

Superintendent Report

Interim Superintendent, Dr. Denise Saddler
May 27, 2026



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Our Vision

All OUSD students will find joy in their academic experience while graduating with the skills to ensure they are caring, competent, fully-informed, critical thinkers who are prepared for college, career, and community success.

Our Mission

Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) will build a Full Service Community District focused on high academic achievement while serving the whole child, eliminating inequity, and providing each child with excellent teachers, every day.



Superintendent Report Overview

School Highlights
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School Highlights

Annual STEM Fair is Bigger & More Successful than in Years Past

The Annual OUSD STEM Fair on May 6 was much larger this year thanks in part to a bigger venue at the Oakland Coliseum. Hundreds of students, families, educators, and STEM professionals attended to view student-created science and engineering projects from elementary through high school. Visitors moved through the exhibits as students explained their research and design processes. Projects explored such topics as comparing bacteria in dog and human mouths, how music affects plant growth, and which insulation materials are best at conserving heat.

The Fair also drew many school principals, teachers, and district leaders. I was there and inspired by the students' creativity, ingenuity, and wide ranging explorations in scientific topics across all grade levels. The projects gave me confidence in the future of science and celebrated the efforts of students, staff, and families. We thank the Oakland Roots and Soul for hosting us!



Oakland Schools Celebrate AAPI Heritage Month with Read-In

In celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, District partner, the Oakland Public Education Fund hosted its annual AAPI Literature Read-In at 15 elementary schools during the week of May 4.

About 100 volunteers from organizations such as the Oakland Literacy Coalition, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, Blue Shield, and Lyft visited the schools to read books written by and about Asian and Pacific Islanders to students. They visited schools including Bella Vista, MLK Elementary, and the two Manzanita schools.

As the Ed Fund says, the Read-Ins are 90-minute experiences where volunteer readers read aloud and discuss culturally relevant books, which are donated by the Ed Fund. We thank the Ed Fund for supporting our schools with these Read-Ins!



Oakland Lacrosse Hosts OAL Championships and Unveils New Scholarships with Heartbreaking Beginning

On Saturday, May 16, the Oakland Lacrosse Club hosted the annual Oakland Athletic League Championships, which were won by both the Oakland Tech boys and girls teams, and the Edna Brewer boys and girls teams at the middle school level.

During the high school boys championship trophy ceremony, the OLC announced the first winners of the “Purple One Scholarships,” which were funded by the families and friends of Soren Dixon and Jack Nelson, two former Piedmont High lacrosse players who died in a car crash in 2024. They gave the OLC \$130,000 to fund the scholarships and help expand boys lacrosse across OUSD.

The first two recipients of the \$2500 scholarships were Jeremiah Voeun, a recent graduate of Dewey Academy (middle left next to the parents of Jack Nelson) and Cesar Carmona-Felipe, a recent graduate of Oakland Tech (next to the parents of Soren Dixon). We send our thanks and deepest condolences to the Nelson and Dixon families.



Golden State Community Foundation Celebrates Educators

Here during Educator Appreciation Month, the Golden State Community Foundation visited Highland Community School on May 6 to bring lunch to the staff. They delivered a Mexican food feast, and facilitated a surprise visit from Warriors legend, Festus Ezeli.

The former Warriors center talked about the importance of the work of education, and gave the staff some trivia questions. The staff members who answered the questions correctly won signed jerseys, one from the Warriors' Draymond Green and one from the Valkyries' Kayla Thornton. Principal Samantha Keller also received a jersey personalized for the school.

We thank the Golden State Community Foundation for helping us celebrate our dedicated educators!



Oakland Education Summit was Inspiring Success

The Oakland Ed Fund hosted the Oakland Education Summit on May 19, and I was honored to take part in a panel discussion with Sofia Navarro, Oakland's Deputy City Administrator and Dr. Ingrid Roberson from the California Department of Education.

I touted the wonderful things happening across the District, including that we have been a Full Service Community School District for more than 15 years viewing the city and community as the classroom, where partnerships are not just nice-to-have, but must-have for providing a high quality education for all of Oakland's children.

The room was filled with district partners beyond the Ed Fund such as Salesforce and Comcast, and two former Superintendents, Gary Yee and Kyla Johnson-Trammell.

There were also discussions about next generation STEM and Educator Support and Retention.





Honor Roll Updates

Celebrating our 6,287 6th-12th Grade Students from our Targeted Populations, with GPA's of 3.0 and Above

	2025-26	2024-25
25th Oscar Wright Annual Celebration of African American Excellence, May 11, 2026	2,003 students	1,929 students
8th Annual Arab American Student Honor Roll Celebration, May 2, 2026	303 students	289 students
8th Annual Pacific Islander Student Honor Roll Celebration, April 29, 2026	125 students	127 students
26th Annual Latino Student Honor Roll Celebration, March 28, 2026	3,857* students	4,326* students

**Latino Honor Roll data reflects Cumulative GPAs, not semester grades. All other honor roll data reflects semester GPAs And, Latino student enrollment has declined, since October 2024, by -469 students.*



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