



# HACIENDA LA PUENTE

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Hacienda La Puente Unified Unveils New, Inclusive Playground at Lassalette Elementary with Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

**CITY OF INDUSTRY** – Hacienda La Puente Unified celebrated the grand opening of Lassalette Elementary School’s new inclusive playground with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 18, bringing together HLPUSD administrators and the Trojan community to mark this space where Lassalette students of all abilities can play together.

The project, financed by the District’s general fund, was designed to enrich the playground experience for all students with the new space featuring a range of accessible equipment tailored to individuals with physical disabilities.

The welcoming outdoor space—designed by the District’s Executive Director of Special Education, Dr. Mayra Helguera—offers a variety of play options, including traditional and wheelchair-accessible swings, slides, sensory play areas, and an inclusive merry-go-round.

“Seeing some children unable to enjoy a traditional playground fully has always been disheartening,” Helguera said. “This project reflects our deep commitment to building a community where every student, of all abilities, is valued, included, and empowered to thrive.”

During the event, Board of Education members and Superintendent Dr. Alfonso Jiménez shared their enthusiasm for the project and expressed hope that this playground will serve as a model for more schools to adopt similar inclusive spaces across the District in the future.

Lassalette Elementary School Principal Lisa Mannino energized the crowd by leading the Trojans’ school chant and counting down the seconds until the ribbon was cut, sending students to their feet as they cheered.

“As a diverse school, it was important for us to create a space dedicated to empowering students of all abilities,” Mannino said. “Every child deserves a joyful childhood, and this playground ensures that all students can experience the thrill of play and belonging. What an incredible moment for our Trojan community.”

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The ceremony ended as students experienced the playground for the first time with parents, educators, and administrators observing how the inclusive space will enhance students' daily school experiences.

"It's moments like these that reflect the heart of who we are as a District," Jiménez said. "This playground represents more than just a place to play—it's a space that promotes belonging, inclusion, and shared joy. We look forward to seeing similar spaces across our schools, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to grow, connect, and thrive."

### PHOTO CAPTIONS:

**HLPUSD\_PLAYGROUND1:** Hacienda La Puente Unified School District leaders and students enjoy the inclusive merry-go-round during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Lassalette Elementary School's new all-abilities playground on Oct. 18.

**HLPUSD\_PLAYGROUND2:** A Lassalette Elementary School family explores the school's new inclusive playground during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 18.

**HLPUSD\_PLAYGROUND3:** A Hacienda La Puente Unified student enjoys the wheelchair-accessible swing at the new inclusive playground at Lassalette Elementary School on Oct. 18.

**HLPUSD\_PLAYGROUND4:** A Lassalette Elementary School student rides the new all-abilities playground slides during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 18.

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