



SIERRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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To inspire,
engage,
challenge, and
support all
students to
reach their
highest level of
learning and
personal
development.

Dear Sierra Unified Families,

Subject: Sierra Unified Students Continue to Grow and Excel

I am proud to share encouraging news about Sierra Unified's continued academic growth. The recently released 2024–25 Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) results show that our students are making meaningful gains in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics — evidence of the hard work, dedication, and collaboration taking place across our classrooms, schools, and community.

Rising Achievement Across the District

This year, Sierra Unified saw overall districtwide growth of 4.54 percentage points in ELA, more than double Fresno County's average growth of 2.14 points. After a modest gain last year, this continued upward trend is a strong signal that our instructional focus and student supports are working.

For our 11th-grade students, the progress is especially impressive.

ELA: Scores climbed to 65.27% meeting or exceeding standards, up from 51.89% last year and a significant rebound from 38.61% in 2022–23.

Math: Sierra Unified ranked second highest in the county with 33.68% of students meeting or exceeding standards — nearly 10 points above many neighboring districts.

These results place Sierra Unified among the top-performing districts in Fresno County — 4th highest in ELA and 2nd in Math for 11th grade.

Celebrating Growth for All Students

We are particularly proud of the growth among our Native American students, who achieved remarkable gains:

+10% in ELA

+4.4% in Math

These results reflect our district's deep commitment to equity, inclusion, and ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive.

Commitment to Continuous Improvement

While we celebrate this momentum, we know that improvement is a journey, not a destination.

Recently, the State has changed how they are classifying student rankings and there have been recent news articles that highlight some of these changes. However, Sierra Unified remains committed to measuring our growth as we always have – by reaching new benchmarks year over year. We will continue refining our instructional practices, expanding access to rigorous learning opportunities, and investing in professional development to support our educators.

Together, we will continue to build on these results — ensuring that every student in Sierra Unified graduates prepared for college, career, and life.

Thank you for your continued partnership and belief in our students' success.

Measure U Updates:

Scope of phase two continues to be defined and alternates refined in the scope of the project.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Grace", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Lori Grace

Superintendent, Sierra Unified School District