

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Dr. Denise Saddler
August 12, 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





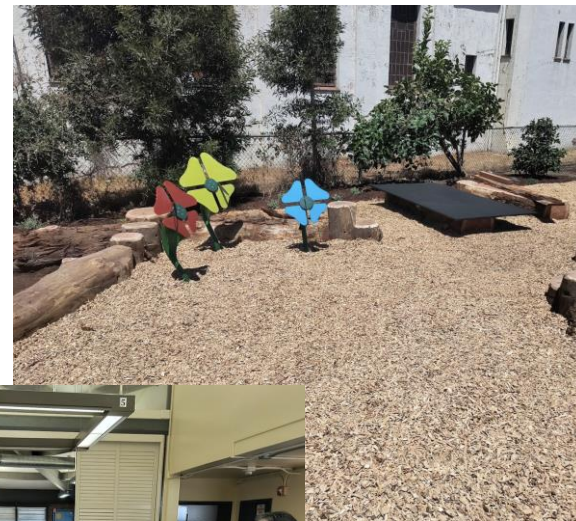
School Highlights

Big Changes Come to Two Child Development Centers

Martin Luther King, Jr. Child Development Center started the year with a new outdoor playspace for students, and Jefferson CDC now has a new name.

In July, KABOOM!, Zbar Brand, and dozens of volunteers finished a new outdoor nature play space at Martin Luther King, Jr. Child Development Center. It's a beautiful space with lots of areas for preschoolers to play, learn, and grow. Executive Director of Early Learning, Jessica Cannon, said she could not wait for the 3 and 4 years olds to try out the space.

Also in July, the leadership and staff at Jefferson CDC held a special get together to officially announce the renaming of the facility. Following the Board's vote last school year to change the name, the school is now called Global Family Preschool. For the celebration, the school welcomed alumni - including a college professor and a senior at Fremont High, along with City Councilmember Noel Gallo.



U.S. Soccer to Expand “Soccer At Schools” Programming Across Oakland

Timed to the World Cup, Oakland Unified School District and U.S. Soccer, through the Soccer Forward Foundation, have announced the expansion of its Soccer at Schools initiative across the District, which will bring district-wide educator training to schools across Oakland starting this school year, aiming to reach all elementary teachers and impact students at every elementary school.

The initiative will equip educators with the tools, resources, and confidence to introduce and implement soccer into the school day, creating more opportunities for students to experience the game while strengthening connections between schools and community-based soccer programming.



Celebrating Class of 2026 Academic Recovery Summer School Graduates

About 60 high school students took a bit of extra time in class to reach graduation, and they did so as part of Academic Recovery Summer School. In July, they walked the stage to receive their diplomas. These students had to complete one or more extra classes to graduate.

“Knowing that I have a lot to lose helped me overcome that challenge. I know that I should have done it in the first place, but I just had personal things going on, and I just didn’t feel motivation,” said Gerald T., a new Oakland High grad. “I knew I had to graduate for my people. That’s when the motivation kicked in... It feels great... I get to go out into the real world and experience life now that I’m done.”

Student after student talked about heading to college or going into the trades as the next step they’re excited to



OUSD Finishes as One of Best in State for Financial Aid Applications

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) has announced the winners of the annual statewide “Race to Submit” competition for the 2026-27 financial aid year, celebrating the incredible efforts of public high schools and school districts across California to expand access to higher education.

Oakland Unified finished third on the list after extraordinary work by our High School Network.

The districts that improved the most are:

1. Los Angeles Unified
2. San Diego Unified
3. Oakland Unified
4. Kern High School District
5. San Francisco Unified



Sutter Health Announces \$500,000 Grant for OUSD Linked Learning

With a big boost from Sutter Health, the District is now helping current students and new graduates prepare themselves for the complex job market that lies ahead. A new half million dollar Sutter Health investment will significantly strengthen healthcare workforce development efforts supporting OUSD students and graduates. The funding will target a critical need to expand access to career pathways in healthcare while addressing workforce needs in the Bay Area.

The investment goes to our Linked Learning Pathways to create HealthLink, a program focused on building pathways into healthcare careers through paid internships, hands-on experiences, and career training programs. This announcement came as the summer training of students and graduates picked up steam. In June, students engaged in this kind of hands-on learning about the world of emergency medical technicians, phlebotomists, ER technicians, and others at Life Academy.





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