



**OCSBA**  
Orange County School Boards Association

# SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

**May 2013 Edition**

**Orange County School Boards Association**

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**2012-2013**

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*A Message from the  
OCSBA President  
Suzie Swartz*

Our schools have been drastically underfunded for quite some time, and school board members have been advocating for change in the state funding of our public schools.

Now that change is coming and it will be revolutionary, “it’s not a matter of if, it’s a matter of when and in what form.”

Different proposals have been presented, each with ripple effects and each with its own set of intended and no doubt unintended consequences.

Governor Brown’s Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) proposal basically would shift more funding to districts with higher concentrations of disadvantaged students and English language learners. The Governor wants LCFF adopted with his budget by the deadline in June. The Governor is adamant about his plan, and he has drawn a line in the sand pledging to give opponents “the battle of their lives.”

Do you know what Governor Brown’s detailed plan has in store for your district?

Senate Democrats support the Governor’s LCFF in concept, but they would increase base funding on a per pupil basis for all districts and modify how supplemental funds are provided for disadvantaged students, English language learners, and foster youth. The Senate Democrats’ plan to adopt the new funding model through SB 69 would slow down the decision making process leaving things unsettled until later in the year.

Do you know what SB 69’s detailed plan has in store for your district?

California School Boards Association (CSBA) also supports the Governor’s LCFF in concept but says funding cannot come at the expense of adequate funding for all our K-12 schools. CSBA believes that our state must first make all our K-12 schools whole and raise per-pupil spending to the national average.

Do you know what CSBA’s detailed plan has in store for your district?

Our guest speaker at last month’s annual dinner meeting, Bob Blattner, provided additional food for thought. He asked us to consider not settling for funding at the national average but rather to “think big” and aspire to the funding level that all our

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## ***Message from the OCSBA President – Suzie Swartz***

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schools deserve. He urged us to advocate for slowing down the decision making and implementation process to improve the odds of getting the detailed plan right before changing how California's public schools are funded.

Do you know what the ideal funding level would look like in your district?

If you haven't already begun to have discussions about these questions, don't wait any longer. It's time for all of us to be talking with our superintendents and our board colleagues to begin finding the answers – our students, teachers, administrators, classified staff, and parents are counting on us.

Yes, I know that there will be even more questions once the Governor announces his May Revision. So plan to join us on May 29 at OCSBA's Special Fiscal Meeting where Ron Bennett, School Services of California, will help us to sort things out.

But first, get a good sense of what each of the proposed funding plans has in store for your schools.

See you on May 29!

*Suzie Swartz*



### **26 Orange County Schools Named State's Best**

Twenty-six Orange County public elementary schools were named as 2013 California Distinguished Schools, the state's top honor for campuses. The Distinguished School award recognizes schools with high test scores and demonstrated success in closing the achievement gap among disadvantaged student populations. Statewide, 218 middle school and high schools were chosen

this year. The award rotates annually between elementary and secondary schools. Schools can only win the award every four years.

The winning schools are Cypress High, John F. Kennedy High, Lexington Junior High, and Walker Junior High, Anaheim Union High School District; Bernice Ayer Middle, Capistrano Unified School District; Fulton (Harry C.) Middle, Fountain Valley School District; Pacifica High, Garden Grove Unified School District; Edison High, Huntington Beach Union High School District; Northwood High, Irvine Unified School District; Laguna Beach High and Thurston Middle, Laguna Beach Unified School District; Mesa View Middle, Ocean View School District; Villa Park High, Cerro Villa Middle, and El Rancho Charter, Orange Unified School District; El Dorado High, Yorba Linda High, and Yorba Linda Middle, Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District; El Toro High, Mission Viejo High, and Los Alisos Intermediate, Saddleback Valley Unified School District; Middle College High and Orange County School of the Arts, Santa Ana Unified School District; and C.E. UTT Middle, Orchard Hills, and Pioneer Middle, Tustin Unified School District.

Schools earning the Distinguished School title this year agree to share their "signature practices" with other schools and serve as mentors to other educators who want to replicate their work.



## ***2012-2013 Marian Bergeson Award Winner***

### **Bonnie Castrey**

Bonnie Castrey, Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees Member, received the prestigious Marian Bergeson Award at the Orange County School Boards Association (OCSBA) dinner meeting held at the Irvine Marriott on April 17, 2013.

The Marian Bergeson Award recognizes Orange County school board members who have provided outstanding governing board service and community service to promote and enhance public education. The award serves as a tribute to Marian Bergeson, who formerly served as a member of the California State Assembly, California State Senate, Orange County Board of Supervisors, and as the California Secretary of Education. Ms. Bergeson was in attendance to present the award.

As a Trustee of the Huntington Beach Union High School District, Bonnie Castrey has served the education community for 27 years. She is highly regarded for making significant contributions in the areas of the Arts and Career and Technical Education. Ms. Castrey has taken a leadership role in supporting students to develop skills that will prepare them for college and careers. She was one of the founders of the Academy for the Performing Arts, which provides opportunities for students to experience theater, dance, and music. She is also an advocate who brings attention to the need for adequate funding to keep Career and Technical Education programs available for students, and she has served twice as the President of Coastline Regional Occupational Program Board of Trustees.



*Bonnie Castrey and  
Marian Bergeson*



Congratulations to Bonnie Castrey on receiving this prestigious award for the 2012-2013 school year!

## **Five Orange County Schools Receive Title I Academic Achievement Awards**



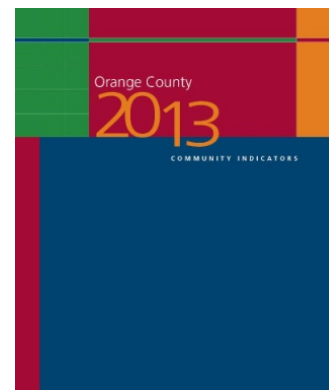
State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced that 56 California public schools with sustained progress in academic improvement among low-income students have been chosen for the 2012-13 Title I Academic Achievement Award.

The Title I Academic Achievement Award is given only to schools receiving federal Title I funds as authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Title I, the single largest federal educational program for K-12 public education, assists schools in meeting the educational needs of students living at or below the poverty line.

Five Orange County schools are among those chosen for the 2012-2013 Title I Academic Achievement Award. This year's Orange County Title I Academic Achievement Award winners include Centralia Elementary School in the Centralia Elementary School District, A.J. Cook Elementary and Linton T. Simmons Elementary in the Garden Grove Unified School District, and Middle College High and John Muir Fundamental Elementary in the Santa Ana Unified School District.

# Orange County Still Outpacing State and Nation

The *2013 Orange County Community Indicators Report* serves as an ongoing and dynamic measurement tool that supports local and regional initiatives concerned with the well-being of the county.



The county boasts one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state and broke Forbes top 100 *Best Places to do Business* list for 2012. Key industries such as tourism, high-tech and construction are seeing steady growth, adding to high-wage jobs and economic development throughout the county. While the county continues to show marked recovery over the past decade, there are some areas for improvement. These include increasing transportation systems to adapt to the needs of a growing population and continuing to provide adequate housing options for Orange County's entire workforce.

## Key Indicators Fast Facts:

- In terms of population, Orange County is the third largest county in California and sixth largest in the nation.
- Orange County has the second highest number of jobs in the state with 1.51 million jobs as of November 2012.
- Orange County made it back on Forbes Magazine *2012 Best Places to do Business* regional rankings, placing 99th on the list of 200 metro areas ranked.
- The tourism industry is growing, adding 5,050 jobs in 2011 and visitor spending totaling \$8.66 billion in 2010.
- Housing prices are increasing, with sale prices in December reaching a median of \$589,930, a 20 percent increase over 2011.
- The minimum annual income for a first-time buyer rose to \$68,650 in 2012, while the minimum annual income to rent a one-bedroom apartment fell slightly to \$51,760.
- Congestion on Orange County freeways is increasing. In 2010, commuters experienced 12.3 million annual vehicle hours of delay, a 26 percent increase over the previous year.
- Orange County inventors outpaced the state and national average for growth in patents granted, with 2,269 patents granted in 2011, up 48 percent from 2007.
- More Orange County students are staying in school; the high school dropout rate decreased to 9.3 percent in 2011, down from 12.3 percent in 2010.
- Weight-related health risks among adults and children are a growing problem with nearly 40 percent of children overweight and more than half of adults overweight.
- Orange County nonprofits have grown 70 percent over the last decade, at twice the growth rate of the national average. However, most of those nonprofits had fewer financial resources in 2010 than in 2000, seeing a 14 percent decline in revenue.

To review the report go to:

<http://www.ocbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013-Community-Indicators-Report.pdf>



## *Orange County School Boards Association 2013-2014 New Board of Directors*

### DIRECTORS

**County Board of Education** .....David Boyd  
**Elementary** .....Hilda Sugarman, FSD  
**Elementary** .....Ian Collins, FVSD  
**Unified** .....Judy Franco, NMUSD  
**Unified** .....Karin Freeman, PYLUSD  
**High School** .....Marilyn Buchi, FJUUSD  
**Community College** .....VACANT  
**ROP Representative** .....Meg Cutuli, LAUSD  
**PAGE Chairperson** .....Rosemary Saylor, HBCSD  
**Newsletter Editor** .....Suzie Swartz, SVUSD  
**CSBA Region 15 Director** .....Susan Henry, HBUSD

### OFFICERS

**President** .....Sharon Wallin, IUSD  
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**Vice President, Programs** .....Francine Scinto, TUSD  
**Secretary** .....Kathy Moffat, OUSD  
**Treasurer** .....Lynn Thornley, FSD



## *Thank You SchoolsFirst*

*We extend our sincere gratitude to SchoolsFirst for their ongoing generous support for this year's dinners and meetings.*



## **Fiscal Update Meeting**

Wednesday, May 29, 2013  
 4:00 to 5:30 PM

***Ron Bennett, President and CEO,  
School Services of California***

At the Orange County Department of Education

*To register, please contact your district.*



## *Welcome New Superintendent*

***LINDA WAGNER, Ed.D. – Anaheim City School District***

At its March 11, 2013 meeting, Anaheim City School District's Board of Education voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Linda Wagner as the district's new superintendent, beginning in April. Dr. Wagner has 27 years of experience in the field of education and had served as superintendent in Monrovia Unified School since 2009. She received her bachelor's, master's and doctorate's degrees at the University of La Verne.

Prior to her work in Monrovia, Dr. Wagner served as Superintendent in the Keppel Union and Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School Districts. This followed her work as Assistant Superintendent in Acton-Agua Dulce Unified and as Founding Principal of a K-8 dual-immersion magnet school and Bilingual Coordinator in Palmdale. Her teaching experience includes grades 1-8, primarily in bilingual settings.

She is the author of two books, *The Savvy Superintendent: Leading Instruction to the Top of the Class* and *The Power of Experience: Principals Talk About School Improvement*.