in college and career in the 21st century. Under its Achieving Greatness Initiative, the district is realigning all aspects of its organization to strengthen and expand instructional programs, enrichment and extracurricular activities, and support system for students and staff. For more information, visit [www.lynwood.k12.ca.us](http://www.lynwood.k12.ca.us).

Follow us on  Twitter @LynwoodSchools, or "like" us on  Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LynwoodUSD](http://www.facebook.com/LynwoodUSD)



## PHOTO CAPTIONS

**022618\_LUSD\_EARLYEDUCATION1:** Lynwood Unified's Early Education program has been recognized by the Quality Start Los Angeles Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for creating quality educational environments at its 12 elementary sites.

**022618\_LUSD\_EARLYEDUCATION2:** Lynwood Unified recently hired four site facilitators and implemented a staff development plan to improve its Early Education program. The District was recognized by the Quality Start Los Angeles Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for maintaining strong educational environments.

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The mission of **Lynwood Unified School District**, the cultivator of innovative thinkers, is to ensure each student fearlessly achieves his or her highest academic and personal aspirations while contributing to the greater society through a unique system distinguished by:

★ People of great character who inspire and lead by example   ★ The instilling of courage to be creative   ★ The transformative uses of