



WHITTIER UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

To Achieve and Maintain Excellence...

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 13, 2025 **CONTACT:** Andrea Garcia **PHONE:** 909-447-2403

Frontier and Sierra Vista High Schools Earn Top Accreditation for Excellence and Student Support

WHITTIER – Whittier Union High School District’s Frontier and Sierra Vista high schools have both earned a six-year accreditation from the Accrediting Commission of Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS-WASC), reaffirming their commitment to fostering supportive learning environments and ensuring student success both academically and personally.

ACS-WASC accreditation guarantees that a school’s credits and diplomas are recognized by colleges and universities. It also drives school improvement through a rigorous self-study and the development of an action plan focused on student achievement. While all public high schools in California are required to be ACS-WASC accredited, earning a six-year accreditation with a half-way progress report is known as the highest distinction a school can receive.

“This honor is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff, students, and parents,” Frontier and Sierra Vista high schools Principal Dr. Margie Moriarty said.

The ACS Visiting Committee commended Sierra Vista High for effectively serving its unique student population by offering flexible learning options while maintaining high academic standards and comprehensive support services. Similarly, the report praised Frontier High for creating a rigorous, yet supportive learning environment tailored to at-risk students, fostering a culture of respect and achievement.

Both schools were also recognized for their student support programs, including a weekly Wednesday Wellness Newsletter, wellness centers, social workers and counselors, and more. These resources help students remediate their credits and, when possible, transition back to their home high schools to graduate.

“What we are most proud of is that we have demonstrated a genuine commitment to continuous improvement,” Moriarty said. “We are always reflecting on our practices, identifying what works best for students, and refining our approach.”

The United Sierra Education Center, which houses both Frontier and Sierra Vista high schools, was also praised for creating a cohesive organization from previously separate programs, fostering collaboration among staff, and maintaining a high standard of education.

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“At Whittier Union, we believe every student deserves the opportunity to succeed, and Frontier and Sierra Vista high schools exemplify this commitment by providing meaningful pathways to achievement,” Superintendent Dr. Monica Oviedo said. “This prestigious accreditation is another great example of how our District does *Whatever It Takes* ‘To Achieve and Maintain Excellence.’”

PHOTO CAPTION:

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OUR MISSION

The Whittier Union High School District provides all students with an engaging, quality standards-based instructional program delivered by a well-trained staff resulting in improved student achievement. Whittier Union High School District works to achieve and maintain excellence in providing a comprehensive education for all students.

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