

BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



A PLACE for
EVERYONE

2022
REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE



Carl J. Coles
Superintendent

Board of Education

Derek Bahmanou, President
Glenn Creiman, Vice President
Greg Palatto, Clerk
Chuck Coyne, Member
Jim Elliot, Member

OUR PURPOSE

*Prepare every student
to live their purpose*

OUR CORE VALUES

Equity
Mastery
Focus on Results

OUR VISION

*Lead all comprehensive school
districts in the region in academics,
activities, arts and athletics.*



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Superintendent's Message

Dear Bonita Unified Community,

At Bonita Unified School District, we put a strong emphasis on our mission to create safe, challenging and comprehensive learning environments. Our District has had much to celebrate this year, from the successful return to campuses for full-time, in-person learning to receiving statewide recognition for our efforts to bolster student achievement in English Language Arts.

From our top-tier academics to our award-winning athletics, arts and activities, Bonita Unified is a place where everyone can explore their passions, develop their skills and knowledge, and prepare for lifelong success.

We have also introduced new learning opportunities to engage and inspire students, as well as additional means of support and intervention to address achievement gaps and mitigate learning loss.

These successes were made possible by the dedication of our extraordinary employees, who have navigated this school year as a team, supporting one another and remaining united in our goal to prepare students to live their purpose.

By adhering to our core values of equity, mastery and a focus on results, our schools and students will continue to achieve the high standard of success for which Bonita Unified is known.

On behalf of the Board of Education, thank you for your continued support of Bonita Unified School District. Together, we will ensure that our District remains a place where everyone can learn, grow and thrive for years to come.

Carl J. Coles
Superintendent



Universal Transitional Kindergarten to Launch in 2022-23

Bonita Unified School District will begin to roll out its universal transitional kindergarten program in the 2022-23 school year, providing four-year-old students with developmentally appropriate and differentiated instruction that prepares them for success in their K-12 education.

Transitional kindergarten provides a fun, engaging learning environment for the District's youngest students; with the rollout of universal TK, Bonita Unified aims to

widen access to the program, bridging potential learning gaps and providing all qualified students with a robust early education.

Students in Bonita Unified's transitional kindergarten program will benefit from the District's renowned, research-based reading program, which provides a foundation for lasting academic achievement, as well as the comprehensive social-emotional support resources

available to all Bonita Unified students.

"It will be incredibly beneficial for students to receive this additional year of engaging and proven instruction that builds reading comprehension and literacy," Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Matt Wien said. "We look forward to welcoming more early learners into Bonita Unified School District and provide them a foundation for lifelong success."



BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUSD Bolsters Support to Mitigate Learning Loss

Bonita Unified School District opened its campuses in August 2021 for full-time, in-person learning, enthusiastically welcoming back students, teachers and staff.

In an effort to mitigate learning loss that may have occurred during remote learning and to ensure students are mastering grade-level skills and content, Bonita Unified prepared its staff to address student needs and provide additional academic support as well as bolstering and refining its intervention methods. Such efforts included:

- Providing students in grades three to 12 with access to online, 24/7 tutoring and support through the District’s partnership with Paper.co
- Hiring elementary-level reading and math intervention teachers to provide extra instruction
- Increasing paraeducator support in classrooms to assist with academic intervention for students
- Implementing and maintaining robust summer school programs, providing comprehensive instruction at the elementary, middle and high schools to students needing intervention
- Offering an additional section of intervention instruction at secondary schools



Chaparral-Vista High School Honored as Model Continuation School



Chaparral-Vista High School’s innovative approach to addressing the academic, social and emotional needs of students as they pursue their paths toward graduation has earned recognition from the California Department of Education, receiving its designation as a Model Continuation High School in 2021..

Chaparral focuses on student mental health and well-being, using Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Social Emotional and Academic Learning (SEAL) strategies to provide a nurturing environment that guides its students toward realizing their potential.

“We like to refer to our students as

being at-promise. Many face significant obstacles, including coming from difficult or non-traditional living situations,” Chaparral Principal Christine Black said. “It’s our policy to get to know every student and how we can best help them thrive at Chaparral. Our door is always open, and our staff is simply amazing.”

Chaparral’s staff is highly trained in trauma-informed practices to assist students in building coping skills and self-efficacy. Flexible scheduling and counseling support services allow students to work on an individualized learning plan while plotting a post-secondary college or career path. In the classroom, teachers emphasize self-awareness and developing a growth mindset.

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San Dimas High Sports Medicine Students Prepare for Careers as Healthcare Providers

San Dimas High School students are preparing themselves for careers as athletic trainers and healthcare providers through the school’s Patient Care career technical education (CTE) pathway, which includes courses devoted to sports medicine and the opportunity to earn college credits.

“This program has opened up our eyes to different medical careers and it has taught us skills that not only help in the medical world but can help us in everyday life,” San Dimas High sophomore Anna Lingao said. “It has been fun being able to see the things we learn about in class being implemented on the field during athletic events. Our teacher, Mrs. Truax, makes it fun.”

Led by San Dimas High teacher and athletic trainer Jessica Truax, the classes provide insight into the responsibilities of being an athletic trainer or physical therapist, while also serving as a springboard for students who aspire to be a physician assistant, nurse practitioner or medical doctor.



“Sports medicine is more than just taping ankles and diagnosing injuries. Athletic trainers are healthcare providers and first responders licensed by the American Medical Association,” Truax said. “Our classes give students a hands-on experience that goes beyond reading books and taking notes. Sports medicine

gives them a chance to find out if they have the passion to launch a career in the healthcare industry.”

Students who complete two years of sports medicine classes are eligible to articulate to the Kinesiology and Wellness Program at Mt. San Antonio College. Upon successful completion of the course, students can earn up to three college credits toward an associate’s degree, which is transferable to Cal State Universities.

The Patient Care pathway also includes a sports medicine club, whose members assist Truax at San Dimas High athletic events and practices, serving as a second pair of hands on the field and providing first aid when needed.

Patient Care is one of several CTE pathways offered at San Dimas High; students can also gain hands-on, career-focused training in programs centering on Filmmaking & Animation, Culinary Arts and Digital Photography.



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Bonita High School Launches E-Sports Team

Looking to get more students involved in school activities and provide an avenue for video gamers to display their talents in CIF league competition, Bonita High School has formed its first E-Sports team, which completed its inaugural season in fall of 2021.

Bonita High School principal Kenny Ritchie contacted PlayVS, which specializes in organizing E-Sports leagues at the high school level, and started a club team in the spring of 2021.

Bonita High history teacher Taylor Grzechowiak is coaching the team, which began CIF league play at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

"I've been gaming my whole life. I jumped at the opportunity to represent the school as E-Sports coach," Grzechowiak said. "Our



kids are extremely talented, passionate, determined, and competitive. Their hand-eye coordination and reaction time is amazing. You have to see it to believe it."

Nearly 30 students were selected for the inaugural season – chosen for their skillset, teamwork and ability to make the

time commitment. The E-Sports team practices twice a week, with CIF league play on Thursdays.

"My experience in E-Sports has been really great overall," Bonita High junior Gavin Wright said. "I get to spend my time doing something I love and meeting new people. I think it's a great way to participate in an extracurricular activity."

In its first season, the Bonita High team competed in Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, League of Legends, Rocket League and FIFA. For the upcoming season, CIF has added Mario Kart and Madden.

"E-Sports is one of the fastest growing sports in the nation," Ritchie said. "These are student-athletes, eligible for full-ride scholarships at certain universities."



Scholar-Athletes Receive College Scholarships

Bonita Unified School District offers an array of competitive athletics programs that prepare students to live their purpose by building skills in discipline, collaboration and resilience. Congratulations to the Class of 2022 student-athletes who have signed letters of intent and will continue to pursue academic and athletic success in college. Among these student-athletes are:

SAN DIMAS HIGH SCHOOL

- Ally Lemos • UCLA • Soccer
- Robert Castillo • CSU Los Angeles • Baseball
- Abbie Alt-Ambriz • Chestnut Hill College • Softball
- DJ Williams • Whittier College • Football

BONITA HIGH SCHOOL

- Kalim Mikhail • Houston Baptist University • Football
- Karly Redman • UC Davis • Field Hockey
- Jenna Moiso • Azusa Pacific University • Acrobatics and Tumbling
- Brooke Bentley • Ottawa University • Soccer
- Luke Mistone • CSU Fullerton • Baseball

Bonita Educators Ignite Passion for the Arts

Bonita Unified is proud to offer a robust visual and performing arts (VAPA) education – led by dedicated teachers – that extends from elementary to high school, providing students with an avenue to explore their creativity and hone their talents in band, choir, dance, drama, studio art and more.

Lone Hill Middle School band director Kelly Leyva cherishes the moments when her young students successfully complete a music lesson. The students are exuberant, often jumping up and down in the classroom while their bandmates cheer.

"What I love is the minute that it clicks for them," Leyva said. "I love being the person who gets them excited."

Ramona Middle School band director Cuyler McDonald echoes the sentiment, adding that teaching band brings students together and helps develop strong character and responsibility.

"In band, everyone matters," McDonald said. "We work hard to create a culture of respect and inclusivity."

In addition to teaching music and art, VAPA programs inspire students to develop leadership and problem-solving skills, which carry over into other content areas. In middle school, music programs are safe spaces where students can learn to play an instrument, explore their creative side, and develop camaraderie.

Live performances returned in the 2021-22 school year, with bands and choirs from across the District demonstrating a strengthened commitment to their craft.



What We LOVE About Music

"No matter what's happened, band has never stopped being fun. It's been nice to come back into the classroom, and to see things start to go back to normal."

–Patrick, seventh grade, Ramona Middle School

"I have learned more about how every music piece tells a story."

–Allison, sixth grade, Lone Hill Middle School

"It is a great opportunity to be part of a fun band where I get to be part of a group. I am loving band!"

–Laralei, seventh grade, Ramona Middle School

"Band has shown me that I'm good at playing an instrument. My friends are there with me and it makes it a safe place for me."

–Sophia, sixth grade, Lone Hill Middle School

"I've learned that it's important to listen to each other within a song and as people. You can only work as a team if you understand each other and are willing to change together."

–Jamison, eighth grade, Lone Hill Middle School

"Band is the best! Band is great for making friends, learning music and having a good time."

–Isabella, eighth grade, Lone Hill Middle School



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Bonita Unified Recognized for Third Time as Inland Empire Top Workplace



This is the third year in a row that Bonita Unified has been named a Top Workplace by the Inland News Group, which surveys more than 800 organizations and 30,000 employees annually about workplace culture.

"It is not hard to imagine working for a top workplace, when you are surrounded by so many great people with the same goal," said Don Roberts, California School Employees Association Bonita Chapter President.

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The Inland News Group's list is based on employee feedback gathered through third-party surveys distributed to all Bonita Unified school sites and the District office, asking employees about workplace culture, if their jobs exceeded expectations, if they would recommend their workplace to potential employees, why they love their jobs and how their employer could improve the workplace environment.

"We are lucky to work in a District that truly believes in collaboration between the association, administration, and the Board of Education," said Nicole Grant, Bonita Unified Teachers Association President. "We are committed to putting children first in all of our decision-making. Bonita is a wonderful place to work."

outside of class. Teachers work closely with school librarians, parents and families to ensure that students are reading high volumes of fiction and nonfiction selections.



District Ranks No. 1 on State Reading Report Card

Bonita Unified's 15-year commitment to boost reading comprehension across all grade levels has garnered statewide recognition, earning a No. 1 ranking on the California Reading Coalition (CRC) California Reading Report Card.

Among California school districts with 100 or more socio-economically disadvantaged Latinx third-graders, Bonita Unified topped the Reading Report Card with 64% of the subgroup meeting or exceeding California grade-level standards, according to state English language arts (ELA) testing from 2017-18 and 2018-19. The report card represents 72% of all California students tested.

Through a collaborative process, BUSD has developed a research-based reading program to ensure grade-level reading by fifth grade. These programs include the Systematic Instruction in Phonological

Awareness, Phonetics and Sight Words (SIPPS), which bolsters phonetic skills for new and struggling students in grades K-2, and the Benchmark Advanced Reading Program, a core ELA program that covers all K-5 ELA and English language development standards.

"The District strives to provide our teachers with all the tools they will need to teach reading foundational skills and remediate students who need extra support," said Chris Ann Horsley, Senior Director of Elementary Curriculum. "I am confident that our system, along with our well-trained classroom teachers, intervention specialists and para-educators will continue to serve our students well into the future."

Bonita Unified strongly encourages students to pursue independent reading

BUSD Schools Ranked by U.S. News & World Report

A Districtwide commitment to excellence and efforts to support student achievement have earned Bonita Unified schools inclusion in the 2022 Best K-8 Schools rankings from U.S. News & World Report.

The inaugural rankings celebrate the top-performing public schools in California, drawing on U.S. Department of Education data regarding student proficiency and performance in

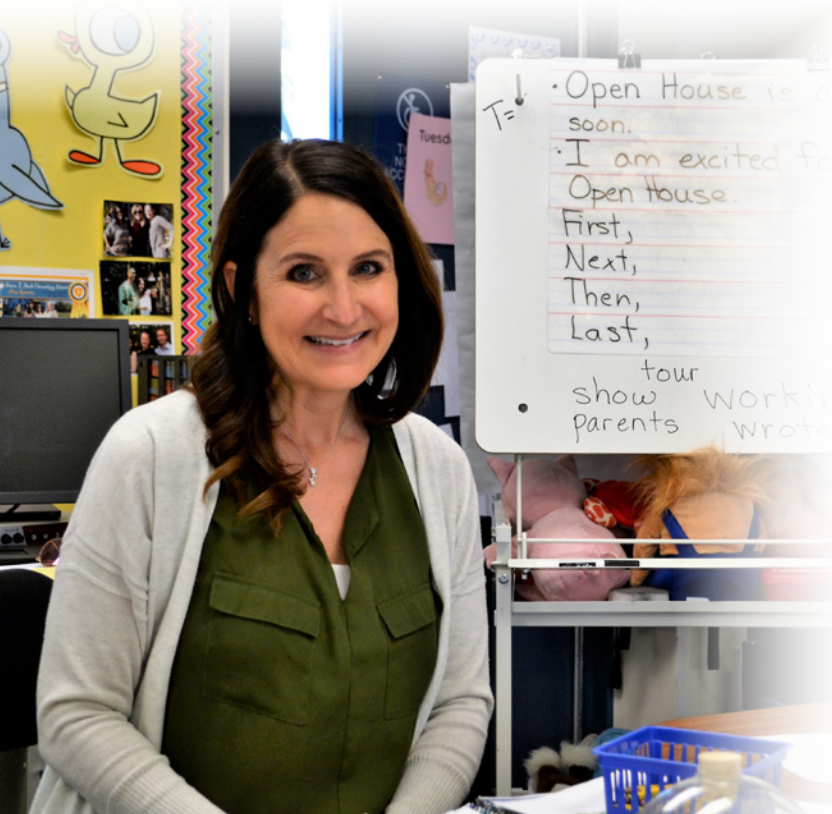
mathematics and reading. In its formula for the rankings, U.S. News & World Report considered student assessment data from the 2018-19 school year, as well as the assessment results in the context of socioeconomic demographics.

Bonita High School and San Dimas High School were also included in the 2021 Best High Schools list, ranking in the top 15% of high schools nationwide.



These BUSD schools ranked in the top 13% of elementary schools in the state or higher and the top 16% of middle schools:

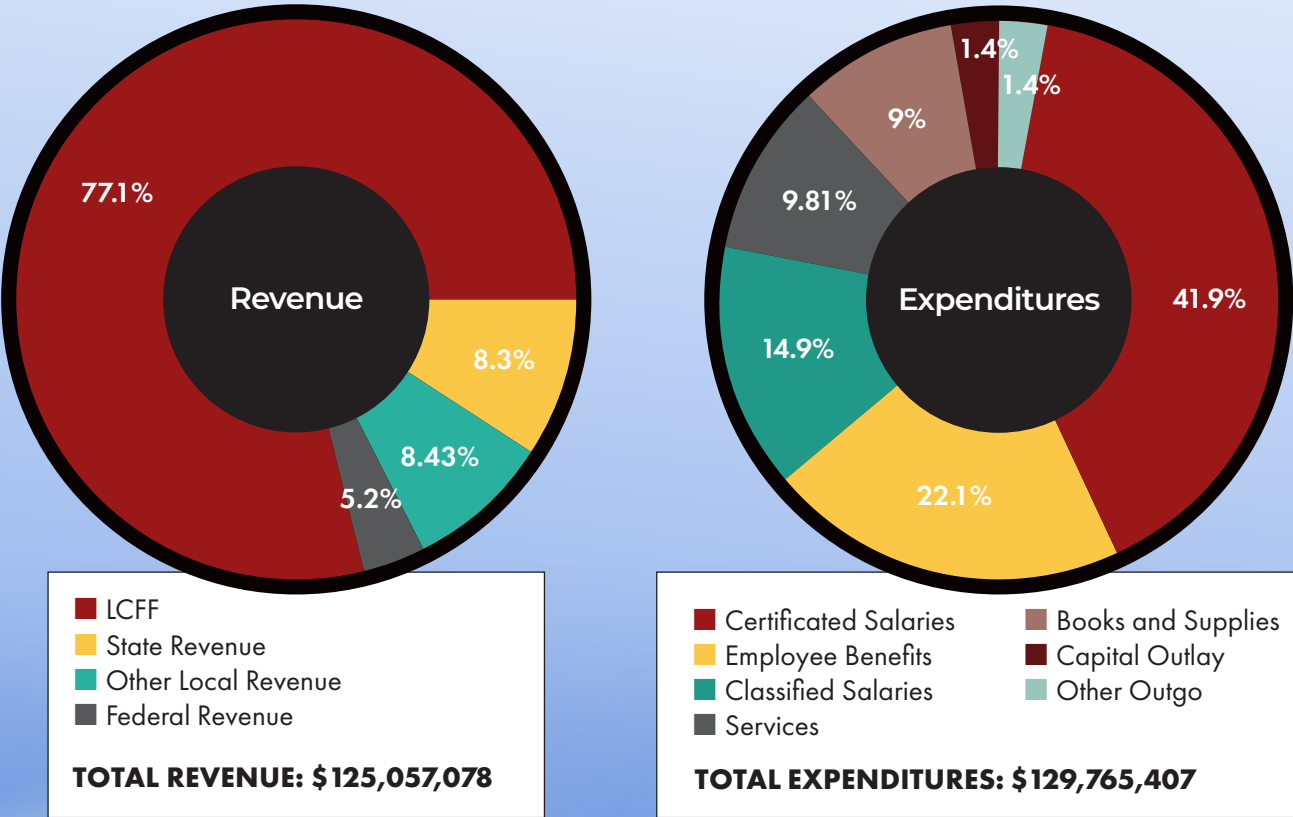
- GLADSTONE ELEMENTARY
- GRACE MILLER ELEMENTARY
- OAK MESA ELEMENTARY
- ROYNON ELEMENTARY
- SHULL ELEMENTARY
- LONE HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL
- RAMONA MIDDLE SCHOOL



BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2021-22 General Fund Budget

Bonita Unified’s budget is approached with a student-first mindset and is aligned to our purpose and core values. Through responsible financial stewardship, the District has maintained a strong budget while continuing to meet student needs. The District’s primary source of revenue is the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), provided by the state. Bonita Unified has continued to maintain healthy reserves as part of its strategy to maintain long-term fiscal strength and offset increasing expenditures and reduced revenue.



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BUSD to Shift to By-Trustee Area Elections

Bonita Unified School District is transitioning from an “at-large” election – where all Board of Education members are elected by voters of the entire school district – to a by-trustee area election system, where the Board is elected by voters in designated areas aligned with current census data.

The District initiated this transition to comply with the California Voting Rights Act, which leaves districts who use at-large election processes vulnerable to litigation for potential discrimination against some groups of voters.

As part of the process, the District worked with a professional demographer to review District demographics and identify the composition of, and criteria for, drawing potential trustee areas.

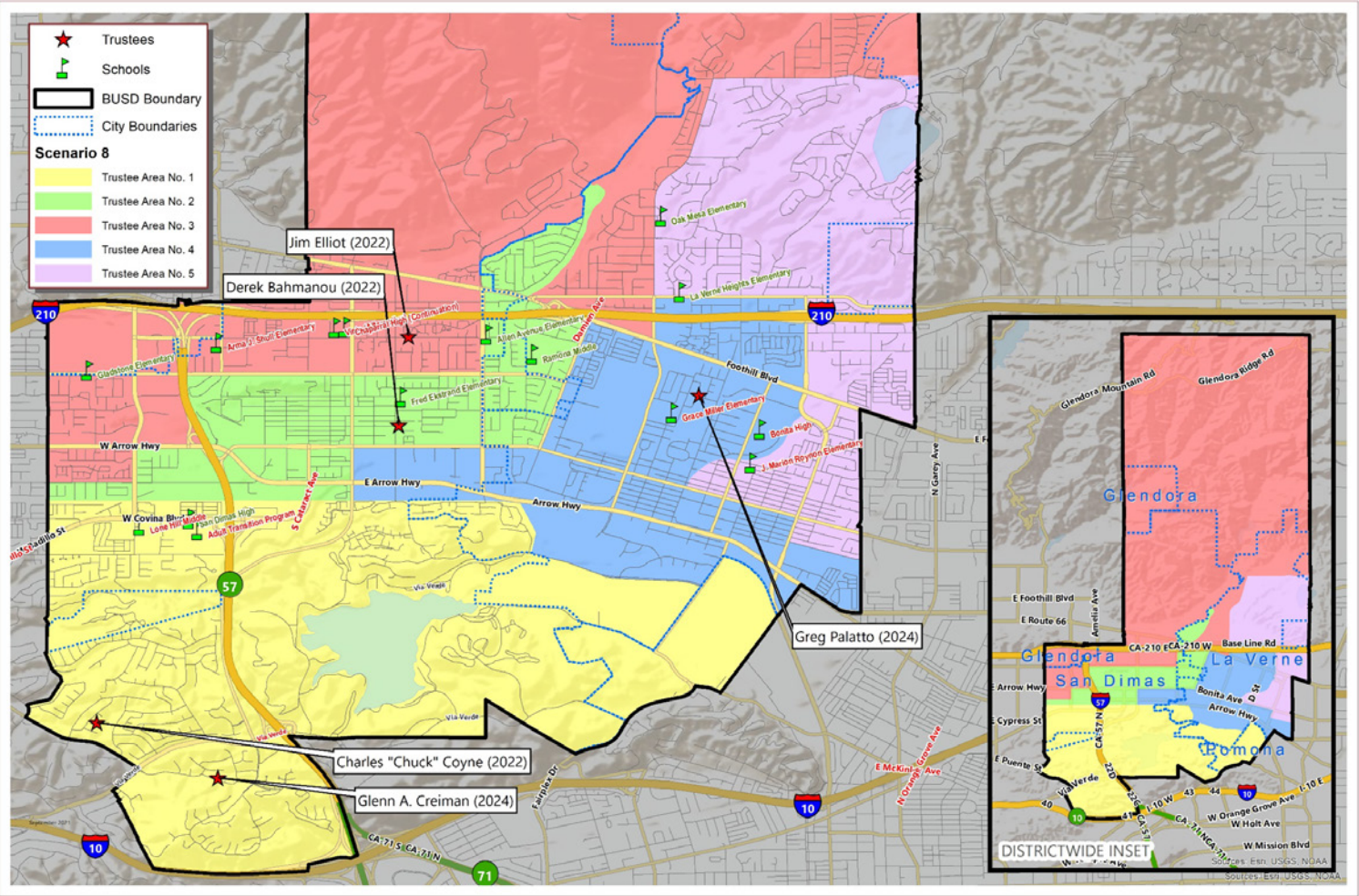
Following public hearings on criteria, which were held during the fall, the demographer prepared draft trustee area maps and presented them to the Board of Education in December. The District sought community input on the draft trustees area maps in December and January, and the Board of Education ultimately selected to move forward with

map scenario 8 in February.

The Board also identified that Trustee Areas 2 and 3 will be up for election in 2022, and Trustee Areas 1, 4 and 5 will be up for election in 2024. Due to a Board member vacating their seat in 2021 – less than halfway through their term – the District will have one at-large seat available for a two-year term for any qualified resident of the District.

The proposed map and election sequence have been sent to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization for final consideration.

► PROPOSED SCENARIO 8





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