



PreK-12 Education Work Group

Challenge

Students in the San Joaquin Valley lag behind in academic performance – about 60 percent of Valley students from 2nd grade through 11th grade do not meet the state's proficiency levels in math and reading. Valley students are at a disadvantage in being adequately prepared for college with only 26 percent completing UC and CSU eligibility coursework and only 23 percent taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

In addition, career and technical education programs struggle to adequately prepare students for success in careers after high school.

Opportunity

Implement policies and programs through public-private partnerships to ensure equal access to educational opportunities and resources that will improve academic performance for all children.

Focus

The PreK-12 Education Work Group focuses on improving the academic achievement of all students in the Valley. The work group is leading the effort to ensure all students have access to educational opportunities and resources through public-private partnerships and best-practice programs to prepare students for success in college and career.

Success for the San Joaquin Valley

- Workforce Investment Act grant deliverables for Sector-Based Articulation and English Learner Institutes completed with pilot projects conducted in Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, and Kings counties at five high schools and one adult school. Established six new career education classes related to high-priority industry sectors in four high schools, impacting more than 390 students, showing them new career options and introducing them to industry representatives. Worked to enhance systems and instruction for more than 300 English Language Learner students resulting in improved language skills and knowledge of careers and college
- Fourth annual Exemplary Practices in Education Leadership Conference in January 2012 with attendance by more than 500 pre-kindergarten through college-level educational leaders from throughout the region.
- Rural Schools Network expanded to provide professional development for educational leaders in 14 districts from Merced, Fresno and Kings counties, providing an opportunity to collaborate with multiple county offices of education and higher education institutions allowing CVELI to offer more than 15 major events, impacting more than 2,000 educational leaders in the San Joaquin Valley.

About the Partnership

Set in motion by an executive order in June 2005 and renewed in November 2006 and in December 2008, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley is an unprecedented public-private partnership sharply focused on improving the region's economic vitality and quality of life for the 3.9 million residents who call the San Joaquin Valley home. The Partnership is addressing the challenges of the region by implementing measurable actions on economic, environmental, and social levels to help the San Joaquin Valley emerge as *California's 21st Century Opportunity*. On July 1, 2010, the Partnership was extended indefinitely with Executive Order S-10-10.

Work Groups

The Partnership is organized into 10 work groups, convening leaders and experts from throughout the region to implement the 10-year Strategic Action Plan adopted by the Partnership board in October 2006. The work groups include advanced communications services; air quality; economic development; energy; health and human services, higher education and workforce development; housing; preK-12 education; sustainable communities; and water.

Action

Increase the achievement level of students, schools and school districts in the San Joaquin Valley.

- *Implement a school and school district support system through county offices of education.*
- *Implement a curricular and instructional program to ensure all children are able to read at or above grade level.*
- *Provide school choice, intra-district and inter-district options consistent with state and federal law.*
- *Establish an executive leadership academy to train principals of low-performing schools in “turn-around” educational and management services.*
- *Coordinate and communicate regional positions regarding state and/or federal school reform.*

Develop a college-going culture in the San Joaquin Valley.

- *Support collaborations between school districts and the community colleges, CSU and UC systems.*
- *Increase the rate of high school graduates completing courses for college admission.*

Implement a computer literacy initiative for K-12 students aligned with community college curriculum and/or business criteria/workforce assessments.

Align career technical education to target industry clusters.

Examine data systems to meet needs of districts and higher education institutions in the region to enhance data collection, transference of information.



California Partnership for the
San Joaquin Valley

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PreK-12 Education Work Group

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