

# Berkeley Public Schools

COMMUNITY REPORT from Berkeley Unified School District | Berkeley, CA

## Learning Through Real-World Experiences

Career Technical Education (CTE) classes allow Berkeley High School students to learn real-world skills that align with their interests and passions.

Art of Video Production classes recently worked as production assistants on the HBOmax and Discovery+ film "Hi, I'm Nancy Rubin," which chronicled the former BUSD teacher's decades-long project delivering letters written to students' future selves. Working on professional sets provides students with skills to advance in the media industry.



Berkeley High School's Robotics team Berkeliium placed impressively at several competitions this year, including a 7th place Alliance finish at the World Championships in Houston TX, competing against 650 other teams. At robotics competitions, teams advance by creating alliances that leverage strengths and mitigate challenges. Earlier in the competition season, Berkeliium took third place at the Canadian Pacific Regional Robotics Competition in Victoria, Canada.



## Dear Berkeley resident,

The 2022-2023 school year marked a renewed focus across the district on Berkeley Unified's mission to enable and inspire our diverse student body to achieve academic excellence and make positive contributions to our world. This mission, as well as our 4Es — our promise of Excellence, Equity, Enrichment, and Engagement for every student — require that we create school communities and classrooms that are welcoming, humanizing, inclusive, and safe for each and every student — places of learning where our babies can excel.

We are fortunate, through community support of our Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP), to provide many essentials for excellence in our schools, including small class sizes and support for teaching, school libraries, student support, music, visual and performing arts, and school site-based programs. So much of what we can accomplish is supported through your investment in our students and schools.

I invite you to see BUSD's promises in action this school year by reading the following pages where you can view a few classrooms and learn about programs that support our students. I hope you will also join BUSD staff and leaders on Wednesday, May 31 for "A Year in Review," a community event that will highlight program achievements this school year and also offer a glimpse of the many good things to come in 2023-2024.

In community,

Enikia Ford Morthel, Superintendent

JOIN SUPERINTENDENT  
ENIKIA FORD MORTHEL  
FOR

## A Year In Review

MAY 31

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

BUSD BOARDROOM  
1231 ADDISON STREET

Streaming live on the  
BUSD YouTube channel



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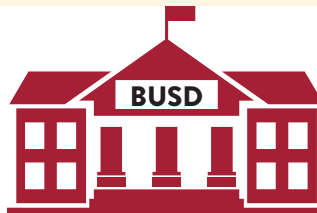
PRE  
SCHOOLS

11

ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOLS

3

MIDDLE  
SCHOOLS



2

HIGH  
SCHOOLS

1

INDEPENDENT  
STUDY PROGRAM

1

ADULT  
SCHOOL

INCLUDING 2 CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS



# 2022-23 Facilities Highlights

Four general obligation bonds, thanks to the generous support of the Berkeley Residents at the polls—Measure A (1992), Measure AA (2000), Measure I (2010), and Measure G (2020)—have brought to life new educational spaces and allowed for programmatic excellence in our schools.

## Celebrating Completion



### Facilities Projects Breaking Ground Soon

- **Berkeley Technology Academy:** Addition of CTE space, security features upgrades, and an outdoor shade structure.
- **Longfellow Middle School:** Modernization.
- **Sylvia Mendez Elementary School:** Modernization.
- **Workforce Housing Development:** Project to be located in the Berkeley Adult School front parking lot.

### Berkeley Community Theater Classroom Wing

The recently completed classroom wing of the Berkeley Community Theatre boasts beautiful new practice spaces and facilities with state-of-the-art equipment where students engage in a variety of classes, including Hip Hop Studies, Film, Drama Arts & Acting Workshop, Concert Orchestra, and Jazz Ensemble. This is only the first phase of an extensive renovation project. The Little Theatre and the large theater are also scheduled to be modernized.

### Growing Leaders Program Classroom

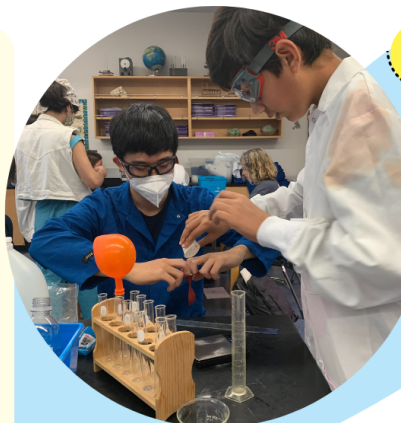
Connected to the CTE Public Health Pathway, the Growing Leaders class at Willard Middle School is designed to teach entrepreneurial skills through a culinary concentration, including growing and harvesting BUSD garden produce. It is part of the CTE Public Health Pathway.



## Career Technical Education — Pathways to College and Careers

Career Technical Education (CTE) is a set of uniquely designed courses that make school relevant and engaging by bringing the outside world into the classroom, now beginning as early as sixth grade.

This year, high school students were able to participate in courses such as Digital Sound Engineering, Robotics Engineering, Design and Fabrication Studio, Law and Social Justice, Advanced Video Production, Public Health, and Emergency Medical Care.



### Be A Scientist

*Diversifying the STEM Career Pipeline Initiative*

"Be a Scientist" at the middle school level gives 7th graders the chance to explore the scientific method through engaging experiments. Students can later apply the skills they learned in High School CTE pathways such as the Biotechnology Academy or the Design and Fabrication Studio.

This early exposure prioritizes underrepresented student groups in STEM, preparing them for success in the rapidly expanding STEM CTE Pathways at Berkeley High School.



### Digital Sound Engineering

*A Closer Look*

In Digital Sound Engineering at Berkeley High School, students learn industry standard MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) concepts. Topics include keyboard programming, sound modules, and more.



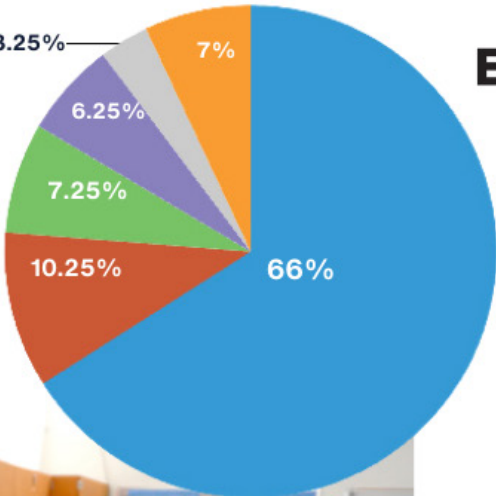


# Community support funds student futures

## BSEP Supports

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Small class sizes across grade levels is one critical way Berkeley Unified differs from other Bay Area school districts. With smaller classes, teachers are able to better respond to individual student needs and provide more direct attention.



## BSEP ★ Excellence!

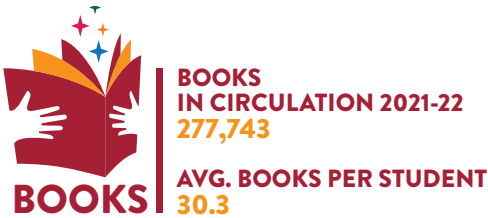
Thanks to you, BSEP provided \$35 million in funding for :



See BSEP in action

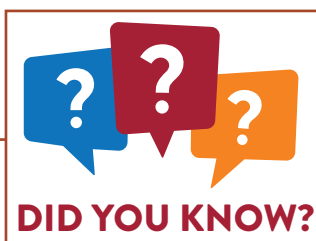
- Small Class Sizes, Classroom Support, Expanded Course Offerings, Professional Development, and Program Evaluation
- Additional School Site-Based Programs
- School Libraries
- Music and Visual and Performing Arts
- Instructional Technology
- Counseling, Behavioral Health, and Student Achievement Strategies

In the 2022-2023 school year, BSEP provided about 17% of Berkeley Unified's budget.





\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*  
Residential Customer



## Berkeley Unified Offers Lifetime Learning



BUSD welcomes and educates students as young as age two and never stops. Preschool programs nurture physical, cognitive, social and emotional development, and build kindergarten readiness skills in young children. Students at Berkeley Adult School engage in GED programs, learn world languages, and acquire skills like financial planning and much more.

## BUSD Students are Climate Scholars

Across the district, educators are implementing BUSD's 2021 Climate Literacy Resolution, which commits to graduating students who are well versed in climate change science, issues and solutions, and environmental justice as a civil rights issue. During the 2022-23 school year, elementary students learned about the harms of fossil fuels, middle school students hosted the district's first Earth Day Climate Fair, and high school students hosted a Climate Showcase.



## African American Success Framework Supports Students Grades K-12

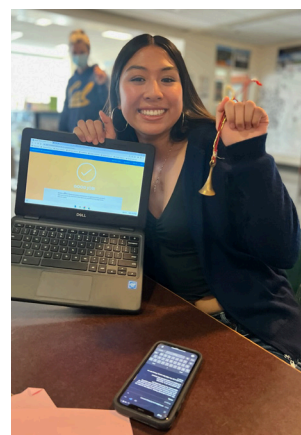
BUSD's AASF provides a comprehensive collection of programs designed to confront and remedy issues in the district related to serving African American students. Programs include:

Black to School, middle and high school transition fairs, College Bound, Young Gifted and Black, summer STEM Steps for Success, field trips, Umoja, and more.



## AVID and Bridge Prepare Latinx Students for College

Longfellow Middle Schools' AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program serves students traditionally underrepresented in our universities, arranging college visits and providing specific instruction around note-taking, higher level thinking, and public speaking. At Berkeley High School's Bridge program, 100% of the Class of 2023 are expected to attend college in the fall.



**Berkeley Board of Education:** [www.berkeleyschools.net/school-board](http://www.berkeleyschools.net/school-board)

Laura Babitt, Ana Vasudeo, Ka'Dijah Brown, Mike Chang, Jennifer Shanowski, and Student Directors Ian Segall and Teairra Brown.

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