

2024-2025 school year annual report



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Superintendent's Update

On behalf of the Del Mar Union School District, it is my privilege to share our Annual Report and reflect on the progress of the past school year. From classrooms alive with curiosity to the joy of new beginnings in modernized schools, this was a year that demonstrated the power of DMUSD's shared vision.

Central to that vision is *Destination 2028!*, our strategic plan that guides every step we take. This bold roadmap emphasizes what matters most, every student at the center of learning. We know that children learn best when they are actively engaged, when their voices matter, and when they are empowered to explore, create, and lead. Across DMUSD, we see evidence of this daily: students setting goals, collaborating with peers, and developing the skills, mindsets, and competencies outlined in our Portrait of a Learner.

Our commitment is clear in that every child deserves an extraordinary education that nurtures their genius, sparks their curiosity, and supports their well-being. This Annual Report highlights the ways we are living that promise, from innovative instructional practices to intentional facility design, from strong community partnerships to the extraordinary dedication of our teachers and staff.

As we look ahead, I am deeply grateful to be part of a district where students come first and where innovation and excellence define our work. Together, we

will continue advancing the goals of *Destination 2028!*, ensuring that every DMUSD student is inspired, supported, and prepared for the future.

Sincerely,

Marisa Janicek
Superintendent



Confidence, Connection, and Ownership

We believe every child should feel confident, connected, and excited about learning. We are focused on helping students develop both agency, which is the power to take ownership of their learning, and belonging, which is the feeling of being valued and included.

Students have opportunities to explore their interests, set goals, and reflect on their progress. They are encouraged to think creatively, solve problems, and share their learning in ways that are meaningful to them.

Just as important, we create welcoming spaces and experiences where every child feels a sense of community. From student leadership opportunities to activities that inspire collaboration and connection, we want each student to know they belong.

When students feel they belong and have voice in their learning, they thrive both in school and beyond.

**IGNITING
GENIUS,
EMPOWERING
STUDENTS**



scan for translation
번역을 위해 스캔하다
扫描翻译

9
elementary
schools

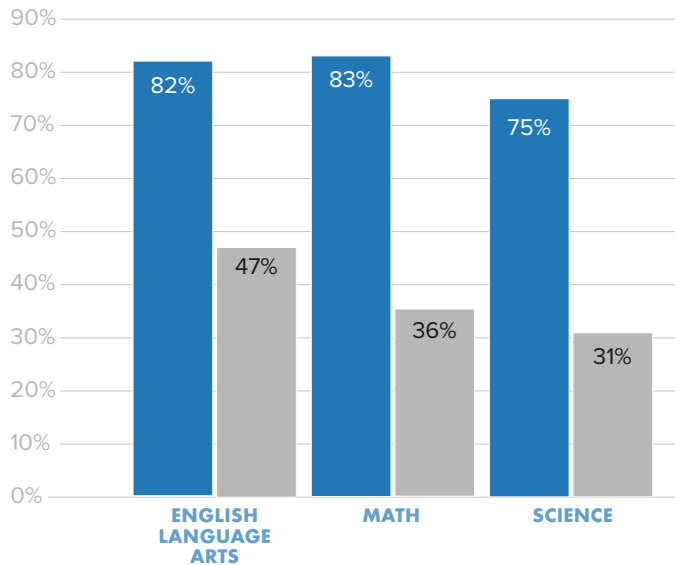
Students served
3,526

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gee Wah Mok, Esq, *President*
Alan Kholos, Esq, *Clerk*
Katherine Fitzpatrick, *Member*
Bill Porter, EdD, *Member*
Doug Rafner, Esq, *Member*

Scores Keep Climbing

DMUSD REMAINS AT TOP 1% IN THE STATE



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSESSMENTS

percentage of students meeting and exceeding expectations

DMUSD State

**DMUSD Data reflects 2025 preliminary performance levels. State data represents 2024 performance levels as 2025 state data has not yet been released.*

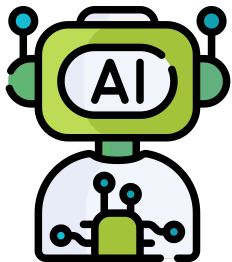


A Global Stage for Learning & Thinking

DMUSD is proud to be recognized as a leader in shaping the future of education. In February 2025, we hosted the inaugural Leading a Culture of Thinking Summit at Pacific Sky School, welcoming educators from the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Guided by internationally renowned researchers Dr. Ron Ritchhart and Mark Church, participants explored ways to foster deep learning, while our educators shared how we nurture critical thinking for both staff and students.

In April, our innovation was highlighted at the prestigious ASU+GSV Summit, where Del Mar Heights and Pacific Sky schools were selected and featured in the Innovative School Tours. Visitors experienced firsthand how our student-centered environments spark collaboration, creativity, and agency, noting the depth of learning evident across classrooms.

Together, these summits showcase DMUSD's commitment to innovation, expertise, and preparing students to thrive in a complex, changing world.



Future Ready

Artificial intelligence and digital literacy are being embraced as essential tools to prepare students for the future. Teachers are thoughtfully integrating age-appropriate technology to support creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Students are not only learning how to use digital tools, but also how to evaluate

information, practice online safety, and understand the role of AI in daily life. By combining strong foundational skills with responsible technology use, we empower students to become curious, confident, and ethical digital citizens, ready to thrive in an ever-changing world.



DMSEF helps fund STEAM+



The DMUSD STEAM+ program provides robust and engaging instruction for students in the arts, science, physical education, and interdisciplinary learning. STEAM+ credentialed specialists facilitate rich, authentic learning experiences that prepare students for a future where they will think, innovate, and create.

The Del Mar Schools Education Foundation (DMSEF) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that raises funds to support additional specialized credentialed teachers in the DMUSD STEAM+ program.



DONATE NOW!

Destination → 2028!

DMUSD'S STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2024–2025 school year marked the second year of implementation for our *Destination 2028!* strategic plan. At the heart of this plan is the Portrait of a Learner, which articulates our community's aspirations, identifying the skills, mindsets, and competencies we seek to develop in every DMUSD student. This vision serves as our North Star, guiding the work of our district as we prepare students to thrive in a dynamic and ever-evolving world.



These core competencies describe the skills and mindsets our students need for success:



Adaptability



Critical Thinking



Global Citizen



Emotional Integrity



Learner's Mindset



Depth of Knowledge

Our strategic plan is anchored by four Levers that bring *Destination 2028!* to life. Priority Actions for each lever are updated annually and help us focus our collective energy and resources to fulfill the promise outlined in *Destination 2028!*

01.
LEARNING
EXPERIENCE

02.
RESPONSIVE AND
CARING CULTURE

03.
STEWARDSHIP
OF RESOURCES

04.
DESIGN
INFLUENCE

DMUSD'S SCORECARD

To articulate the desired outcomes for our Portrait of a Learner and each Lever of our strategic plan, DMUSD has developed a District Scorecard in partnership with Learner-Centered Collaborative. The Scorecard is an actionable framework, shaped by community input, that measures progress in strategic focus areas and guides ongoing improvement. It will be updated annually, as it measures what matters most in DMUSD and serves as a communication tool for our educational community.

From the Scorecard...

Professional Learning
opportunities strengthen skills related to core competencies and provide choice and leadership options

94% of teachers have participated in Cultures of Thinking professional learning

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Access to STEAM+

100% of K-3
120 minutes/week of STEAM+

100% of 4-6
180 minutes/week of STEAM+

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Small Classes: *student-to-teacher ratio*

99% 22:1 in K-3

100% 27:1 in 4-6

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

To view the full interactive scorecard, please visit <https://bit.ly/4mUDsPC> or scan the QR code >>>





Facilities Funds

\$186 Million

Districtwide Projects

- Classrooms/Learning Studios and Shared Learning Spaces
- Outdoor Learning Spaces
- Play Structure Replacements
- Field Improvements
- Facility Improvements & Modernizations

Funding

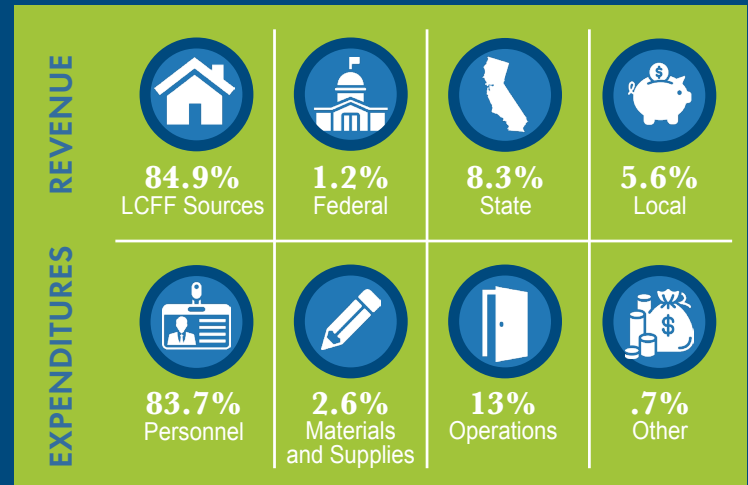
The District budget supports the priorities of the strategic plan, *Destination 2028!*, and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). Through a commitment to proactive and responsible fiscal planning and the maintenance of a strong reserve for a community funded district, DMUSD maintains the high quality academic program that our district is known for.

Revenue & Expenditures

(2025-2026 Adopted Budget)

Total Revenue: \$81,157,657

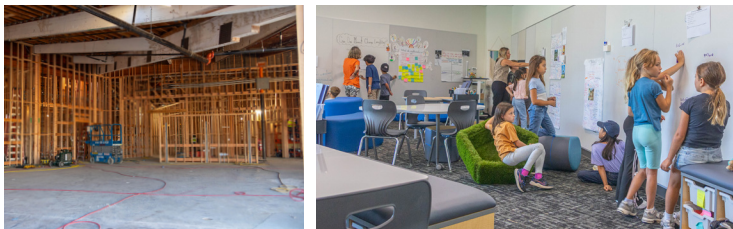
Expenditures: \$80,773,638



DEL MAR HILLS ACADEMY

REOPENED

- Reopened August 2025
- Full building modernization
- All new classrooms/learning studios designed for flexibility and collaboration
- Energy efficient and environmentally conscious - solar power, natural light, fresh air, high-efficiency systems
- New Innovation Center, STEAM+ science lab, and art studio
- Improved front entry and equitable access to the front of the school and the field with accessible ramps



CARMEL DEL MAR SCHOOL

MODERNIZATION

- Design phase: community meetings held Spring 2025
- Classroom/learning studio modernizations
- Roofing, HVAC, and infrastructure upgrades
- MUR and common learning space modernizations
- Anticipated construction start 2026



ASHLEY FALLS SCHOOL

MODERNIZATION

- Design phase: community meetings held Spring and Fall 2025
- Classroom/learning studio modernizations
- Roofing, HVAC, and infrastructure upgrades
- MUR and common learning space modernizations
- Anticipated construction start 2026/2027