



BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Bonita Unified Honors Reclassified English Learners with District Celebration

SAN DIMAS/LA VERNE – In a festive atmosphere that embraced the coming of autumn, favoring tranquil shades of orange that reflected throughout the Bonita Center for the Arts, Bonita Unified celebrated its newest group of English learners (EL) eligible to be reclassified after passing their English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) exams during a Districtwide ceremony on Oct. 1.

All BUSD schools with reclassified ELs were recognized at the same time, with 81 K-12 students eligible to participate in the ceremony, where they received a medal, certificate, and goody bag, while their families cheered them on.

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Anne Neal welcomed the students and families to the celebration, taking time to praise the District's English language development teachers, classified staff, and bilingual instructional assistants for their hard work and dedication in helping the students achieve their goal.

Neal described the ability to speak two languages as a superpower that can build bridges between worlds. Using the example of a new family at a local park unable to communicate with other parkgoers, Neal told the students how being a reclassified EL can empower them to translate for the new family, and allow them to feel welcome and part of the community.

"That's the gift you have now," Neal said. "You can connect with people, share ideas, and make your own community a more welcoming place for everyone. It is a skill that will open many doors for you in life. Congratulations to all our students and families for this wonderful achievement."

Ramona Middle School eighth-grader Miah Cordon was one of the ELs to receive a reclassification certificate. Born in the United States, Cordon spent many years with her family in Guatemala before returning to the U.S. last year. Cordon praised the EL program for giving her the opportunity to regain her English-speaking skills.

MORE



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"I am so happy that I have achieved reclassification, and so are my parents. It's quite an accomplishment," Cordon said. "The class is so fun, but the test is hard. I managed to finish within a year. If you try your best, you can accomplish anything."

Bonita Unified hosts more than 500 English learners, representing over 22 languages. To be considered for reclassification, students must meet ELPAC and District standards in speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

PHOTOS

BUSD_RECLASSIFICATION1: Ramona Middle School students, alongside Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Anne Neal (far left) and Ramona assistant principal Megan Kojder, celebrate their English language proficiency during a Districtwide ceremony for reclassified English learners.

BUSD_RECLASSIFICATION2: Joined by Anne Neal and Shull Elementary principal Christine Wilson, Shull students are recognized for passing their English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) exams during an Oct. 1 ceremony at the Bonita Center for the Arts.

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