



**OCSBA**  
Orange County School Boards Association

**Orange County  
School Boards  
Association**

P.O. Box 9050  
B-1008  
Costa Mesa, CA  
92628-9050

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**Editor:**

Sheila Benecke,  
Capistrano Unified  
School District

**OCDE Liaison:**

Ellin Chariton  
Executive Director

**Editorial Staff:**

Blanca Zimmerman  
(714) 966-4313  
bzimmerman@ocde.us

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# SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

**September 2007 Edition**

## *A Message from the OCSBA President – Judy Edwards*



As I looked back over previous president's messages, I was struck by one that wished us all a Happy New Year! While this made me laugh, it is quite true. This is the time we begin anew with budgets, goals and objectives, and in some cases new superintendents and teachers. This is our New Year!

Orange County School Boards Association also begins its New Year with new officers, budget, goals, and a desire for continued success. We, as members, come from very different districts. Some are quite large and others small. We have members from elementary and unified as well as high school, community college, and ROP. While our needs are different, we all have the same basic goal, that is to do the very best we can for the students we have been asked to educate. Times are difficult. Many of us are experiencing declining enrollment and budget issues that come with fewer students. There are also the problems we all face with the state of education in California. Every year we wait to see what money we will be given to support the programs that we have to implement. Each year we hope for the best and do our best with what we get.

No matter what issues we face as trustees, we use the skills and information we receive from CSBA to give our boards the direction that will help provide better outcomes for our schools and our communities. We begin this New Year with high expectations for our schools and a dedication to provide strong direction for the coming year. This is our New Year and I will do my best to provide the leadership for OCSBA that will make this a great year for all of us.

*Judy Edwards*

### **CSBA ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

OCSBA will once again host a reception for  
Orange County board members and district administrators on  
Thursday, November 29, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.  
Please check your mail in November for more information.

To register for the CSBA Annual Education Conference, please go to:

[www.csba.org](http://www.csba.org)



## *Welcome New District Superintendents*

### **MITCH HOVEY, Ed.D. – Fullerton School District**

Fullerton School District proudly announces the appointment of Dr. Mitch Hovey as their new superintendent. Dr. Hovey has served as the superintendent of Yucaipa-Calimesa and as assistant superintendent of educational services in the Bonita Unified School District. He has also served as a middle school, junior high school, and elementary school principal in Rialto Unified and Selma Unified after beginning his career as a bilingual director, teacher, and coach in the Pomona Unified School District. Dr. Hovey has been recognized as an Academic Hall of Fame Inductee at Azusa Pacific University, received the Finis E. Engleman Award granted by the American Association of School Administrators, and was featured in Who's Who Among America's Teachers, as well as in Who's Who in Executives and Professionals.

### **ROBERT FRAISSE, Ph.D. – Laguna Beach Unified School District**

Laguna Beach Unified School District welcomes Dr. Robert Fraisse as their new superintendent. Dr. Fraisse comes to Laguna Beach from Ventura County, where he was serving as Distinguished Educator in Residence at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. Dr. Fraisse was superintendent at the Conejo Valley Unified School District from July 2002 to August 2006. He also has served as superintendent at Hueneme Elementary School District and as assistant superintendent in the Las Virgenes Unified School District. In 2006 Fraisse was selected as the ACSA Region 13 (Calabasas – San Luis Obispo) Superintendent of the Year.

### **GREGORY FRANKLIN, Ed.D. – Los Alamitos Unified School District**

Los Alamitos Unified School District is pleased to welcome Dr. Gregory Franklin as their new superintendent. Dr. Franklin previously served as the assistant superintendent of educational services in Glendale Unified School District. Prior to his position in Glendale, Dr. Franklin served in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District as assistant superintendent of human resources and as a principal in Fullerton Union High School. In addition, he was principal of Bonita High School in La Verne and assistant principal and teacher at Saddleback High in Santa Ana. Dr. Franklin received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of Southern California, his Master of Arts degree in Education from Chapman University, and his Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from USC.

### **SHARON NORDHEIM, Ed.D. – Westminster School District**

Westminster School Board has appointed Dr. Sharon Nordheim as their new Superintendent. Dr. Nordheim was the associate superintendent for the district. She served in the Montebello Unified District as assistant superintendent in Human Resources. She has also served as a director, administrator, coordinator, vice principal, counselor and teacher at the Orange County Department of Education. She received her Doctorate in Education with a major in Urban Educational Leadership from USC.





## *Rural Schools Fair Better Than City Schools*

A recent report released by the Institute of Education Sciences, entitled “The Status of Education in Rural America,” brings together data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and U.S. Census surveys to compare the quality of urban and suburban public schools with schools in rural regions of the country. The data shows that rural schools often rank behind suburban schools but still fare better than city schools in a wide range of measurements.

### **Student Demographics**

According to the study, students in rural schools are more likely to live in poverty (35%) than their peers in suburban schools (28%), but still less likely to live in poverty than children who attend city schools (47%). Similarly, the percentage of public school students in rural areas attending a moderate-to-high poverty school (45%) was higher than the percentages in all other locales except large and midsize cities (66% and 49%, respectively). Rural public schools had a smaller percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch in 2003–04 (38%) than public schools in cities (53%).

The study indicates that the higher rate of poverty among students attending rural schools as opposed to suburban schools doesn’t have a major impact on parental involvement. In 2003, a larger percentage of students in rural areas had parents who reported taking their children to an athletic event outside of school than students in cities and suburbs (42% vs. 34% and 38%, respectively).

### **Resources**

The report shows that resources for public schools in rural areas are often slightly greater than resources for public schools in other demographic regions. Adjusted current public school expenditures per student were higher in rural areas in 2003–04 (\$8,400) than in cities (\$8,100), and suburbs (\$7,900). Rural public schools generally had fewer pupils per teacher (an average of 15.3 students per teacher) than public schools in other locales (15.9–16.9 students per teacher) in 2003–04. Concomitantly, teachers in rural public schools averaged more years of experience (14.5 years) than teachers in city public schools (13.6 years). The average number of students per counselor, social worker, school psychologist, and special education instructional aide was lower in rural areas in 2003–04 than in cities at both the elementary and secondary levels.

Rural public schools do lag behind both city and suburban schools in one important measurement. The study indicates that the percentage of public high school students attending schools offering Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses or programs was lower in rural areas (69% AP and 1% IB, respectively) than in cities (93% and 8%) and suburbs (96% and 7%).

### **Outcomes**

Larger percentages of rural public school students in the 4th and 8th grades in 2005 scored at or above the proficient level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress reading, mathematics, and science assessments than did public school students in cities at these grade levels. Smaller percentages of rural public school students than suburban public school students scored at or above the proficient level in reading and mathematics.

The study uses data from the NCES to calculate a dropout rate among 16- to 24-year-olds in rural areas (11%) that is higher than in suburban areas (9%), but lower than in cities (13%). The study also calculates an average freshman graduation rate for public high school students that was higher during the 2002–03 school year in rural areas (75%) than in cities (65%), but lower than in towns and suburban areas (76% and 79%, respectively). However, college enrollment rates for both 18- to 24-year olds and 25- to 29-year olds were generally lower in rural areas than in all other locales in 2004.



Political Action Group Efforts  
 Wednesday, September 26, 2007  
 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

**“When Calamity Comes to School”**

**Presented by  
 Orange County Department of Education**

**Dr. Arthur A. Cummins**  
 Administrator, Instructional Services  
**Sara Kaminske**  
 Coordinator, Emergency Planning

“We never thought it could happen here,” we hear that all too often when an emergency or disaster happens at school. After all, schools are considered the safest places for children to learn and grow. Occasionally, though, bad things happen and the effects of emergencies can debilitate a school community. This presentation will look at the lingering psychological impact that face schools in recovering from tragic incidents and addresses how the Orange County Department of Education partners with school districts in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.



**OCSBA DINNER MEETING**

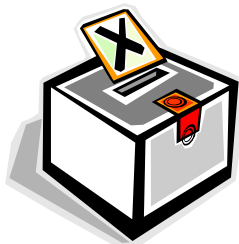
Wednesday, September 26, 2007  
 Irvine Marriott Hotel

**“Update from Sacramento:  
 An Overview of the State Budget and  
 Other State and National Issues”**

**Presented by  
 Scott P. Plotkin**  
 CBSA Executive Director

Scott Plotkin, Executive Director of the California School Boards Association (CSBA), will bring you up to date on the current events in the state and how they impact schools. He will give an overview not only about the budget, legislation, and policy developments, but also relate what projects and endeavors CSBA is involved in and how they affect education in California.

Scott P. Plotkin joined the California School Boards Association as Executive Director in October 2001, bringing to the position more than 20 years experience with national, state, and local educational issues affecting both K-12 schools and higher education.



**OCSBA Dinner Meeting**  
 Wednesday, September 26, 2007

REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND DRAFT OF BYLAWS HAVE BEEN SENT VIA EMAIL AND US MAIL.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE ON THE BYLAWS  
 AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE**

**SAVE THE DATES**  
**2007-2008**

**OCSBA Dinner Meeting**  
 Wednesday, September 26, 2007, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

**ACSA Region XVII/OCSBA Joint Dinner Meeting**  
 Wednesday, November 14, 2007, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

**OCSBA Reception at CSBA Annual Conference**  
 Thursday, November 29, 2007, San Diego Convention Center, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

**ACSA Region XVII/OCSBA Joint Dinner Meeting**  
 Wednesday, February 13, 2008, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

**OCSBA Annual Dinner Meeting/2008-2009 Board Elections**  
 Wednesday, May 7, 2008, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

