

BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
COMMUNITY REPORT
2023-2024

EXCELLENCE • EQUITY • ENGAGEMENT • ENRICHMENT
Berkeley Unified School District • #BerkeleyBELIEVES



Berkeley
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



A NOTE FROM ENIKIA



Dear Berkeley Unified Community,

Looking back on the 2023-2024 school year, I am reminded of what makes our Berkeley community unique. We can grapple with complex challenges that stretch far beyond the walls of our classrooms and also work side-by-side to uphold a high standard of instructional excellence and ensure equitable opportunities for our students in classrooms that are safe, humanizing, and welcoming to all.

This side-by-side work was no more evident than when 88% of Berkeley voters approved Measure H in March 2024, renewing the Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP). Thank you, Berkeley, for your support of BSEP and the many essentials for excellence in our schools provided by this measure, including small class sizes, arts and music classes, libraries, and academic and social/emotional supports for students.

Likewise, we have seen progress on our collaborative work closing the achievement and opportunity gap and accelerating academic growth for focal population students. That work included our focus on rigorous academics, but also much more, including curriculum, aligning on professional development for our educators and staff, a focus on data, wellness and belonging, our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), and setting the stage for the development of a strategic plan for our district.

In the pages that follow, I’m excited to share some of the work we have done, the progress we have made, and our vision for the future, in partnership with the Berkeley community, our students, and families.

In Community,

Enikia Ford Morthel



Enikia Ford Morthel
Superintendent

3
PRE
SCHOOLS

11
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS

3
MIDDLE
SCHOOLS



2
HIGH
SCHOOLS

1
INDEPENDENT
STUDY PROGRAM

1
ADULT
SCHOOL

TEACHING & LEARNING - LITERACY

PILOTING NEW K-5 LITERACY CURRICULUM

In the Spring of 2023, BUSD conducted a research-based review of the Elementary English Language Arts (ELA) curricula on its overall effectiveness. During the 2023-24 school year, the district partnered with CORE Learning to deliver professional development and coaching on the science of reading and foundational literacy skills to K-8 teachers and site-based specialists.

Based on the information obtained through this assessment, BUSD initiated a K-5 literacy curriculum adoption process in the Spring of 2024. This adoption coincided with a series of community engagement sessions and parent/family focus groups, providing an opportunity for community voices to be heard. BUSD plans to bring this curriculum to the school board for approval in Spring 2025.



TWO
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
SESSIONS
IN SPRING 2024



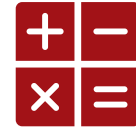
FAMILY FOCUS
GROUP SESSIONS FOR
AFRICAN AMERICAN,
LATINX AND STUDENTS
WITH AN IEP



MATH AND SCIENCE

BUILDING A FOUNDATION OF MATHEMATICS

From Elementary to High School, BUSD puts a focus on creating curricula with student development at its core. In the 2023-24 school year BUSD conducted a thorough review of the Middle School Intervention Inventory. This led to a pilot of Math 180, a math intervention curriculum across all three middle school sites, as well as ongoing collaboration and professional development for all math teachers.



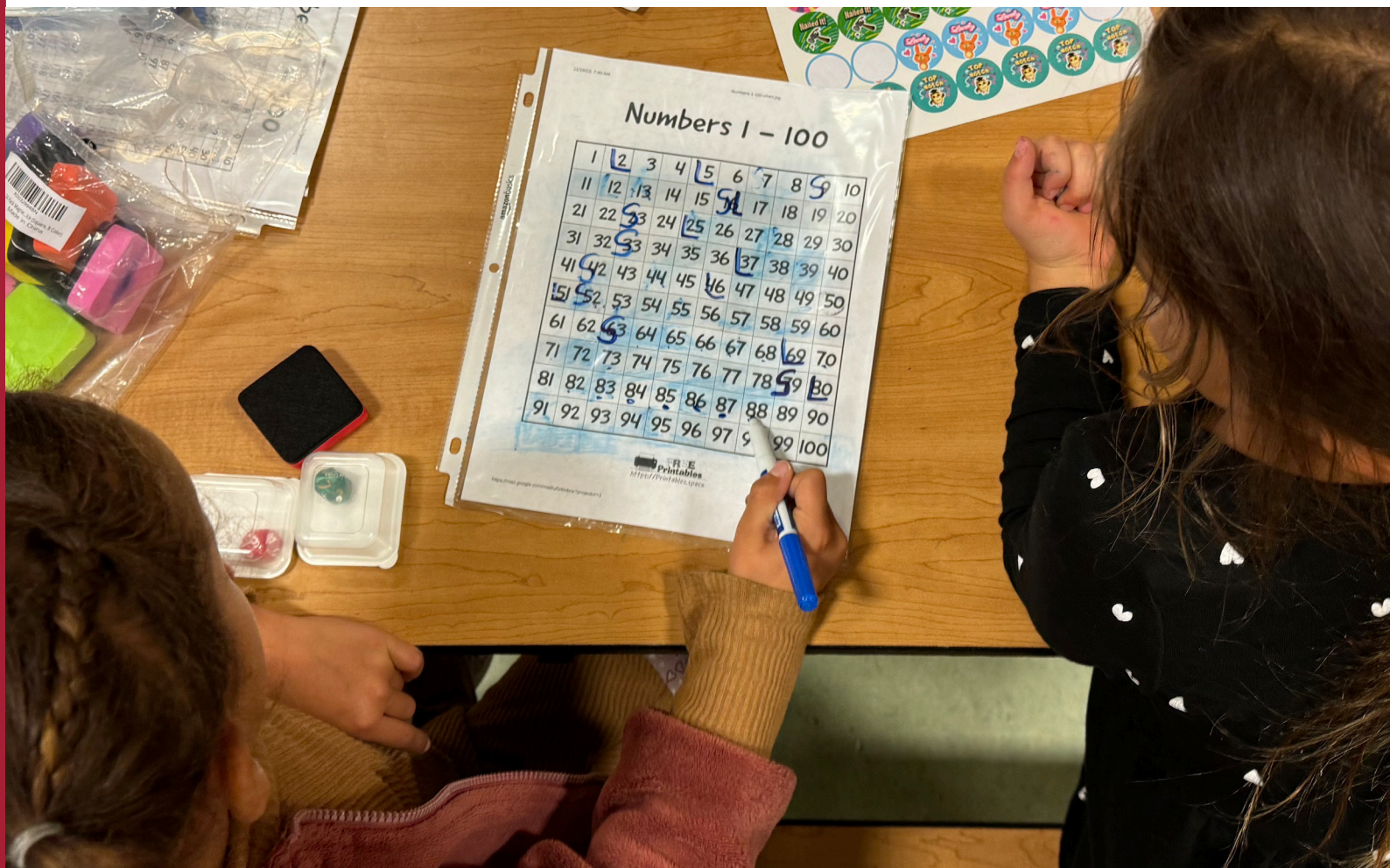
PILOT PROGRAM
MATH 180



SIX WEEK
"BE A SCIENTIST"
PROGRAM
WITH UC BERKELEY

A HANDS-ON APPROACH TO SCIENCE

At BUSD, students explore scientific concepts through inquiry and hands-on experimentation. In the 2023-24 school year, the district adopted the FOSS Pathways science curriculum, which uses three-dimensional teaching, learning and assessment, and is aligned with national science standards. Over the past year, teachers received training on and began teaching the new science curriculum.



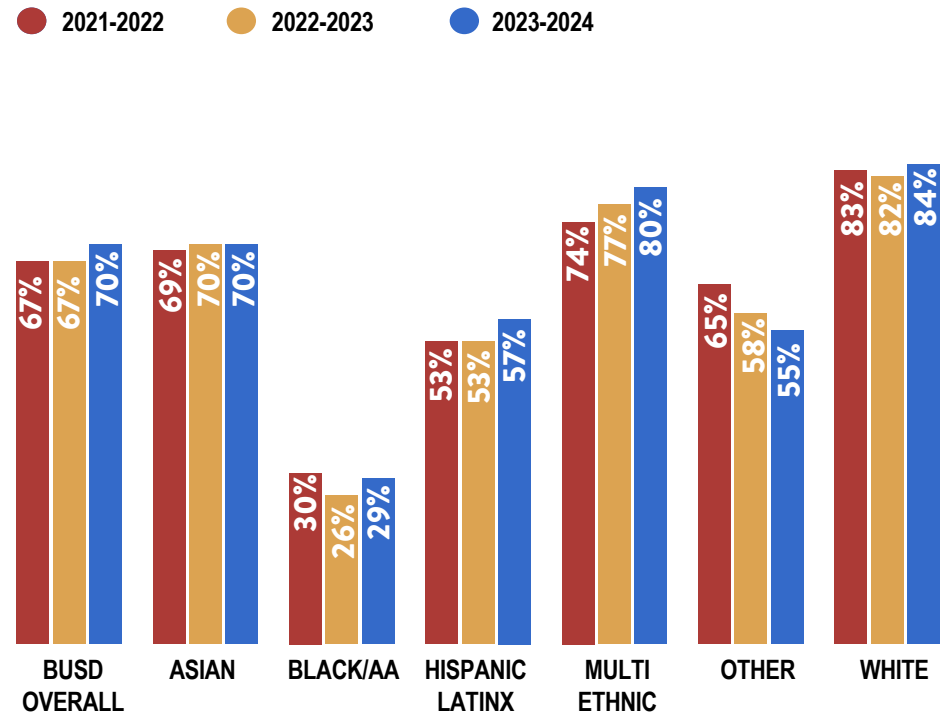
INCREASED PROFICIENCY IN FOCAL POPULATIONS

Over the past year, the district set out to close the achievement and opportunity gap by accelerating proficiency growth for focal populations. Results of the April 2024 Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) show that progress is being made on that goal, with an overall increase in ELA and Math proficiency for BUSD students, as well as target focal groups showing improvement.

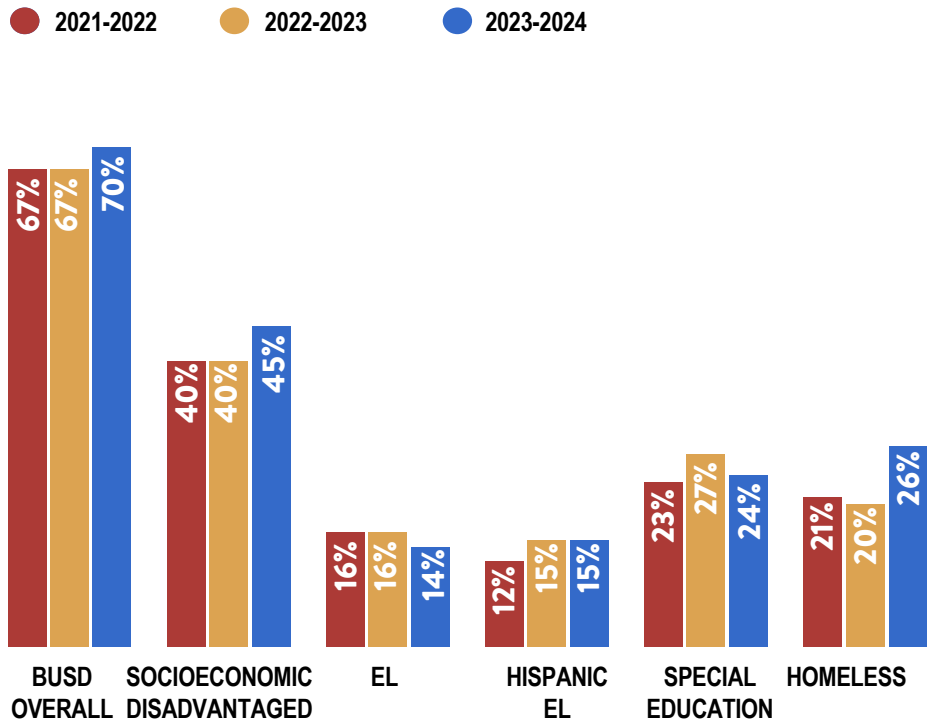
WHAT ARE STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS?

In April 2024, BUSD students in grades 3-8 and 11 took the 2024 Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) tests, which analyze student progress on statewide standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. This is a subset of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

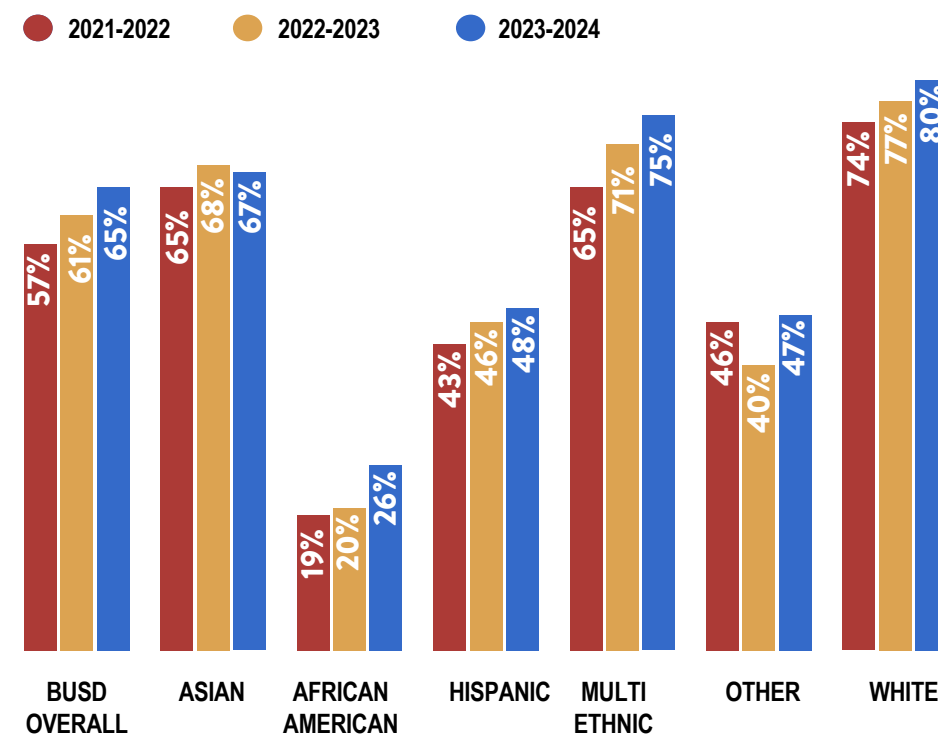
ELA PROFICIENCY INCREASES BY
3% FOR BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN AND 4% FOR LATINX



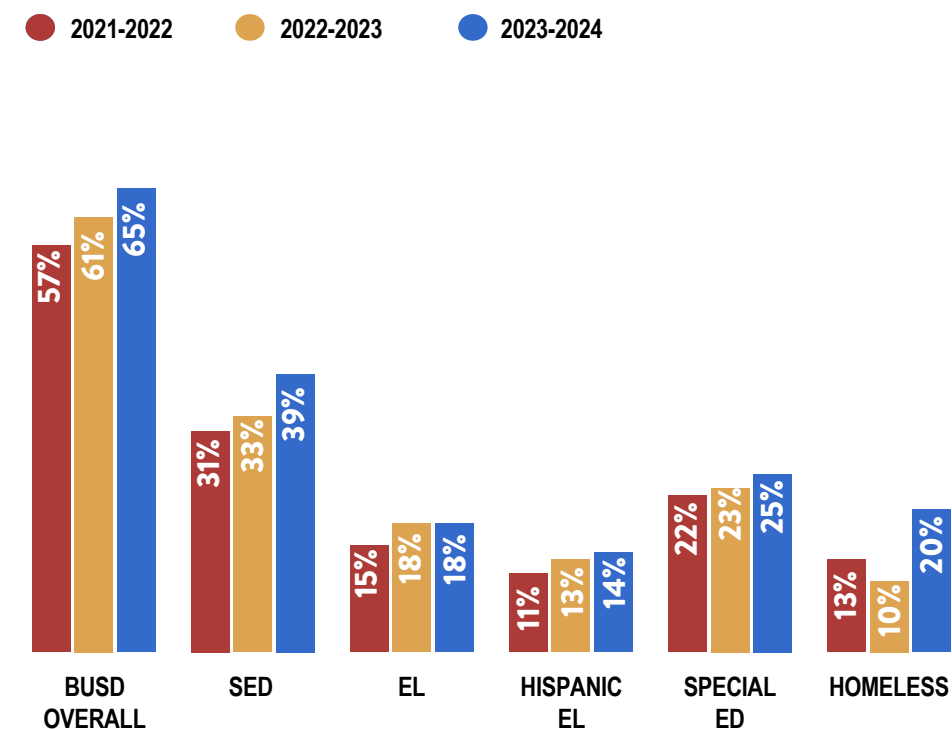
ELA PROFICIENCY INCREASES BY
5% FOR SOCIOECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED AND 6% FOR HOMELESS



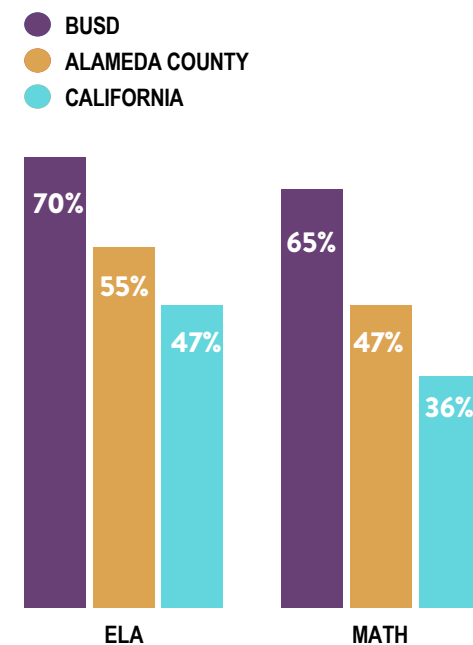
MATH PROFICIENCY INCREASES 6% FOR BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN AND 2% FOR LATINX



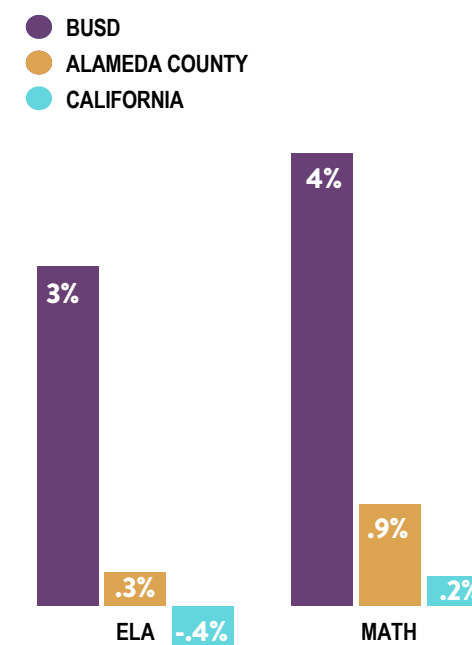
MATH PROFICIENCY INCREASES 6% FOR SOCIOECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED AND 10% FOR HOMELESS



BUSD CONTINUES TO OUTPACE COUNTY AND STATE IN PROFICIENCY



YEAR-OVER-YEAR GROWTH IN PROFICIENCY



CLIMATE LITERACY & SUSTAINABILITY



MOVING FORWARD

The district continued to make advancements in climate literacy and sustainability in 2023-2024, including hosting BUSD's second Climate Fair, a showcase of student projects that explore the themes of climate change science, solutions, and climate justice – core pieces of BUSD's Climate Literacy Resolution.

As part of its ongoing work to eliminate carbon emissions and build healthy communities, the district launched a pilot reusable foodware project in three schools, replacing single-use trays and plastic utensils that end up in landfills with reusable stainless steel materials. Over the course of the 2023-2024 school year, these three schools alone resulted in \$13,064 in savings and reduced waste by 3.3 tons. BUSD plans to transition all remaining schools to reusables by Fall of 2025, resulting in an estimated annual savings of nearly \$40,000 and reducing cafeteria waste by an estimated 10 tons annually once fully implemented.

Continuing the reusable theme, students at Berkeley High School opened a community ReUse Center on campus, built out of a 40-foot shipping container. The student-staffed space is stocked with free, reusable goods that might have otherwise ended up in the landfill, such as books, binders, water bottles, and more.



**\$13,034
SAVED**

**3.3 TONS
REDUCED WASTE**





BSEP SUPPORTS

BERKELEY COMMUNITY SUPPORTS STUDENT SUCCESS

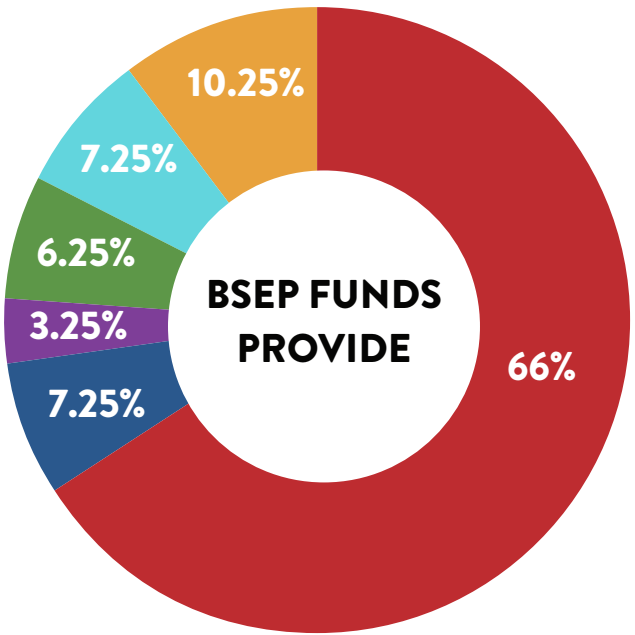
In March 2024, 88% of Berkeley voters approved the renewal of the Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP) which provides \$37 million in funding for the district, accounting for nearly 20% of our annual budget.



Berkeley’s BSEP measure specifies the purposes for which funds may be used, and requires extensive community involvement in planning and overseeing the expenditures. BSEP provides invaluable funding for everything from small class sizes, with BSEP providing 30% of all classroom teachers; enrichment programs, including music programs and libraries; and student support, including counseling, family outreach, and academic support.

WHAT DO THESE BSEP FUNDS PROVIDE?

BSEP FUNDS PROVIDED 18% OF BUSD'S 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET



- Small Class Sizes & Teacher Support: 66%
- Site Programs: 10.25%
- Libraries: 7.25%
- Student Support: 7.25%
- Music/VAPA: 6.25%
- Technology: 3.25%

2023-24 FACILITIES HIGHLIGHTS

2023-24 FACILITIES HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to the generous support of Berkeley residents at the polls, four general obligation bonds — Measure A (1992), Measure AA (2000), Measure I (2010), and Measure G (2020)—continue to bring new life to BUSD educational spaces, supporting student wellness and programmatic excellence in our schools.

SOME FACILITIES PROJECTS IN DESIGN AND PENDING CONSTRUCTION

- Workforce Housing: Berkeley Adult School Front Parking Lot*
- Berkeley Community Theater: 3,500-Seat House Modernization
- Florence Schwimley LittleTheater: Modernization
- Berkeley Arts Magnet Elementary School: Modernization
- Washington Elementary School: Addition
- Malcolm X Elementary School: Hardscape and Landscape Upgrades

** Not funded from a BUSD Bond Measure*

LONGFELLOW MIDDLE SCHOOL MODERNIZATION

The district broke ground on a full-school modernization of Longfellow Middle School on October 27, 2023. This includes both indoor and outdoor space modernizations, a new family engagement center, a reconfiguration of administrative space to enhance safety, a new entry-way to both improve access safety and ensure a welcoming environment for all, a new sports field, and vibrant outdoor learning and collaboration spaces.

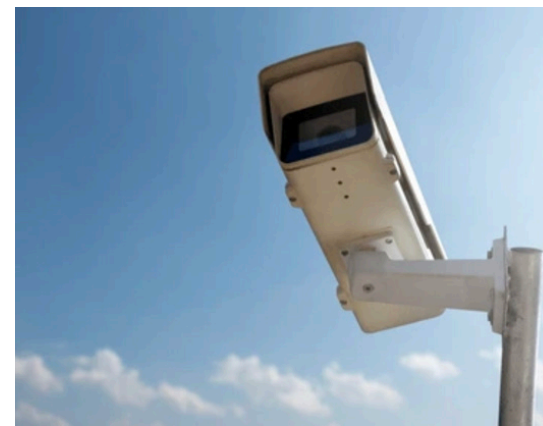
SYLVIA MENDEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MODERNIZATION

The modernization of Sylvia Mendez Elementary School began in May 2023 to ensure that infrastructure and interim classrooms could be installed prior to the start of the 2024-2025 school year. This will provide continued space to facilitate teaching and learning as well as outdoor play for students while the modernization is underway.

This project includes the modernization of all existing spaces and a new addition to the school building to increase capacity for the school's popular Two Way Immersion (TWI) program.

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

The district is also nearing completion on a project to tighten security on buildings by increasing the number of security cameras, improving their sightline, and improving access controls at sites.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

AFRICAN AMERICAN SUCCESS FRAMEWORK: YEAR TWO

2023-24 marked year two of the implementation of the district’s three-year African American Success Framework (AASF). The AASF is an intervention tiered support system to resolve the uneven and unacceptable outcomes for African American Students in BUSD.

COMMITMENT TO STEM

Berkeley Public Schools offers a variety of STEM-related programs to provide high-quality, hands-on learning opportunities for student groups currently underrepresented in STEM college and career fields.

LEARN BY DOING IN CTE PROGRAM

The Career Technical Education (CTE) program involves a multiyear sequence of courses that integrate core academic knowledge with technical and occupational knowledge, to provide students with a pathway to postsecondary education and careers.



BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL LAUNCHES WELLNESS CENTER

Berkeley High School held the grand opening for its new Wellness Center in December of 2023. The center, designed with input from students, provides additional support, education, preventative services, and a safe and supportive space for wellness and mental health breaks.

A MISSION OF LIFETIME LEARNING

From preschool to adult school, BUSD welcomes students of all ages. Berkeley Adult School’s (BAS) mission is to ensure that adult learners have access to education and training as a lifelong process. BAS offers a variety of classes helping students learn new work skills, improve their english proficiency, or finish their diploma.

BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL BRIDGE PROGRAM SHOWS CONTINUED SUCCESS

The Bridge Program is a four-year academic skill building and college prep program designed to support first generation African American and Latinx students. Over the 2023-24 school year, 27 Berkeley High School seniors submitted college applications and were accepted to a 4-year college program.



Berkeley Unified School District

BERKELEY BOARD OF EDUCATION: WWW.BERKELEYSCHOOLS.NET/SCHOOL-BOARD

Ana Vasudeo, Ka'Dijah Brown, Mike Chang, Jennifer Shanoski, Laura Babitt

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