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SPECIAL EDITION

We ARE UNIFIED!
Clovis

CUSD Today

October 2024

Clovis Unified School District — DEVELOPING STUDENTS IN MIND, BODY & SPIRIT Volume 27, No.3

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2024 Report to the Community

Building on the legacy of excellence for our kids!



Education is a partnership: Schools and community

This year, we're celebrating our past and the legacy our team is committed to carrying forward into the future. Where we have been, the work accomplished to get where we are today, and the preparation and intentionality required to perpetuate the high standards and academic excellence our students deserve are the intent behind our 2024-25 theme: "Building on the Legacy."

Education is a partnership between the schools and community,

and we want you to know how our students are progressing toward their best in Mind, Body and Spirit. That is why, each fall, we provide our community with a report on its schools. Through this



Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

publication, our annual State of the District Breakfast, mass media announcements, and a special edition of *CUSD Today* sent to every resident in our district's boundary, we deliver a report on the state of our schools so that you can feel closer to the work underway to prepare our students for success in their future.

We are accountable to our students, our educational team, and to you, our local community, and we regularly look for ways to invite you

along on our journey. Through the strength of our academic programs; the quality and breadth of our co-curricular offerings; and the world-class, well-maintained facilities you have helped us provide through past support of facility bonds (like Measure A on this November's ballot), educators help craft the future of our community and the world we all share.

Education has life-altering power, and our experience as a school district is no different. A look into the history of our community (like the 'Legacy' articles in these pages telling the origin story of many of the things you may know about Clovis Unified today) reveals just how much the experiences of Clovis Unified since 1960 have been tied to the quality of life in our community.

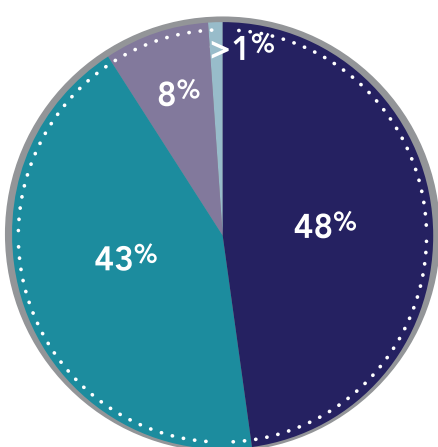
You are a valuable partner in our students' educational journey. Whether through volunteering in one of our schools, mentoring a young person, or simply staying informed of the opportunities and challenges facing your local schools, you have a role to play. Join us, and our more than 43,000 students and 7,000 educators, in our pursuit of excellence. Our students and our entire community will be stronger and better for it!

Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.
Clovis Unified Superintendent



94.8%
GRADUATION
RATE

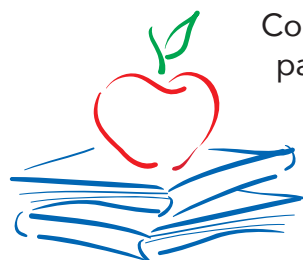
Where our Students Live



City of Clovis City of Fresno Fresno County Out of County

WHO WE ARE

Clovis Unified is more than its name implies. Our 198-square-mile boundary includes most of Clovis, 20 percent of Fresno and a small portion of unincorporated Fresno County. We work in partnership with three local governments and multiple law enforcement agencies.



We strive to make a positive impact in the communities in which our schools are located by offering high-quality education to children; well-kept facilities that enhance neighborhoods and add to property values; and top venues to draw large regional, state and national events to the area that support local economies.

2023-24 Achievements

- 1 California Model Continuation High School
- 2 California Schools to Watch
- 3 State Civic Learning Awards
- 42 Digital Citizenship Schools
- 23 Honor Roll/CBEE Schools
- 20 PBIS Coalition Awards
- 4 Bonner Character Awards
- 3 Fresno County Educator Award Finalists (Winners announced in November)
- 7 Athletic State Individual Champions; 1 Regional Team Title; 19 Valley Team Titles; 23 League Team Titles

"The schools belong to the people." — Clovis Unified founding superintendent Floyd B. "Doc" Buchanan, Ed.D.

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OCTOBER 14-18, 2024

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WHAT'S ON THE MENU TODAY, SAILORS?
SCHOOL LUNCH PIRATES FIND YOUR TREASURE!
OCTOBER 14-18, 2024
2024 NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

Campus Catering's goal is to provide quality nutrition and promote healthy bodies! Celebrate National School Lunch Week with your student to learn about treasuring their health!





Here to help you accomplish your goal of becoming a TEACHER!

Register for this 9-week FALL 2024 course
Child Growth and Development • (ECE 2) • Fall 2024

Course Description: This course examines basic theories, research, concepts and principles of physical, psychosocial, cognitive, and language development at each stage of life from conception through adolescence. Emphasis on environmental and genetic influences on typical and atypical development.
Course Information: 3 Units / Section #80921; Online, Asynchronous course
9 Weeks **October 14th through December 13th**
Instructor: Suzanne Brandl • suzanne.brandl@cloviscollege.edu




Upcoming SPRING 2025 courses!

Register for this night course!

Introduction to Teaching

(EDUC 10) • Spring 2025



Course Description: This course introduces students to the concepts and issues related to teaching diverse learners in contemporary schools, kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12). Topics include teaching as a profession and career, historical and philosophical foundations of the American education system, contemporary educational issues, California's content standards and frameworks, and teacher performance standards.

Course Information:
3 Units / Section #80921;
Clovis Community College, AC1-293
18 Weeks • Mondays 6:00 pm – 8:05 pm
January 13th through May 23rd
Instructor: Marissa Howard
marissa.howard@cloviscollege.edu

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- ECE 3– Introduction to Curriculum
- ECE 4– Child, Family, Community*
- ECE 5– Observation and Assessment
- ECE 6– Health, Safety and Nutrition in Early Childhood Education
- ECE 7– Diversity and Culture in Early Care Education Programs
- ECE 11– Guidance for Young Children

All courses listed above are 3 units. *Courses also available in face-to-face formats

Do you have any questions or are looking to get started?

Heather Boynton: 559-325-5305 heather.boynton@cloviscollege.edu
Eric Mendoza: 559-325-5306 eric.mendoza@cloviscollege.edu
Liz Romero: 559-325-5247 elizabeth.romero@cloviscollege.edu

Visit www.cloviscollege.edu to register/details.

Clovis Unified at a Glance

Our Vision: To be America's benchmark for excellence in education.

94.8%
Graduation Rate

98% Graduation Rate including GED and Special Education Certificates

- **43,291** Students
- **6** School Areas with a seventh opening in 2025
- **45** Comprehensive Schools
- **9** Specialty Schools
- **2** Schools Under Construction

12th
Largest District in California

\$688M
General Fund*

**Includes \$53M from one-time funds*

48.33%
Students qualify as foster, English learner and/or socio-economically disadvantaged

\$10.7M
in scholarships awarded to graduating seniors in 2023-24

Students Say

93% If I work hard, I know I can improve.

Parents Say

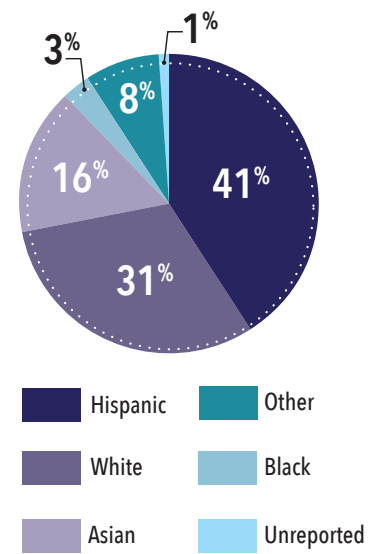
96% Schools provide a quality education that promotes academic success

Employees Say

87% Proud to work for Clovis Unified



Student Demographics



Clovis Unified Test Scores

2023 CAASPP Results*

Percent of students meeting/exceeding state standards on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress tests

	ELA	Math	Science
Clovis Unified	66.18%	51.02%	45.71%
State Average	46.66%	34.62%	30.18%
Fresno County Average	43.14%	30.04%	24.93%

*2024 state achievement scores for the April CAASPP exams for all districts and the state average are not yet available. Clovis Unified has received its initial report that shows growth in each category by 1%, with 67% ELA, 52% in math, and 46% in science. Full results are expected to be released by the California Department of Education later in October. Last year, Clovis Unified's 2022-23 student results were around 15-20% higher than the state averages. CUSD parents can find their child's scores on Parent Connect. For full state scores when available, visit the CDE website: cde.ca.gov.

2024 CLASSI Awards

Clovis Assessment System for Sustained Improvement, CLASSI, has been the district's accountability system since 1994. It assesses our schools against standards in Student Achievement, Comprehensive Site Management and Cultural Proficiency.

Elementary Schools: Bud Rank, Century, Copper Hills, Dry Creek, Garfield, Fugman, Jefferson, Liberty, Maple Creek, Mickey Cox, Miramonte, Nelson, Orazo, Reagan, Red Bank, Riverview, Valley Oak, Woods and Young

Secondary Schools: Alta Sierra, Clark, Granite Ridge, Buchanan and Clovis North

Learn more: cusd.com/CLASSI



Sources for this publication: California Department of Education, Clovis Unified archives, file photos, 2023-24 SART Survey, 2023-24 Climate Survey, 2023-24 Student Survey, CUSD LCAP, CLASSI.

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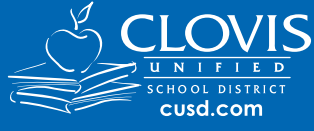
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State of Our Facilities

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Attendance Boundaries

An **Updated School Attendance Boundary Map** was approved following a months-long study by a 50-member Steering Committee, 100-plus community meetings and around 400 online comments received. The map will take effect in Fall 2025 when the new Terry P. Bradley Educational Center opens Phillip V. Sanchez Intermediate to grades 7-9. In addition to populating the new school and new Clovis South Area, the update reviewed the entire district to ensure existing space was maximized for student learning. Taken into account were current school capacities, enrollment trends and future growth projections of our local cities and county.

Construction



- Hirayama Elementary at McKinley and Fowler avenues opened for TK-6th graders this year.
- Terry P. Bradley Educational Center at Highland and Clinton alignment held its ground breaking. Work began on several common buildings and areas of the educational center shared by Sanchez Intermediate and Clovis South High. Sanchez is expected to open Fall 2025. Full completion of Clovis South will require additional funding and is part of the Measure A facility bond on the November ballot.

Modernization & Upgrades



- Automatic Door Locking Systems for unmanned doors to provide a quicker safety response were installed in Phase 1 and 2. Additional phases are in progress with expected completion at all schools by Spring 2026.
- Mercedes Edwards Theatre added a backstage for performer dressing rooms, props and storage.
- Energy Management Systems were updated at multiple sites.

Measure A this Fall

On the November ballot, voters are deciding on Measure A, a \$400 million facility bond measure that maintains the existing tax rate to repair and modernize older schools and complete Clovis South High School. Measure A was recommended by a 30-member citizens committee who spent months studying the facility needs and finances of the district. If approved, Measure A doesn't change the existing tax rate: it extends it to pay for needed facility repairs, safety upgrades and energy efficiency projects at every school, and the construction of classrooms to ease overcrowded conditions at CUSD schools. Measure A requires independent oversight and annual audits to ensure accountability. **Learn more: cusd.com/2024bond.**

Legacy

One decade into the new unified district, local families wanted their children to have better learning environments. In 1973 voters approved the first local tax to be used by Clovis Unified for recreation, cultural and athletic facilities. The community's vote signified the expectation that their children have high-quality venues and it **launched the standard** in Clovis Unified that is seen in our facilities today.

1986 - State allows facility bond measures on ballot. Local voters approve the first bond.

\$1.84 BILLION Voters have approved a total of \$1.086 billion in local funds that Clovis Unified has leveraged to receive an **additional \$760 million in state dollars.** Funds have been used to build 22 schools to accommodate increasing student populations; since 1986, Clovis Unified enrollment has grown from 17,091 to 43,291 and the trend is projected to continue.



96%
Parents say buildings and grounds are well maintained.

35,000
Events held at CUSD facilities annually by non-school groups.

4.8million
Square Feet of Building Space

537
Acres of Landscaping

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CUSD Today

October 2024 | Volume 27, No. 3
Clovis Unified School District
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Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.

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CUSD Today, Clovis Unified's good news publication, is published each month except for July and is sent directly to the homes of all CUSD parents and staff, as well as district supporters and those residing within the district boundary. Businesses and services advertising with CUSD Today help offset the cost associated with producing, printing and mailing.

Our Mission:
To be a high-quality educational system providing the resources for ALL students to reach their potential in **mind, body and spirit.**

2023-24 Highlights

Legacy

The Clovis Unified School District opened its doors to 5,037 students in Fall 1960, after seven rural districts united to provide their children access to a better education. At the time, Clovis area schools were mostly viewed as country schoolhouses that did not offer strong academics, nor were students expected to attend high school.

First CUSD Superintendent Floyd "Doc" Buchanan, Ed.D., set high expectations for change and would serve the district for the next three decades, establishing the foundational legacy of what he would eventually call the "Sparthenian Model" as his approach to education.

Drawing upon two ancient Greek cultures, the Spartans who were physically fit and courageous and Athenians who were intellectual and artistic, the model merged the attributes of developing mind, body and spirit.

"I want to teach students how to be risk-takers and those ideas are in the 'Sparthenian' model.

First Superintendent Floyd B. "Doc" Buchanan, Ed.D."

Read the Origin Stories of how the three concepts emerged.



- **98%** Class of 2024 graduation rate for ALL students earning a diploma, GED or special education certificate
- **21** Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways are offered, including patient care, education, farming, construction and engineering.

- **83%** of students say their teachers care if they do well.
- Clovis Unified high schools have **29 Advanced Placement classes** that provide students college-level instruction. A total of 5,739 AP tests were taken by Clovis Unified students for college credit with a passage rate of 78%.
- Elementary school libraries have **reading rooms and technology labs** for online exploration and virtual learning.
- **24-hour online tutoring is available** in addition to secondary campuses providing academic counselors, tutoring, and college and career centers.
- Clovis West High's Golden Hour, a **dedicated weekly hour for students to get additional teaching** or catch up on an assignment, launched and saw student passing grades improve. Some other schools began implementing the model.

96%
Parents say their child's school provides a quality education.



92%
Students say they can get help at school when they need it.

- **Physical Education** is included in students' class schedules every year through high school.
- **Two out of three** students say they participate in school athletic programs.
- **5.4 million school meals served** by CUSD Campus Catering that include fresh baked breads and farm-grown local and state produce.
- Fresno State and NBA basketball player Chris Herren spoke in the fall at all CUSD high schools about his fall into addiction and the battle to break out of it. **All campuses held wellness or prevention campaigns** with educational events and activities.
- **Unified sports** are offered where general and special education athletes compete together in league play.
- **17** sworn police officers who are POST - Police Officer Standards and Training - certified keep students physically safe with an officer on each secondary campus and a team of officers serving elementary schools.



MIND. BODY.

ACADEMIC PRIORITY: The young rural district began gathering data in 1968 and it showed students were not doing well on norm-referenced tests, with only about three out of 10 students on grade level in reading and math. "Unacceptable," said Superintendent Buchanan, who outlined a plan attacking illiteracy and getting 90% of students on grade level.

1969 - Superintendent Buchanan lays out plan for 90% Goal.

1972 - Tarpey Elementary first graders were the first to hit the 90% goal.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: The high academic priority led to concentrated classroom time on the basics and by 1972 scores were improving to around 60% on grade level. But the gains hit a plateau. "We thought perhaps we were teaching the basic skills too long and that we should start a more comprehensive program," Buchanan said. Inspired by a visit to the U.S. Naval Academy where cadets had daily P.E. in order to build their physical condition so that they could handle the rigorous academic load, Buchanan started P.E. at every grade level in the district.

1972 - Buchanan launches a required physical fitness program for students.

1973 - Academic achievements showed gains as high as 80%. "We didn't do anything new except get students in shape," Buchanan said.



Introducing our newly expanded **Flexsteel Gallery**

The all-new and expanded Flexsteel Gallery is complete and the Grand Re-opening is in full swing at Fashion Furniture. The larger Gallery includes a new line of occasional chairs, and Latitudes power motion furniture with 800 fabrics & leather options, beautiful new area rugs and every customer receives the famous Flexsteel Lifetime Warranty! Visit Fashion Furniture during the Grand Re-opening of the Flexsteel Gallery! There's nothing like it in all of California!



- 88% of parents say schools have a positive environment.
- Clovis Unified expanded its proactive **Wellness Support System** for students that includes mental health resources, student groups, community partnerships and positivity models (cusd.com/ComprehensiveWellnessProject).

4 out of 5

students say they are involved in extra school activities such as sports, drama, band, dance, science fair, robotics and clubs.



- CUSD held its first **Native American Student Success Conference** in November. Other annual district student leadership events spotlight African-American, Asian and Latino contributors and culture. All campuses provide diversity awareness lessons, multi-cultural festivals and heritage clubs.



SPIRIT.

COMPETITION: With Clovis West High opening in 1976, the district developed the Red (Clovis West) and Blue (Clovis High) units, where the schools continued the attack on illiteracy and had a friendly competition for gains from curricular and co-curricular programs. The Competition Model encouraged students and teachers to strive to greater heights for themselves and for their schools. School spirit deepened with the now robust rivalries. Not only did academics show further improvements, but also co-curriculars including performing arts and sports teams excelled. By the 1980s, Clovis Unified was on its way to becoming a destination district with strong academics and highly supported student co-curricular programs.

1981 - Clovis High Marching Band performs in President Reagan's Inaugural Parade.

1985 - Kastner Intermediate is first CUSD National Blue Ribbon School.



Stories continue to be added into Clovis Unified's legacy that demonstrate caring for our students and providing high-quality opportunities for excelling in mind, body and spirit. The once farm-town district with high illiteracy rates is now known for its strong academics that consistently score around 20% above the state average. We thank those who laid the framework of pursuing excellence for our children and for our community. Today, our students and staff continue to benefit from and pour into our culture as they are "Building on the Legacy!"



GENEROUS SPIRITS: A study in David Mattox's Gettysburg Elementary fifth/sixth-grade combo class on global income inequality led to five people receiving needed surgeries. The social studies lessons inspired Mr. Mattox's class to make a difference in real life. In a yearlong fundraiser, they made and sold a variety of crafts to pay for medical care for patients in Ethiopia who could not otherwise afford it.



MAKING HISTORY: A student's curiosity partnered with encouraging advisors and hard work resulted in a Fort Washington Elementary History Day project being noticed across the globe. Now current Kastner Intermediate student Courtlin Pulliam was the guest of honor in France at remembrance ceremonies of a World War II resistance movement that she had researched and documented.



RISK TAKER: The joy and hard work of special education students operating Buchanan High's Coffee Cave formed the basis of a CTE video student's film documentary that won both a National and Western Regional Emmy Award - yes, that Emmy Award! Now-graduate Taylor Brunzell shared this advice to younger students: "You don't get where you want to be by playing it safe - you get there with risk and dedication."

Legacy

First Clovis Unified Superintendent Buchanan's educational approach to the "Sparthenian" Concept was formalized into Clovis Unified's mission statement in 1989 by the Governing Board.

Mission Statement:

"To be a high-quality educational system providing the resources for ALL students to reach their potential in mind, body and spirit."



ALL STUDENTS: Dedicated staff, engaging programs and ways for students to be part of a community were just a few reasons why Gateway High was named a 2024 Model Continuation High School, a designation given to just 1% of California's 430 continuation high schools. Said Principal Steve Pagani, "The award recognizes Gateway as a shining example of educational excellence, offering a second chance and a pathway to success for all students."



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR SUPPORTING THIS YEAR'S Clovis Unified School District State of the District Breakfast

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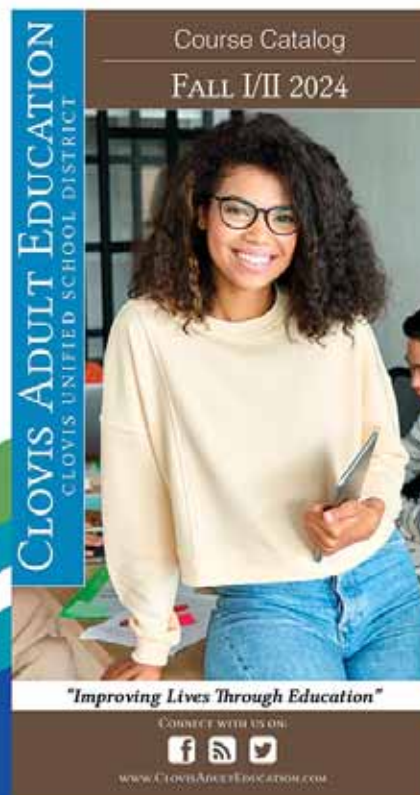
All proceeds are used by the Foundation for Clovis Schools to support scholarships and classroom grants that directly benefit students! Learn more at FoundationForClovisSchools.com

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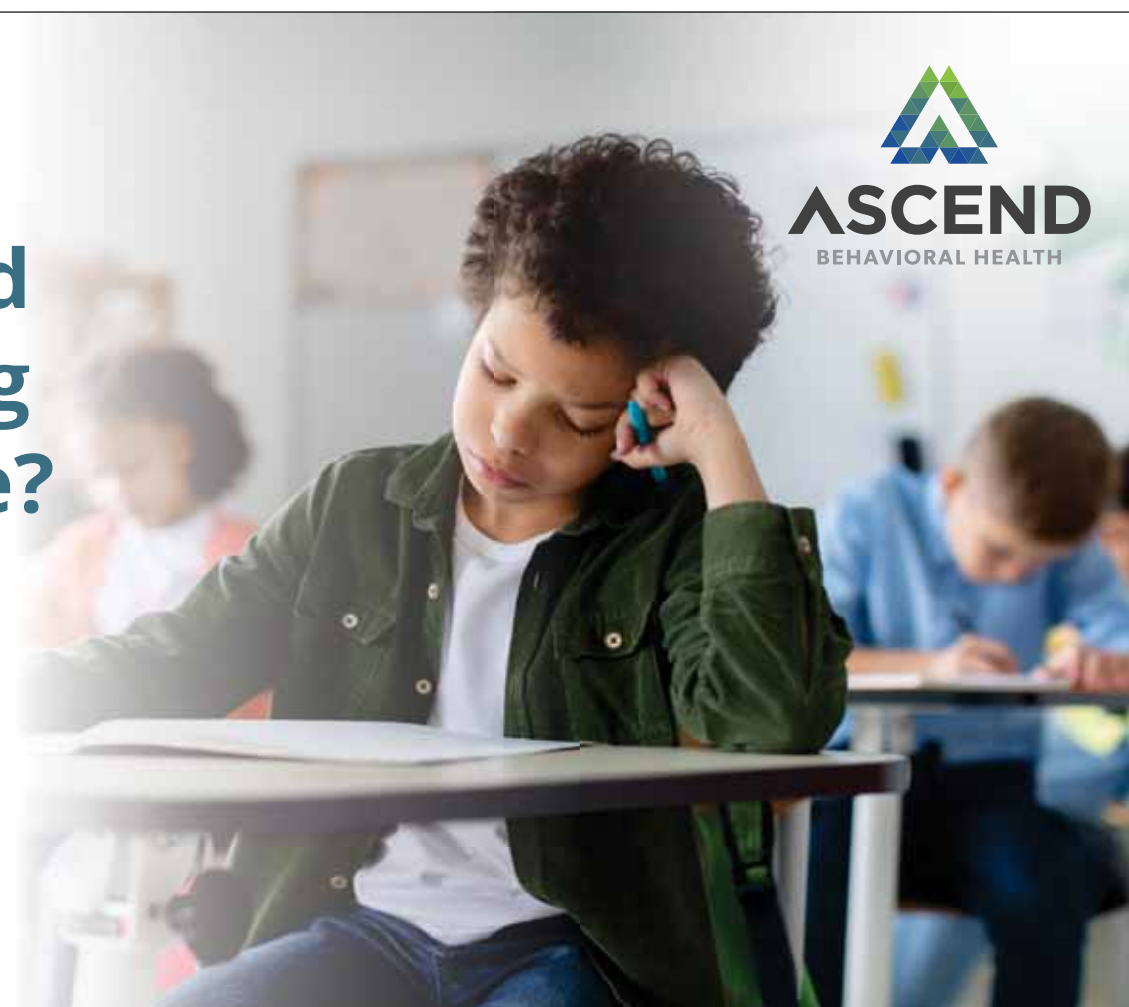


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Why a Foundation for Clovis Schools?



You would never guess it when you see the results Clovis Unified achieves each year or when you step foot onto one of its pristine campuses or state-of-the-art facilities, but the district is doing a lot with much less than its neighboring districts every year. In the 2023-24 school year, Clovis Unified received an average of \$2,698 less per student than other school districts in Fresno County. This is why the Foundation for Clovis Schools exists:

To help bridge the funding gap and support educators and students with resources needed to succeed through grants and scholarships that allow educators to continue innovating and students to continue pursuing their dreams.

Funding Per Student

\$109million

Additional amount CUSD would receive if provided the county average per pupil funding.

\$12,316

Clovis Unified

\$15,013

Fresno County Average

California's Local Control Funding Formula divides dollars between school districts based on varying levels of qualifying students (low income, homeless, English learners and/or foster youth). In Clovis Unified, about 47.5% (a three-year rolling average of 48.33%) of students match these qualifications, but since the district falls short of the 55% threshold, it does not receive Concentration Funds.

2023-24 Foundation Highlights

Investing in our schools today for a stronger community tomorrow.

Doc Buchanan Leadership Academy

Provided training and resources to over 100 district leaders. This partnership between the Foundation and district strives to develop strong leaders prepared for the future whose decision-making is grounded in the timeless core values and educational beliefs that have contributed to the district's success over time.

40 Classroom, School and Emotional Wellness Grants

Provided over \$206,000 to support projects that help teachers innovate in their classrooms. These funds helped support initiatives to improve literacy, create more inclusive environments for students with special needs, enhance culinary education opportunities and science and technological advancement programs, and much more.

168 New Teacher Grants

Given to teachers new to the district for the 2023-24 school year. The Foundation for Clovis Schools awarded these teachers with a

combined total of \$33,600 in New Teacher Grants to help prepare their classrooms to be vibrant learning environments for Clovis Unified students.

16 Students of Promise Scholarships

Totaling \$32,000 encouraged 16 remarkable 11th graders to pursue their goals with a scholarship upon enrollment into post-secondary education.

One-Time Grants from Community Partners

Provided the opportunity for approximately 13,000 high school students and over 350 community members to hear directly from former local and NBA basketball star, Chris Herren, during a special series of six student assemblies and two parent nights. Herren encouraged honest conversations about the dangers of substance use and to address the "why" behind the temptation to begin abusing substances. The event was made possible through social emotional wellness grants from community partners Community Health Systems and Kaiser Permanente.



Legacy

In 1986, Clovis Unified Founding Superintendent, Dr. Floyd B. "Doc" Buchanan, had the vision of a foundation for public schools that would ensure kids always had the resources needed to excel. Since then, a volunteer Board of Directors has mobilized community support to raise more than **\$14 million to bridge financial gaps** for educators and students in Clovis Unified.

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Clovis Unified School District

8th ANNUAL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

Honoring:

Doc Buchanan Award – Dennis Lindsey
Tristin (Baxter) Kranenburg | Jose Hernandez | Ryan Indart
Willy Irwin | Todd Kemp | Ken Shipley | Billy Volek
1981, 1982, 1983 & 1984 Clovis High School
Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams

Saturday, November 2, 2024
Clovis North Educational Center, Paul Shaghoian Concert Hall
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Reception 5:30 p.m. | Program 6:30 p.m.

Admission is Free

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Clovis Community College - Welcome Center

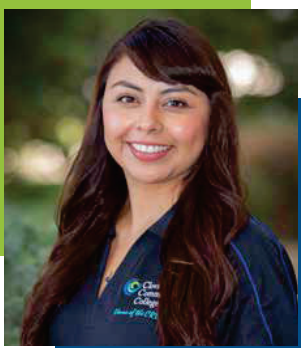
Meet your Clovis Community College Outreach Specialists!



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