

Office of the Superintendent

**Friday Memo
October 18, 2019**

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy

Office of the Superintendent

The

FINAL REPORT

32

Informational

9/01/2004

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Volume 17

The California State Board of Education

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The Board of Education is pleased to present this report to the public. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the Board's activities and the progress of the Statewide Strategic Plan. The Board is committed to ensuring that all students receive a high-quality education and that the state's education system is prepared for the challenges of the 21st century.

The Board's primary focus is on improving student achievement and ensuring that all students have access to a high-quality education. The Board is committed to working with the state's educators, parents, and the public to create a system that is responsive to the needs of all students.

The Board is also committed to ensuring that the state's education system is prepared for the challenges of the 21st century. This includes investing in technology, providing professional development for educators, and ensuring that the state's education system is able to meet the needs of a diverse and global workforce.

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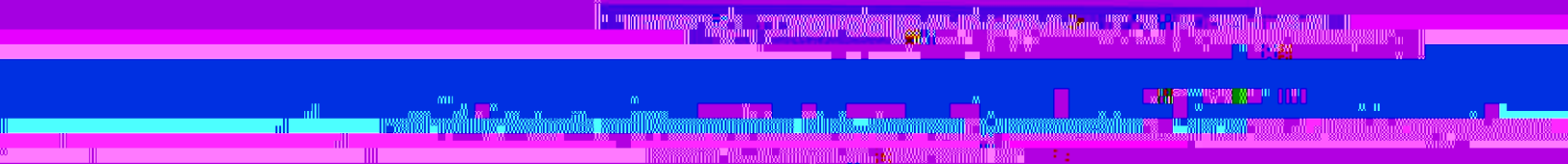
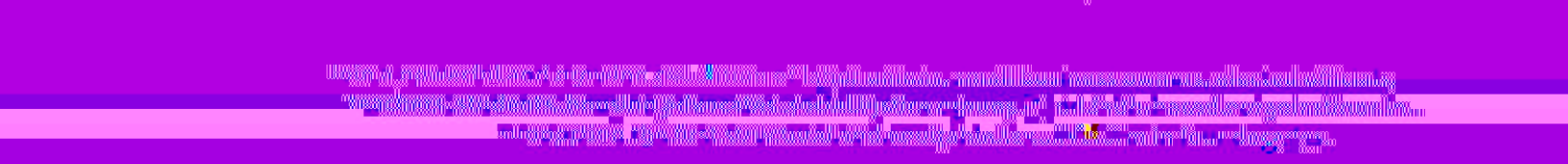
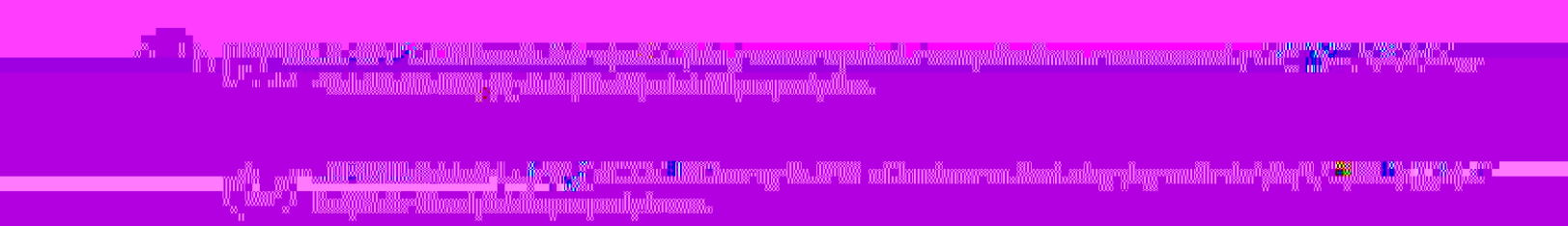
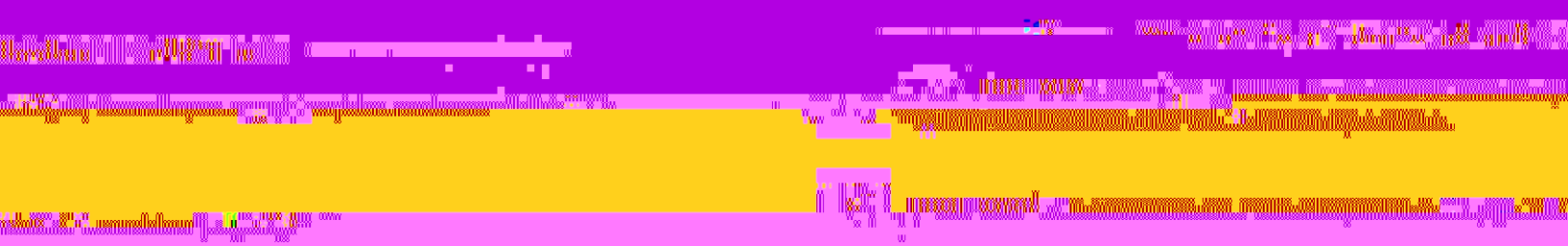
- Workforce preparation
- School safety
- Recruitment and retention of teachers and school leaders
- Pre-kindergarten
- Computer science education

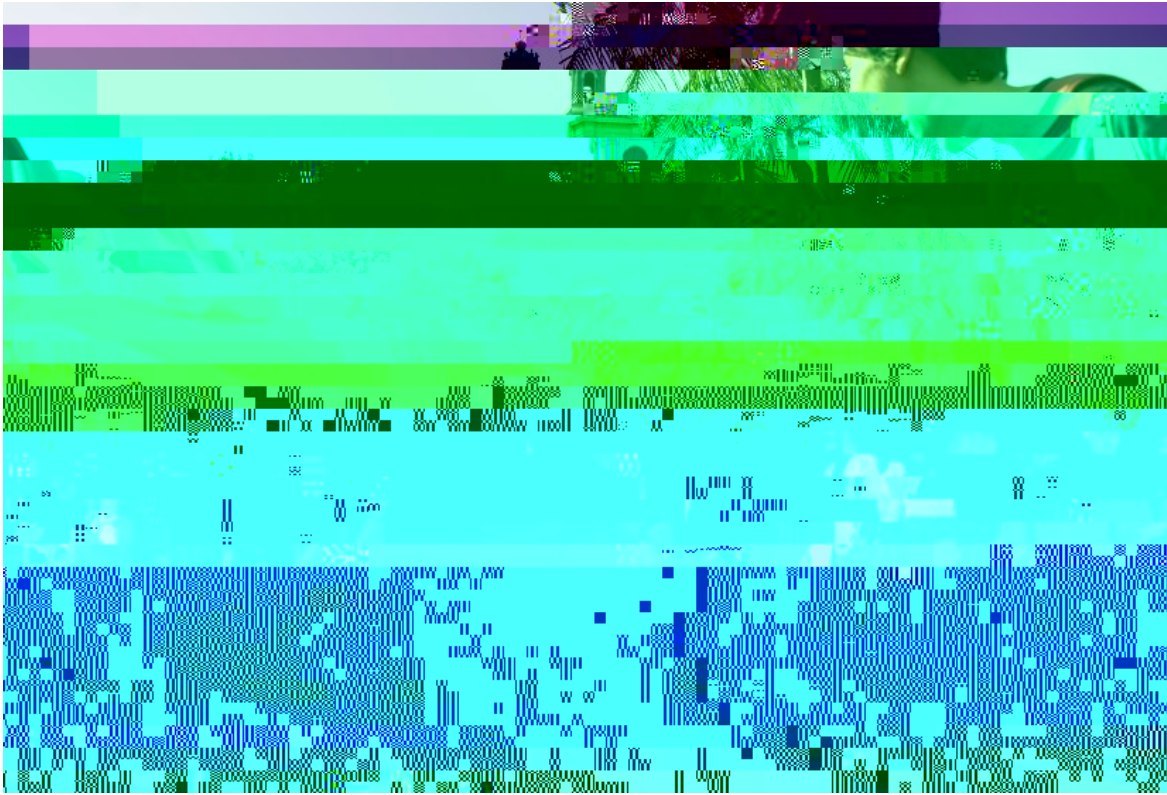
50% of the state's students are now receiving a high-quality education.

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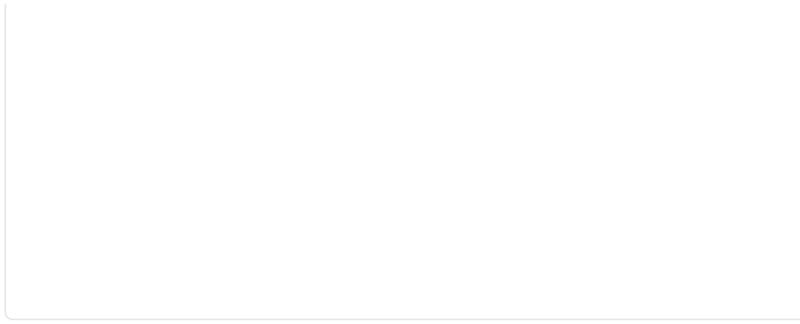
SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST





Students exit Hamilton High School in Los Angeles on Monday. California is the first state in the nation to mandate later start times at most middle and high schools. (Kent Nishimura/Los Angeles Times)

By HOWARD BL



He added that Long Beach parents opposed later starts in every school when the idea was considered seven years ago. In Long Beach, most middle schools begin at 9 a.m. Most high schools, however, start at 7:50 a.m.

One consideration is managing the transportation of students with disabilities. "We only have so many buses," he said.

Los Angeles Unified, the state's largest school system, has run a pilot project on later start times at four middle schools, which start at 8:30 a.m. or 8:45 a.m. Most district secondary schools start at about 8 a.m.

One of them is Johnson STEM Academy in Westchester, where 12-year-old Morgan Scivoletto, a sixth-grader, likes the change.

Just months ago, as a fifth-grader at another school, Morgan was in bed by 8 p.m. and up at 6:50 a.m. He was often moody in the morning and tired at school, where concentrating was hard, according to both Morgan and his mother, Claire Scivoletto.

Now he gets the same amount of sleep but wakes up later — in bed by 9 p.m. and up at 7:50 a.m. That shift has made a huge difference, they said.

"When I used to wake up, I was always tired for some reason, and now I feel really great in the morning," Morgan said after school Monday.

Still, two years of data show no conclusive benefits on student achievement, attendance, enrollment or suspensions, said Alison Yoshimoto-Towery, the district's interim chief instructional officer.

At Hamilton High School in Palms, where many students rise especially early and arrive by bus, reaction was mixed to later start times.

One 13-year-old said it was exhausting to wake up at 5 a.m. every day to catch the bus from the Crenshaw area. With a later start, "I'd probably get better grades because I wouldn't be so drowsy," he said.

Another freshman said she'd need an extra hour to get enough sleep to make a difference.

Jesus Navarrete, 17, lives in Koreatown and his mom drops him off. Most days, he said, "I barely get here on time." Three tardies equal an absence, and as a senior, he's allowed only seven absences: "You can see how it adds up."

Navarrete usually goes to bed around midnight and wakes up at 6, when he just has time to brush his teeth, get dressed and finish schoolwork.

Some students said a later start wouldn't change much because their parents would still drop them off early to get to their work.

Stephanie Ayala, 16, said she wouldn't want to start later because of afternoon activities, such as her community service at a local hospital.

L.A. school board President Richard Vladovic said the change would pose "logistical concerns in terms of after-school athletics, but it may have merit."

School board member Monica Garcia said she was concerned about new costs that would not be picked up by the state.

Veteran administrator Sharon Robinson, chief of staff for board member George McKenna, challenged whether the research fully took into account the role that technology played in sleep deprivation, "students being on their devices all night, playing games, texting, etc."

District schools already have had flexibility over schedules as long as students receive the legally required instructional time.

At Social Justice Humanitas Academy in the San Fernando Valley, school starts at 8:30 a.m. Not only that, but the first period of the day also has an extra 15 minutes built in for students to eat breakfast or talk about the lesson of the day.

"If you get a kid rested and with food in them, the rest of that time can be more effective," Principal Jeff Austin said.

"Getting a kid to school or dealing with how late the day goes, those are all technical fixes," he said, adding that the school opens at 7:15 for parents who need early drop-off. "But you can't change the adolescent brain. ... I can't make a kid be awake at 7:45 a.m."



Atussa Kian and Claire Judson are members of the Los Angeles Times High School Insider team of students who are interested in journalism.

WCCUSD students pitch solutions to societal problems

They proposed modernized lockers equipped with touchscreens that can serve to keep students on schedule and prepared for class. They pitched an educational app that can connect students and guardians to their teachers and school administrators, along with educational resources and opportunities.

One student proposed an outreach program connecting the homeless with skills training through city beautification projects. Another suggested the possibility of a blue-collar training program for underserv

High for an exercise on coming up with viable solutions to problems in their community. They also needed to show how their solution could become a sustainable company or organization.

"They get to pick an issue that bothers them the most, and they present their solutions in front of a panel of professional judges," said Stacey Martin, regional director of JA Northern California.

Over the last several years, Chevron has partnered with Junior Achievement on the program that promotes STEM curricula (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), and prepares local youth to become the leaders of the future.

Student presentations are met with tough questions from professional judges, which this year included Anita Gardyne, CEO of On va; Bret Alexander Sweet, director of the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center; and Don Daves-Rougeaux, vice president, Higher Education and Workforce Engagement for Linked Learning Alliance.

Constructively, they asked tough questions about the technologies students proposed, from functionality to marketability.

"They needed to figure out, how are they going to fund it, who is their target audience, and is it something that will be viable in Contra Costa?..

Students also learn team-building and presentation skills alongside their Chevron mentors, Martin said.

"It's an opportunity to go out of the classroom, work with mentors from a large company in the city of Richmond, and spend several hours working with someone from an industry they might possibly work in one day," Martin said.

Junior Achievement is a springboard for innovators of the future, said Lily Rahnema, community engagement manager for Chevron Richmond.

"We believe youth are the problem-solvers of our future, which is partly why Chevron inver

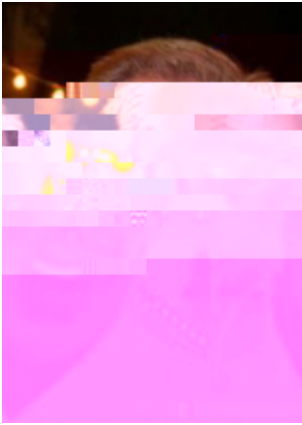
California Teachers Association names new executive director

OCTOBER 17, 2019 | DIANA LAMBERT

This story was updated on Oct. 17, 2019

The California Teachers Association has named Joe Boyd as its new executive director. He replaces Joe Nuñez, who was abruptly terminated by the board of directors in July.

When Boyd begins his new job on Nov. 1, he will be responsible for the day-t day



Prior to that role, Boyd spent 23 years with the CTA as a regional organizer, charter school organizer and executive director of the Teachers Association of Long Beach, according to a press release from the association. He was considered one of the CTA's top troubleshooters, playing a key role in over 25 contract negotiations and 30 state and local camp

Comments

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St. George's Elementary School

St. George's Elementary School

Author: St. George's

St. George's Elementary School

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St. George's Elementary School

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Editor's note: This story is part of an occasional series on the challenges facing St. George's Elementary in the East Bay as it marks on a plan to transform its life by the fall of 2020. Go [here](#) for other stories in this series. Please [share your story](#) about St. George's Elementary with us.

And while some of these reforms have taken place, many of the people who work in the school or have familiarity with the daily operations say not enough is being done to turn the school around.

West Contra Costa Schools Superintendent Matthew Duffy said this school year is more about planning and seeing what is starting to work, or not, for the school.

“It is a very ambitious plan with a pretty tight turnaround,” Duffy said. “We aim to put a lot of resources in place at Stege and really thought of this year as strengthening and stabilizing the school.”

One example of what Ruizuti

**“I am concerned that we do not
have the resources and ability
pull this thing off”**

—Mister Phillips, Scho

and

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But there i

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My advocacy in the process has been about having the stakeholders in the Advisory meetings – those are pre[unf]

Fundraiser launched to meet demand for coding program in local schools

Ubisoft's visit to Kennedy High's Fab Lab last month to introduce and donate its educational video game *RoboRaid*, a dedicated mode of *Assassin's Creed*, has energized efforts to develop future coders and programmers in West Contra Costa.

California mandates later start times for middle and high school students

OCTOBER 13, 2019 | JOHN FENSTERWALD

Gov. Gavin

Senator Anthony Portantino, D-San Fernando, was effusive in praising Newsom for signing a bill that former Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed a yea

So much time and energy has been expended on