

# Berkeley Public Schools

COMMUNITY REPORT from Berkeley Unified School District | Berkeley, CA

2018-2019



Students at work in the Multicraft Carpentry & Design Build Studio that opened in September 2018 at Berkeley High School.

## Students Seek Hands-on Learning

New facilities and a talented team of faculty and staff are proving to be a winning combination for increasing student engagement and work-based learning opportunities in robotics and mechatronics, as well as carpentry, stagecraft, and computer-aided design. More than 850 Berkeley High School students are now enrolled in Career Technical Education (CTE), a set of uniquely designed courses in career pathways that make school relevant and engaging by bringing the outside world into the classroom and taking students out into the world.

CTE classes include such areas of study and hands-on learning as Robotics Engineering, Design and Fabrication Studio, Law and Social Justice, Advanced Video Production, Public Health, and Emergency Medical Care.

Teachers draw upon their own specialized career experience and often recruit professionals active in their fields to teach, mentor and share their career paths with students. Students venture out into the community and workplaces for experiential learning opportunities such as field trips, research projects, shadowing, and internships. During designated internship time, students join ride alongs with Berkeley Fire, do rounds

— Continued inside

## QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

### Dear Berkeley Resident,

The 2018-19 school year marks 50 years since Berkeley committed to the racial integration of our K-12 public schools. While this was an important step, we know that a diverse school in and of itself will not yield equal access and opportunities for all students.

Today the work to ensure excellent and equitable educational outcomes for all students continues with urgency. We see positive signs in our efforts to build strong school communities where students are welcomed and engaged. The rates of chronic absenteeism and school suspensions have dropped, and a survey of Berkeley High School students suggests that more students have strong relationships with adults on campus.

As you will read inside this report, we are seeing improvements in student achievement and a closing of achievement and opportunity gaps on some measures. There remains much work to do to ensure that all our students are successful.

The goals set out in our Local Control and Accountability Plan are designed to provide a quality education for all students while focusing our resources to accelerate learning for the students who need the most support. Some key initiatives include:

- New English Language Arts curriculum materials to ensure a comprehensive literacy program;
- Professional development to strengthen the teaching of special education students;
- Expanded teacher use of and student access to technology;
- More opportunities for structured physical education in our elementary schools;
- A Universal 9th Grade program designed to welcome and support students in the transition to Berkeley High School; and
- New learning spaces and classes that allow for hands-on learning.

As we pursue *Berkeley's 2020 Vision: Equity in Education*, we have built a collaborative team with the City of Berkeley, U.C. Berkeley, Berkeley City College, and other community organizations. We are aligning our actions and resources to harness the power of our collective impact to eliminate racial disparities in academic achievement.

I am thankful to be a part of Berkeley's caring and giving community. Your ongoing support makes it possible for us to strive for an excellent, equitable, engaging, and enriching education for every child.

Sincerely,  
Donald Evans, Ed.D., Superintendent



# School Data Report Card

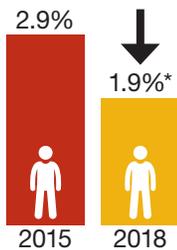
Each year we look to a series of indicators to monitor how our improvement efforts are bringing about positive changes in students' lives. We look at measures that reflect school climate and student engagement, such as attendance, discipline, and student surveys as well as indicators of academic progress and college and career readiness. The data below provides a snapshot of how we are doing on key indicators of student success.

With the release of the California School Dashboard online, a more complete picture is now easily accessible to the public. Look us up at: [CASchooldashboard.org](http://CASchooldashboard.org)

## School Climate and Engagement Indicators

### Suspension Rate:

percentage of students suspended at least once



\*CA suspension rate, 2018: 3.5%

### Chronic Absenteeism Rate:

percentage of students (all grades) who missed more than 10% of instructional days

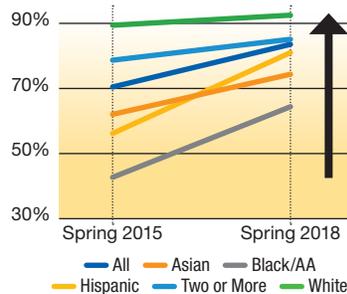


\*CA chronic absenteeism rate, 2018: 11.1%

## Academic Indicators

### Third Grade Reading Proficiency:

as measured with the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project assessment



### California State Test — Smarter Balanced Assessments 2018:

performance of all students tested in grades 3-8 & 11, Spring 2018

Percent of students tested meeting grade level proficiency and above

	BUSD	CA
Math	60%	39%
English Language Arts	66%	50%

### Graduation Rate:



## Money Matters

Most money for public education in California comes from a state budget funded through income, property, and capital gains taxes.

California is among the lowest states in per-pupil funding in the nation. A per-pupil formula is used to set the amount distributed annually to each school district. Additional funds are allocated to each school district in proportion to the number of high-need students (low income, English learners and foster youth).

The continued low level of state funding for public education is at the root of what a report by West Ed referred to as “a silent recession” affecting school districts. The state currently provides annual increases which do not match the growing cost of healthcare and increased pension liabilities mandated by the state, nor do they provide adequate resources to address staff salaries and program needs.

For a second year in a row, the Berkeley Unified School District is facing difficult decisions about program priorities, restructuring and reductions in order to achieve a sustainable budget.

### How We Spend General Fund Money

2017-18: \$153.6 Million in General Fund\* Monies

\*The General Fund includes both unrestricted and restricted state funds and some local and federal monies. Other District Funds not part of the General Fund include revenue and expenditures for facilities, early childhood education, nutritional services, other capital items, and the special reserve maintained by the district.

(DOLLARS IN MILLIONS)

Employee Salaries: \$87.9 / 57%

Employee Benefits: \$31.6 / 21%

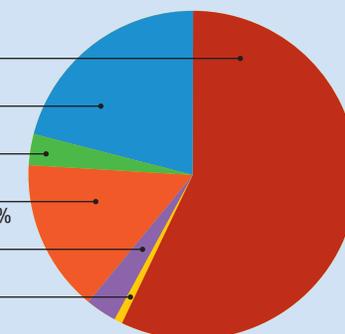
Books & Supplies: \$4.4 / 3%

Services & Operating Expenses: \$23.8 / 15%

Transfer to Other Funds: \$4.9 / 3%

Capital Outlay: \$1 / 1%

Total: \$153.6



## BSEP

Berkeley taxpayers have recognized the value of investing in public education and have provided significant funding through the Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP) since 1986.

**BSEP was renewed with 89% of the support of Berkeley voters as Measure E1 in 2016.**

BSEP allows Berkeley schools to maintain smaller class sizes, provide libraries in every school, support struggling students, offer music and technology, and meet other key needs. With BSEP and other local funds, per-pupil support in Berkeley approaches the national average, although still not within range of the states which prioritize public funding for education.

## Hands-on Learning — Continued from front page

with doctors and nurses at Children's Hospital in Oakland, or work on stage sets, geoenvironmental studies at EBMUD, public policy committees, and more.

Students often report that these classes help them develop their passions and find motivation for deep inquiry. They also develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills, and work collaboratively in racially integrated and gender-diverse groups that set students up with the experiences they need to succeed in life, college, and career.

## Experiential Pathways to College and Career

Berkeley Unified is seeking new state grant funding through the Strong Workforce program to expand programs and community college collaboration to build out career pathways.

### **BUSD Pathway Offerings**

- Health Science & Medical Technology
- Information Technology
- Public Service
- Building Trades & Construction
- Arts, Media, Entertainment
- Engineering & Architecture

Students flock to these vibrant, collaborative, and hands-on experiences that create a balance between foundational learning and plenty of imaginative and contextualized doing.



BHS student Eryn Taylor (far right) took first prize in the Biotech Partners Career Fair for her poster on her work at EBMUD in geological engineering.

## Students Explore Public Health

In a new course offered as part of the BHS Academy of Medicine and Public Service (AMPS), students develop broad knowledge and experience in public health through a close focus on food, diet-related disease, and local measures to curtail health inequities. Students explore careers in public health advocacy and policy, as well as careers in food and education that support public health and wellness. To engage in work-based learning, students have opportunities in organizations, including the Ecology Center, City of Berkeley Public Health, the Edible Schoolyard, BUSD Nutrition Services, BUSD Cooking and Gardening Wellness Policy Committee, and Berkeley Food Network. Grant funding for the BUSD Gardening and Cooking Program from *Healthy Berkeley* is helping to make all this possible.

BHS teacher Nick Lee (below, left) talks about careers in public health and students work together to build a perfect greens and grain bowl.



## Update: School Facility Bond Investments

Three general obligation bonds — Measure A (1992), Measure AA (2000), and Measure I (2010) — have provided the Berkeley Unified School District with a unique opportunity to carefully develop school facilities and plan for the future. Measure I is a Prop. 39 bond with a Citizens' Oversight Committee to monitor and report on bond proceeds and expenditures, and review and report on remaining Measure AA funds.

### **Projects Completed Summer/Fall 2018**

- BHS Multicraft Carpentry & Design Build Studio (photo on front page)
- Berkeley High School Football & Soccer Field
- King Middle School Tennis Courts



### **Upcoming Facilities Projects Funded by Measure I of 2010**

**West Campus Classroom Building and Gymnasium Space at West Campus, 1222 University Ave.**  
Spring 2019

- Strategic modernization to include accessibility and safety systems;
- Renovation of locker room space in the old Main Gym to house the BUSD Visual and Performing Arts Program.

**Cafeteria Upgrades at Three Elementary Schools:**  
Cragmont, John Muir, Washington  
Summer 2019 – Spring 2020

**'A' Building/Theaters at Berkeley High School,**  
1980 Allston Way

- Renovation to the music and performing arts classrooms in the 'A' Building;
- Seismic upgrade that includes the Community Theater and the Florence Schwimley Little Theater.

**More at:** [www.berkeleyschools.net/current-facilities-projects](http://www.berkeleyschools.net/current-facilities-projects)

### **About the School Maintenance Tax**

The facilities maintenance tax, Measure H, was passed in 2010 and could be up for renewal in 2020. This measure generates \$6 million annually to pay for the maintenance and upkeep on the district's 22 schools and properties.



\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSSEDDM\*\*\*\*

Residential Customer

**STAY CONNECTED: Subscribe to the twice monthly A+ eNews and RSS feed at [www.berkeleyschools.net](http://www.berkeleyschools.net)**

## 50th Anniversary of BUSD's Pioneering Busing Plan for Integration

This year marks the anniversary of an historic watershed for the Berkeley Unified School District and for racial equity in education nationwide. It was 50 years ago, in 1968, that Berkeley made headlines for its pioneering busing plan to fully integrate the city's public schools.

Although some other school districts had fostered integration efforts to varying degrees before 1968, particularly after the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision in 1954, Berkeley was recognized as the first sizeable city with a substantial proportion of black students to voluntarily integrate all schools with two-way busing, which meant not only busing kids to what had been predominantly white schools in the hills but also busing kids to what had been predominantly black schools in the flats.

It was "the boldest desegregation plan yet devised in a city exceeding 100,000



*50 Years Ago in Berkeley Schools: These are two of the photos that were included in a report to city residents on the first year of elementary integration.*

population," according to a 1968 study by UC Riverside and the Riverside Unified School District.

A more detailed chronological report, with information on how the plan has evolved over 50 years is on the district webpage: [berkeleyschools.org/integration](http://berkeleyschools.org/integration)

### 50 Years Strong

**2018-19 also marks "50 Years Strong" for African American Studies at Berkeley High School.**

### Onward & Upward: Superintendent Speaker Series

You are invited to join the Superintendent's Speaker Series as we mark the 50th anniversary of Berkeley's commitment to integrated schools and the ongoing work for equity and excellence in public education.

- January 31 at 7pm: **Dr. Jabari Mahiri**, UC Berkeley Professor of Education, "*Multicultural Education Beyond the Color-Bind*" at Longfellow Middle School, 1500 Derby St.
- March 5, 4:30pm: **Richard Rothstein**, Author of *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* in the Florence Schwimley Little Theater, 1980 Allston Way

More here: [berkeleyschools.net/speaker-series/](http://berkeleyschools.net/speaker-series/)

**Berkeley Board of Education: <https://www.berkeleyschools.net/schoolboard/>**

Ty Alper, Judy Appel, Ka'Dijah Brown, Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Julie Sinai, and Student Directors Oneida Abrams, Arvin Hariri