



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 30, 2015 CONTACT: William Diepenbrock

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Baldwin Park Unified Invests in STEM, College Readiness Programs

District adopts a local accountability plan that adds tools to prepare students for college and careers

BALDWIN PARK – Baldwin Park Unified will invest in a host of programs in 2015-16 – including an International Baccalaureate program, an alternative learning academy, STEM programs and added rigor for Advanced Placement and honors classes – to prepare students for success in college or careers as part of its 2015-18 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

The three-year plan, adopted June 23, is the second such plan required since the state altered its school funding system. It identifies goals for each of the three years covered, strategies to achieve those goals and funding sources.

Some programs target all students, while others focus on the state's three high-needs groups: economically disadvantaged students, foster children and English learners.

Baldwin Park Unified expects to spend \$13 million in 2015-16 on its high-needs students, who make up 89.4 percent of the district's enrollment.

"Our LCAP will transform how Baldwin Park Unified serves its students, adding depth and breadth to an already rich instructional program," said Superintendent Dr. Paul Sevillano. "We will provide avenues that prepare students to compete successfully for high-demand college majors and careers."

Programs include Project Lead The Way, a leading provider of hands-on educational curriculum in science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM. Baldwin Park High School will add a robotics course and Holland Middle School and Santa Fe Elementary School will provide the STEM program for the first time.

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In a culture of high expectations and academic rigor and an environment of support, understanding, and emotional safety, all Baldwin Park Unified School District students will graduate with a valued and highly respected diploma, prepared with the relevant skills, knowledge, and personal attributes necessary for success in a university or other institution of higher education and/or any post-secondary options of their choice.



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Baldwin Park Unified will also boost the rigor of Advanced Placement and honors classes with an eye at how those courses can help the district develop an International Baccalaureate program (IB). IB degrees are highly valued by colleges and universities; programs can take three to five years to establish.

The district will also launch an Independent Learning Center at Baldwin Park High, where at-risk, disengaged students or those who need alternative approaches may pursue their diplomas. The Center will provide a blend of rigorous online and brick-and-mortar classes with flexible hours. Enrollment is expected to range from 75 to 120 students in its first year.

Other efforts are designed to improve student opportunities for success at all levels and improve student climate. These include:

- Holding a districtwide college fair.
- Expanding visual and performing arts resources.
- Boosting partnerships with community colleges, California State University, University of California, Regional Occupational Program and the city's Teen Center.
- Implementing a Cal State readiness class to prepare students in high school and middle school for the demands of college.
- Creating online local assessments to better sculpt instruction to student needs.
- Extending the school year at the elementary level for struggling students.
- Enabling students to improve grades or take courses they may have missed.
- Creating professional learning communities to foster collaboration among educators.
- Creating a bridge program to help students transition from middle to high school.
- Investing \$2.5 million to improve educational technology.
- Implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a discipline system that use positive feedback to minimize conflicts, suspensions and expulsions.

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