



PreK-12 Education Work Group



Challenge

Students in the San Joaquin Valley lag behind in academic performance – about 60 percent of Valley students from 2nd grade through 11th grade do not meet the state’s proficiency levels in math and reading. Valley students are at a disadvantage in being adequately prepared for college with only 26 percent completing UC and CSU eligibility coursework and only 23 percent taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). In addition, career and technical education programs struggle to adequately prepare students for success in careers after high school.

Opportunity

Implement policies and programs through public-private partnerships to ensure equal access to educational opportunities and resources that will improve academic performance for all children.

Focus

The PreK-12 Education Work Group focuses on improving the academic achievement of all students in the Valley. The work group is leading the effort to ensure all students have access to educational opportunities and resources through public-private partnerships and best-practice programs to prepare students for success in college and career.

Success for the San Joaquin Valley

The superintendents from the County Office of Education in each county have convened and are collaborating on the work to improve PreK-12 education in the Valley.

- The Central California Offices of Education successfully secured \$250,000 in seed grant funding to implement an English Language Learner Leadership Academy. The Academy will train and support 24 to 30 educational leaders (superintendents and principals) in districts throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Its target outcome is to select 24 schools identified as not meeting the needs of second language learners and turn them into recognized models of success that can be emulated.

About the Partnership

Set in motion by an executive order from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in June 2005 and renewed in November 2006, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley is an unprecedented public-private partnership sharply focused on improving the region’s economic vitality and quality of life for the 3.9 million residents who call the San Joaquin Valley home. The Partnership is addressing the challenges of the region by implementing measurable actions on economic, environmental, and social levels to help the San Joaquin Valley emerge as *California’s 21st Century Opportunity*.

Work Groups

The Partnership is organized into 10 work groups, convening leaders and experts from throughout the region to implement the 10-year Strategic Action Plan adopted by the Partnership board in October 2006. The work groups include air quality; economic development; energy; health and human services, higher education and workforce development; PreK-12 education; land use, agriculture, and housing; advanced communications services; transportation; and water.

The Action

Increase the achievement level of students, schools, and school districts in the San Joaquin Valley

- Implement a school and school district support system through county offices of education
- Implement a curricular and instructional program to ensure all children are able to read at or above grade level
- Provide school choice, and intra-district and inter-district options
- Establish an executive leadership academy to train principals of low-performing schools in “turn-around” educational and management services
- Coordinate and integrate health and human services organized around school attendance boundaries

Develop a college-going culture in the San Joaquin Valley

- Support collaborations among school districts and the community colleges, California State University and University of California systems
- Increase the rates of high school graduates completing courses for college admission

Implement a computer literacy initiative for PreK-12 students aligned with community college curriculum

- Facilitate deployment of advanced communications services to schools and accessibility of technology to students

Implement research-based programs to reduce substance abuse, including voluntary drug testing

- Implement substance abuse prevention education programs
- Implement collateral actions to reinforce drug abuse prevention education

Align career technical education to target industry clusters



California Partnership for the
San Joaquin Valley

www.sjvpartnership.org

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