



# District Newsletter

*from Superintendent Stephen Wehr*

JANUARY 2017 | EL DORADO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT (EDUHSD)

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members:

It is amazing that we are entering the second semester of the 2016/17 school year, as it seems like only yesterday that we were welcoming students and their families to the new school year.

I want to thank everyone for working to help realize our overarching vision of improving the performance of all our students while closing the achievement gap for our economically disadvantaged students, individuals with exceptional needs, English learners, and foster youth. Our **“Strategic Planning Goals”** and **“Actions toward progress”** outline the strategies and resources necessary to meet this commitment.

One of our key indicators in closing the achievement gap is to look at the percentages of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students meeting or exceeding the standards on the State English Language Arts Exam and State Mathematics Exam:

**State English Language Arts Exam:**

EDUHSD – 80%

Statewide – 59%

**State Mathematics Exam:**

EDUHSD – 58%

Statewide – 33%

The students that have met and exceeded the proficiency requirements now also satisfy course placement requirements at UC, CSU and community colleges. These students will not have to take placement exams at these institutions and can enroll directly in college-level courses. I want to thank each and every one of you for providing the highest quality education

and inspiring greater academic achievement by our students.

The **EDUHSD Regional College Fair** was a huge success in 2016. Hundreds of students and family members attended to visit dozens of college booths. Students from outside EDUHSD also attended, including Golden Sierra High School, as the event was open to all students in the County. I would like to thank the college representatives that took the time to meet with students and provide them with the tools to make informed decisions. I would also like to thank the high schools for participating and giving students access to valuable resources.

The 2017 **EDUHSD Career Expo** will be held at Union Mine High School on Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The Career Expo is designed for students to connect with community members, to find resume-building opportunities and to gather information to help them in making decisions about their future. This large and highly interactive event will have all types of careers represented, as well as local volunteer opportunities and local employers with job openings for seasonal employees and graduating seniors. Many careers will be represented. Students in grades 6 through 12 and the community are invited to attend. I hope to see you all there.

Now through the end of the 2018 school year, our district will continue utilizing funding from the **“Educator Effectiveness Grant”** to directly support innovation and the use of research based instructional strategies for our teachers and administrators.

At the outset of the school year, EDUHSD hosted its second annual Technology Symposium, “*Personalizing Learning*,” where over 200 district educators attended. The symposium was designed to assist educators in using software, devices, and communication tools to improve student engagement and achievement. Participants also learned about growth mindset research and why it is critical to student motivation and success.

In addition, the district has offered other professional development opportunities at our schools for our teachers and administrators such as “Google Classroom Novice Training” and “Exploration Technology Sessions.”

As I walk our schools and talk with students and staff, it is rewarding to see the impact of our professional development efforts on student learning.



It is evident that great teaching can change a student’s life. There are an endless amount of stories that attest to this statement. And it is not always easy to change a student’s life, which is why it takes a great teacher to do so. A great teacher tries to be an inspiration to their students; motivating them to reach new goals. But have you ever thought about this scenario in the reverse

order? How are teachers being inspired by their students? What makes them eager to go to work every day?

I am excited to introduce you to a new video series called “Students Inspiring Teachers” which will debut this year. The series focuses on numerous teachers from different schools throughout the EDUHSD who have been inspired by their students. Click “play” below for a sneak peek:



Thank you for the passion and conviction you bring to our learning community. EDUHSD is dedicated to providing the highest quality teaching and learning environment for our students and this is being done every day through the collective efforts of our teachers, staff, students, families, and our community.

Wishing you a wonderful second semester !

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephen Wehr.

Stephen Wehr, Superintendent