



El Rancho Unified School District

GOALS & ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2011

El Rancho Unified School District (ERUSD) is a 2009 recipient of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Initiative. ERUSD is one of 29 recipients of this highly competitive grant, and joins five other school districts in the State of California to receive the 2009 award. Four hundred and twenty-two school districts around the country applied for this coveted grant.

KEY GRANT ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS:

- Truancy Program
- *Too Good For Violence*
- *Too Good for Drugs*
- *Every 15 Minutes*
- *Project EX*
- *Character Counts!*
- *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program*
- Mental Health Screening and Services
- Surveillance Equipment
- Parenting Classes
- Pregnant Teens Program

The SS/HS Initiative focuses on safe school environments and violence prevention activities; alcohol and other drug prevention activities; student behavioral, social, and emotional supports; mental health services; and early childhood social and emotional learning programs. Through the implementation of SS/HS programs and activities, the District's goal is to reduce truancy, decrease disciplinary actions, and improve student academics. The SS/HS grant is geared towards creating a safe and healthy learning environment for students and their families.



Dora Soto-Delgado, Project Coordinator

The SS/HS Initiative draws on best practices of education, justice, social services, and mental health systems to provide integrated and comprehensive resources for prevention programs and pro-social services for youth. ERUSD and their community partners proposed an integrated, comprehensive, community-wide, and community-specific plan to address the problems of school violence and alcohol and other drug abuse.

An experienced administrator in the El Rancho Unified School District, Mrs. Dora Soto-Delgado, has been made Project Coordinator for the newly-awarded federal grant initiative, Safe Schools/Healthy Students. Mrs. Soto-Delgado has been with the District for 13 years. She has an educator's heart, strongly believing that every student deserves the right to succeed. Her passion for education and equal opportunity has served this District well and will continue to as she takes over the time-consuming job of Project Coordinator for the new Grant Initiative. Mrs. Soto-Delgado is also a devoted soccer mom to her two girls, 9 and 13, frequently driving to weekend soccer tournaments and volunteering her time on the soccer field. Although much of her time is devoted to the El Rancho Unified School District, she and her husband, Alfred (a high school science teacher), thoroughly appreciate and enjoy quality family time.

As part of Mrs. Soto-Delgado's responsibilities, she will see that the grant is administered according to federal guidelines and that there is financial fidelity for the funds that will drive various programs and projects. She will also maintain records on the project's operations to ensure program objectives are being met, including specific performance measures in the evaluation plan. To this end, Mrs. Soto-Delgado will work with the local and national Project Evaluators to collect key program information for assessing whether project activities and services are meeting the goals and objectives set forth in the grant initiative. Mrs. Soto-Delgado will be responsible for monitoring compliance with all federal, state, and district policies.

Mrs. Soto-Delgado's educational background includes earning a B.S. in Business Administration from California State University, Los Angeles, and a Master's degree in Counseling from the University of La Verne. Until 1996, Ms. Soto-Delgado was an urban planner for the City of Pico Rivera, at which time she took her teaching credentials to ERUSD to become a primary school teacher. Up to the present, Ms. Soto-Delgado has served as the District Superintendent's designee in Child Welfare and Attendance.

Safe School Environments And Violence Prevention Activities

OUR GOAL: To create a safe, respectful learning environment where students feel secure.

Increase Students Perception About Safety

We've **decreased** the number of students missing school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to and from school by **40.30%**! In addition to increasing attendance rates, our goal is to also increase the number of students who report feeling very safe school by 25%.

Decrease Fighting on School Property

We've decreased fighting on school property by 15.39%. We've also decreased the percentage of students who report being pushed, shoved, hit, etc. on school property in the past 12 months by 13.24%. Students are feeling safer at school, as evidenced by the decrease in children who report being afraid of being beaten up on school property during the previous 12 months by 9.75%!

Decrease Weapons on School Property

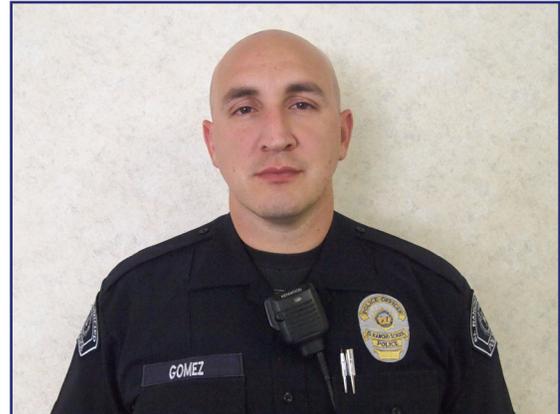
Our objective is a 20% decrease in the percentage of students surveyed in grades 7, 9, and 11 who report carrying a weapon (gun and other weapons) on school property in the previous 12 months.

The following chart illustrates the progress to date:

	Firearm (gun)	All other weapons
2009-10 School Year	5.78%	11.21%
2010-11 School Year	4.96%	9.05%
Current Change	Decrease of 14.18%	Decrease of 19.26%

We are also tracking the percentage of students who report seeing someone with a weapon on school property in the previous 12 months, and in two years we've decreased it by 11.36%.

In order to decrease physical fighting on school campus, increase students' perception about safety, and reduce absenteeism due to fear, the district has implemented new programs as well as hired a School Police Officer.



Officer Luis Gomez was hired as a School Police Officer. Officer Gomez comes to ERUSD as a police officer reporting directly to district police Chief Jeff Fitchett. Officer Gomez's duties include monitoring truancy and identifying at-risk and habitual offenders. Among his other responsibilities, Officer Gomez facilitates and participates in district and community truancy sweeps, and holds community forums to explain and discuss California Penal Section 272, which holds parents liable for their children's truancy. He recently expanded an education-based prevention and intervention program aimed at high-risk youth. Officer Gomez serves as the Element 1 Working Group Leader. This element of the grant provides programs for safe school environments and violence prevention activities.

To add to his already-expansive duties, Officer Gomez teaches the G.R.E.A.T (Gang Resistance and Education Training) program to district middle school students.

Luis Gomez comes to his post with a solid background in law enforcement and is an energetic and enthusiastic proponent of keeping our schools safe. He graduated from the Rio Hondo Police Academy with an associate degree in Science-Administration of Justice and holds many law enforcement certifications that well equip him for his duties.

Luis grew up in Lincoln Heights and was formerly a sergeant in the U.S. Army Airborne operations, so it's no surprise that he loves jumping out of airplanes! Officer Gomez keeps in shape by running and working out at the gym, and enjoys many outdoor activities that include fishing, camping, hunting, and back packing. Working on his house is a particular pleasure for him, as well as road trips, seafood, and Mediterranean cuisine.

Officer Luis Gomez is a dedicated and a valuable asset to our ERUSD schools.

El Rancho Unified School District has adopted the *Too Good for Violence* curriculum for all high school students. We began providing the curriculum to high schools students in the Spring semester of 2011, and all 5th grade students will receive this curriculum during the 2011-2012 school year.

Too Good for Violence promotes protective factors that help children get along peacefully:

- Bonding - creating a sense of belonging that results from having opportunities to participate and receive positive recognition from peers and adults
- Norms - promoting healthy beliefs and clear, positive standards
- Skills - enhancing the social and emotional skills for coping with anger and frustration, getting along with others, communicating positively, and negotiating conflict successfully

Too Good for Violence incorporates a CAREing Approach to Violence Prevention:

- Conflict resolution
- Anger management
- Respect for self and others
- Effective communication

Gang Resistance and Education Training

ERUSD began implementing the U.S. Department of Justice's Gang Resistance and Education Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program in the spring of 2010. A total of 756 middle school students have successfully completed the program.



Summer field trip to the Los Angeles Police Department's Equestrian Unit.

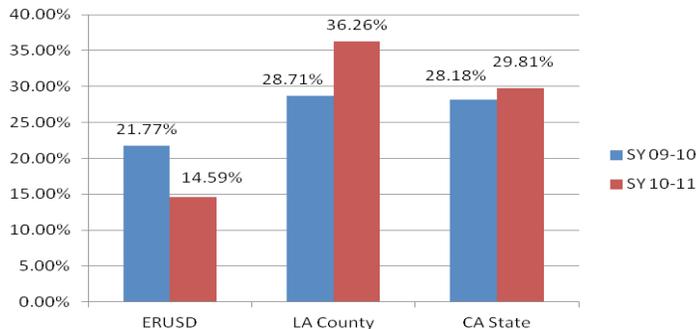


The curriculum provides children with the skills necessary to combat stresses that set the stage for gang involvement, accurate knowledge about gang involvement, skills necessary to resolve conflict peacefully, and help children understand the need to set realistic goals.

The G.R.E.A.T. summer component has served over 60 middle school students since the summer of 2010.

Decreasing Truancy

The district's truancy rate for the 2009-10 school year was 21.77%, and the truancy rate for the 2010-11 school year dropped to 14.59%, which is a reduction of 32.98%. The chart below compares El Rancho USD's truancy rate to both Los Angeles County and the state of California:



Decreasing Juvenile Recidivism

OUR GOAL: To decrease juvenile recidivism by 12% by June 2014. We are pleased to announce that Jesus Quinonez was hired as a Deputy Probation Officer during the the 2011-2012 school year to help us achieve this goal!

Deputy Probation Officer Jesus Quinonez was assigned to the El Rancho School District in November 2011. Since that time, he has worked throughout the school district monitoring behavior, attendance, and school performance of youth currently on probation, and those who may be at-risk. DPO Quinonez receives referrals from school officials, parents, and law enforcement officers, collaborating with them to bring the at-risk students to appropriate community and school resources. In addition, he provides mentoring, counseling, and law education to his students.

Mr. Quinonez serves on the Element 1 Group for Safe School Environments and Violence Prevention Activities. The district is indeed fortunate for the wealth of experience he brings to his post along with his educational background. DPO Quinonez has an Associate of Arts from East Los Angeles Community College and a B.A. from California State University, Dominguez Hills that included a major in Interdisciplinary Studies with Honors. He rose through the ranks of the Los Angeles County Probation Department, where his last assignment was with the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) program at Camp Ellison Onizuka. His

assignments included intensive supervision of High-Risk/High-Needs offenders, as well as providing care, safety, and control within a dormitory setting.

In spite of carrying a heavy caseload along with his district duties, Jesus manages to relax with his wife and three children, enjoying family road trips and barbecues. He's an avid 49ers fan who likes to play pool and dominoes and enjoys steak, seafood, and Italian food. He likes old architecture and has been known to run and bike occasionally. He is a California native who grew up in East L.A.



ERUSD is fortunate to have someone of Jesus Quinonez's caliber working with our students.

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention Activities

OUR GOAL: To reduce student use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use through prevention and early intervention strategies. We intend to reduce the percentage of students who report consuming alcohol or using marijuana on one or more occasions in the previous 30 days by 12% by June 2014.

We're half way to reaching our goal. In two short years we've decreased both current alcohol and marijuana use by 6%

Programs: Under the grant, we are implementing several evidence-based programs including *Too Good for Drugs*, *Project EX*, and *Every 15 Minutes*.

Too Good for Drugs is a school-based prevention program designed to reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use among students. *Too Good for Drugs* will be provided to all ERUSD K-12 students.

During the 2010-11 school year 5,486 students received the *Too Good for Drugs* curriculum!



Rivera Middle School Students: *Too Smart Too Start Drugs*

Reduce Tobacco Use

OUR GOAL: was a 5% decrease in tobacco use by June 2013, but we surpassed our goal way ahead of schedule, so we're going for an even larger decrease. At the end of the 2010-11 school year tobacco use was already down by 12.30%! We're crediting a large part of this success to *Project EX*.

Project EX is a school-based, tobacco-use cessation program for high school youth (ages 14-19 years). The program involves enjoyable, motivating activities such as games, mock talk shows, and yoga. At the completion of the program, youth will be able to:

- Stop or reduce cigarette smoking
- State accurate information about environmental, social, physiological, and emotional consequences of tobacco use

Students participating in *Project EX* will learn accurate knowledge of tobacco addiction and disease, and develop an empathetic understanding of the effects of tobacco use on friends. The eight session curriculum is delivered over a six week period. It emphasizes coping with stress, dealing with nicotine withdrawal, relaxation techniques, and how to avoid relapse. It aims to teach self-control, anger management, mood management, and goal setting techniques, and it provides self-esteem enhancement.

Drunk Driving Prevention

The *Every 15 Minutes* program is a first-generation model of school-based alcohol prevention that incorporates simulated alcohol-related consequences with various community elements including involvement from students, parents, educators, school administrators, health systems, and law enforcement personnel. *Every 15 Minutes* integrates a community-wide initiative to raise awareness of the consequences of underage drinking and to deter access through a combination of countermeasures including legal, enforcement, medical, media, and political entities.

The first *Every 15 Minutes* program took place on April 27-28, 2011 at El Rancho High School. The program began with the Grim Reaper pulling one student out of class every 15 minutes as a police officer read the student's obituary to the class. Those pre-selected students then returned to the classroom as the "living dead" wearing full make-up, a coroner's tag, and a black t-shirt. For the remainder of the day, the students didn't interact with their peers, and remained overnight in the care of school volunteers and mental health teams to further simulate the notion to family and friends that they are now deceased.



El Rancho High School's "Living Dead" students

Utilizing Pico Rivera firefighters, police officers, and other first responders who simulated a crash between a pickup truck "driven drunk" by a student, colliding with a car driven by another student. Ambulances arrived to take the injured to a local hospital and a funeral hearse removed the dead student to the morgue, while the drunk driver was transported to jail for booking and a mock trial at the courthouse. The student body of ERHS observed most of the action. The next day at school all the students were



El Rancho High School students who participated in the Every 15 Minutes program

reunited for an assembly where they got to wear simulator goggles which allowed them to experience firsthand the feeling of alcohol and drug impairment. The accident victim recounted at the assembly a powerful testimony to the consequences of drunk driving. The focus of the assembly was to heighten awareness that alcohol, drugs or distracted driving affects a whole community of family and friends.

Our objective is a 10% reduction by June 2013 in the percentage of students who report being a passenger in a car driven by someone who has been drinking. We've already surpassed this goal. At the end of the 2010-11 school year that number was already down by 20%.

Counseling and Rehabilitation Services to At-Risk Students with Substance Abuse Problems

During the 2010-11 school year 49 students were referred for services and these students received a combined total of 4,711 hours of counseling and rehabilitation services, which included individual therapy, group therapy, crisis intervention, case management, individual rehabilitation, initial screenings, assessment and evaluation, and classroom observations.

Student Behavioral, Social, and Emotional Supports

OUR GOAL: To increase behavioral, social, and emotional support by increasing developmental assets and protective factors in the school setting. We intend to increase the number of students who report a high level of external assets at school by 20% by June 2014, and to reduce the level of bullying behavior at school by 20% by June 2014.

Lorraine Jimenez was hired in the spring of 2010 as our Evidence-Based Programs Facilitator and has been trained in all of the evidence-based programs included in our SS/HS grant initiative.



Moreover, each ERUSD school site has identified and trained a School Site Coordinator to assist Lorraine in implementing all evidence-based programs.

Increasing Pro-Social Behavior

Character Counts! has received a tremendous amount of support and enthusiasm from the school sites and district office. All of the school sites have really embraced the program and aggressively began implementing programs at the beginning of the 2010-11 school year. El Rancho High School kicked off the school year by highlighting the program at it's Back to School Day. Students in grades 9 through 12 vied to present the best interpretation of the Six Pillars. Skits and lots of clever depictions of the traits that make up the pillars of character had students and staff in the stands laughing and cheering. The competition will



continue throughout the school year, with the winners announced in the spring.

The face of El Rancho High School has also been transformed to highlight *Character Counts!* and the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.



The Assistant Principal of Guidance at the high school, who is also a local artist, painted a mural with the six pillars of character outside of the nutrition center at the school.



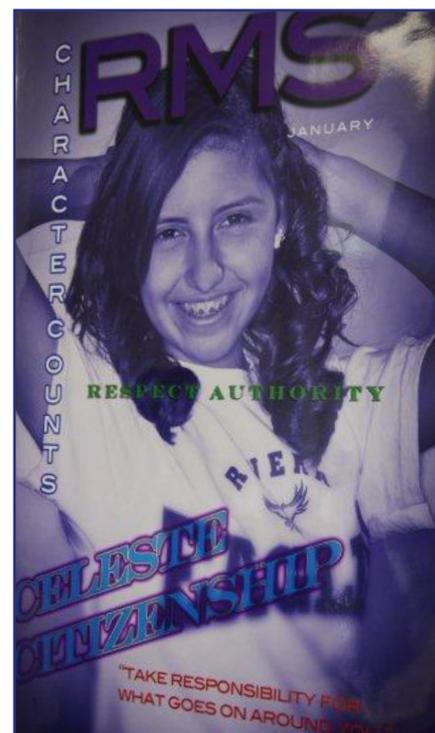
Surpassing all expectations of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Initiative, Rivera Middle School administrators, staff, and students are pulling out all the stops to do “whatever it takes” to take the *Character Counts!* program to the max. In fact, RMS School Site Coordinator, Aracely Valenzuela, says that those words, “whatever it takes,” is what they all live by to encourage students to succeed to their highest potential.

When the grant sponsored program was presented to the team from RMS, they embraced it not only wholeheartedly, but began immediately implementing creative and meaningful ways of bringing the concept of character

into their school life. And the trained adult team members brought the kids onboard at the outset so that the Six Pillars of the *Character Counts!* program became a personalized peer program as well. As the school year continues to unfold, students are excitedly taking charge of making this program the best that it can be by incorporating the Pillars into monthly by-words, posters, Students of the Month – even t-shirts are getting into the act!

The Six Pillars at RMS are represented by “mascots”: Caring Carlos, Ronnie Responsibility, Frankie Fairness, Rachel Respectful, Celeste Citizenship, and Tina Trustworthy. Six students auditioned to be the Pillar mascot role models to be displayed on posters throughout the building. Every month, each grade level nominates two students for Student of the Month honors; teachers then select one student best exemplifying the current Pillar characteristic. That student’s photo is prominently displayed on school bulletin boards.

Instead of the traditional 8th Grade “best” attributes showcased in the yearbook, such as best dressed, best hair, etc., RMS went looking for Most Responsible, Most Caring, Best Citizenship, and so on. Colorful tees displayed for sale touting “Your Character Counts Everywhere...all the Time at Rivera Middle School.” Even the teachers are wearing them!



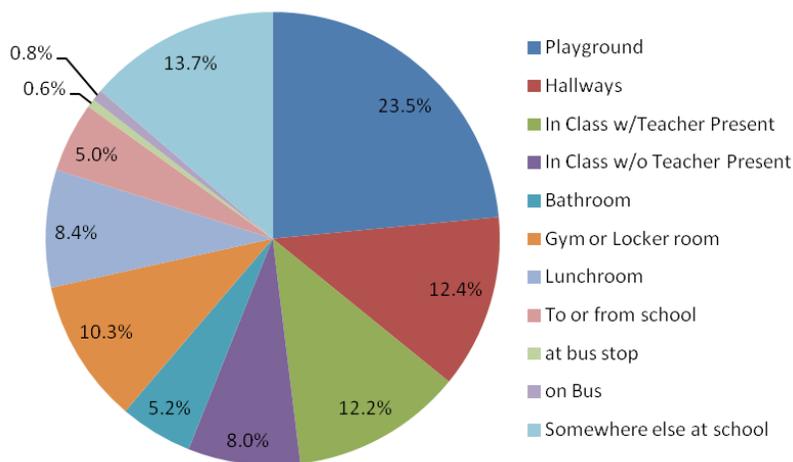
El Rancho Unified School District is extremely proud of the efforts being made at all of the schools to bring the *Character Counts!* program to a high level of understanding and participation from staff and students alike. Cheers for ERUSD students and staff – Your character counts and it’s showing!

To address bullying behavior, we are implementing **Olweus Bullying Prevention Program**:

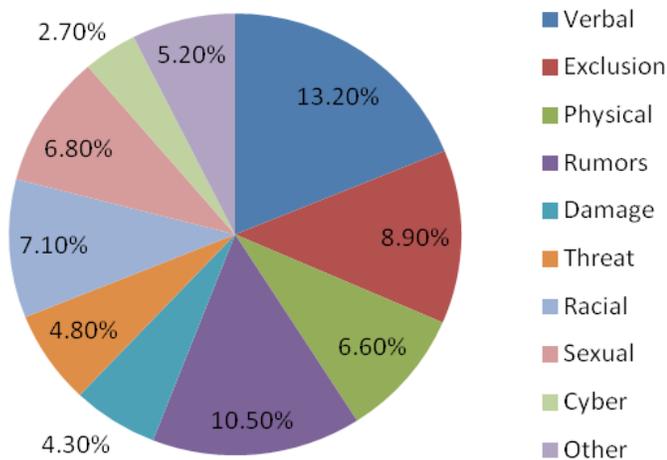
OUR GOAL: 1) To reduce the level of bullying behavior among students, 2) To increase the percentage of students who report the bullying behavior to another person, 3) To increase the percentage of students who report that an adult intervenes when bullying occurs, and 4) To increase the percentage of students who report being talked to about bullying other students.

We conducted a baseline survey in 2010 which revealed the following information:

The chart below illustrates how the bullying occurred for the students who reported being victims of bullying behavior:



The chart below illustrates where the bullying occurred for the students who reported being victims of bullying behavior:



We will conduct this survey on an annual basis.

Mentoring Matters

Yvette Loreda del Toro was hired as the After-School/Mentor Coordinator in the Spring of 2010.



Our mentoring program began in the fall 2010 semester. All students are placed with mentors through the P.R.I.D.E. Program (Pico Rivera Independent Development and Ethics Program). This program was created by the LA County Sheriff's Department and utilizes deputies in the community to serve as mentors to at-risk students.

The following chart illustrates the number of students participating in this program and the total number of hours received, to date:

Fall 2010 Semester	
# of Participants	Total # of Hours
8 students	69
Spring 2011 Semester	
# of Participants	Total # of Hours
14 students	1,148
Fall 2011 Semester	
# of Participants	Total # of Hours
16 students	1,208

Mentoring clearly makes a difference to at-risk students, and the effect increases over time as the relationship develops and school attendance increases. We have been evaluating the mentoring program based on attendance, discipline referrals and grade point average (GPA). Mentoring has the most significant impact on student attendance.

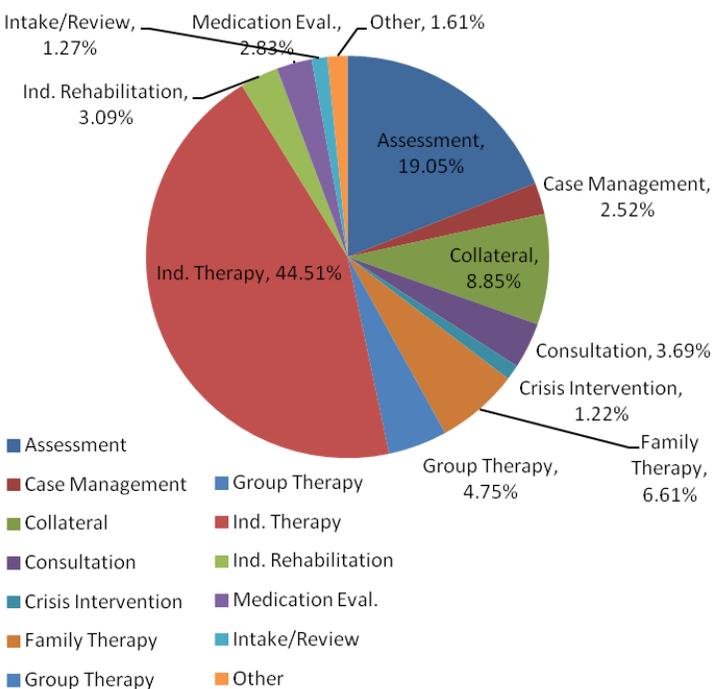
Knowing a strong adult cares enough to track behavior and be there waiting after school impacts students who might otherwise be tempted to skip school. Unexcused absences decreased by 93%.

Students' discipline problems began to decrease in the first semester of the program as well, and have remained more than 80% lower than discipline rates prior to mentoring. Over the three semesters the program has been in place so far, as attendance goes up and discipline problems go down, grades have started to improve. The improvement in grades has been incremental, reaching an aggregate GPA increase of 5.84 points in the Fall of 2011.

Mental Health Services

OUR GOAL: To provide an effective and coordinated network of mental health services to help students overcome barriers to behavioral and emotional success. We intend to increase the number of students receiving mental health services by 25% annually, for a total of 100% by June 2014.

Our baseline data (2009-10 School Year) indicates that 149 K-12 students received school- based mental health services. During the 2010-11 school year that number increased to 172 students. Those students received a total of 3,635 hours of service at school. The following charts break out the total amount of service provided by type:



To help us reach our goal we have hired a **Mental Health Liaison, Hipolito Murillo.**



He's a hometown guy who has been with El Rancho Unified School District 17 years. He holds a number of degrees, and he knows kids. Hipolito Murillo, a licensed educational psychologist, is the new mental health liaison for the district's Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant. His job is to see that services are well suited to our youngsters who are struggling with emotional and situational issues in their home and at school. Mr. Murillo will be in charge of referring, developing, and identifying mental health needs to staff, students, parents, and the community at large.

His credentials are impressive. He started out at Cerritos College with an Associate of Arts Degree in Social Sciences, and then obtained a B.A. in Psychology from UCLA. From California State University, Los Angeles, Mr. Murillo received his M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, an M.S. in Counseling designed for schools, and an M.A. in Educational Administration. That's a lot of learning! On top of that, he is credentialed in Multiple Subject Teaching, Pupil Personnel Services in School Psychology and Child Welfare & Attendance, and Administrative Services. Topping off this extensive educational background is his license as an Education Psychologist, which grants him the ability to practice outside of the K-12 school system.

Hipolito, also called Hip within the district, was an elementary classroom teacher for five years, and he was a school psychologist for nine. The district also employed him for three years as its Coordinator of Special Education/Medical Billing Coordinator where he took charge of the district's Special Ed programs and ran a kindergarten through age 22 Special Education school site.



Mental Health Service Providers and ERUSD School Board during Mental Health Awareness Week.

An interesting sidelight to Hip's employment history is that for 12 years he was employed by the Los Angeles Dodgers – a batboy for two years and locker room attendant for ten! He says meeting players and being involved personally with the team's day-to-day operations was, indeed, a young man's dream job.

This engaging and very busy man does have another life; Hip loves family time. Disneyland is a favorite destination and when his schedule allows, he loves watching sports, playing softball and running. But he stresses that his kids take priority with their sporting activities – he's a soccer, baseball, and softball dad among other things!

This is a man who has spent his career dealing with the myriad problems children and families face in the area of mental health. His education and experience are huge assets for his work within the district. And the district is so fortunate to have someone with Hipolito Murillo's special skill set; we applaud his past, present, and future work with ERUSD.

Early Childhood Social and Emotional Learning Programs

OUR GOAL: To increase early childhood social and emotional learning programs. We intend to increase the number of parents receiving parenting instruction by 5% annually, with a 20% increase by June 2014, and increase the number of families and children (age 0-5 population) receiving mental health services by 50 on an annual basis.

We began providing parenting classes in the fall of 2010. During the 2010-11 school year we conducted 22 classes with a total of 315 parents attending.

We have received a great response to these classes, and they will continue throughout the grant.

We also hired **Jaime Hernandez, Licensed Vocational Nurse**, to support our pregnant teens program.



El Rancho Unified School District welcomes Jaime Hernandez to the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant team! Ms. Hernandez will also serve on the working group for Element 5 under the Early Childhood Social and Emotional Learning Programs team.

As a Licensed Vocational Nurse (L.V.N.), she will be responsible for providing home visits and case management for pregnant teens. Additionally, she will conduct parenting classes for pregnant teens and teens who are already parents. Ms. Hernandez's credentials are from Advanced College, a private nursing school, and her experience as an L.V.N. comes from working at the Colonial Gardens Nursing Home in Pico Rivera. She continues her college education to become a speech pathologist from California State University, Los Angeles.

Jaime is a native of Pico Rivera and was educated in the district's school system beginning with Selby Grove Elementary and graduating from El Rancho High School four years ago. She loves dancing; Jaime was an Aztec dancer for several years. Her other leisure interests include hiking and camping. Sunset-watching on the beach is another favorite pastime for Jaime, but probably the most important thing in her private life at this time is enjoying date nights with her new fiancé.

ERUSD is very pleased to have someone with Jamie Hernandez's qualifications on board. Her youthful enthusiasm and nursing experience is a perfect fit with our teen pregnancy parenting programs provided under the SS/HS grant initiative.

Our School/Community Liaison, Yvette Loreda del Toro, is facilitating Healthy Relationship Workshops through the P.R.I.D.E program. Thirteen students participated in these workshops during the fall 2011 semester and each received approximately six hours of instruction. The fall 2011 semester marks the first time these classes have been offered to ERUSD students and classes will continue throughout the life of the grant.

Ms. del Toro also facilitates parenting classes for young moms and dads. During the fall 2010 semester, 11 students participated in the program and received 24 hours of instruction. During the spring 2011 semester, 17 students participated and received 11 hours of service. During the fall 2011 semester, 16 students participated and received 20 hours of service. These classes included parenting styles, being firm without being harsh, taking responsibility, and addressing whining.

How Do We Do It?

We couldn't do it alone. This District is extremely fortunate to have an outstanding community of local support partners who have been on board since the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant initiative was awarded two years ago. The dedicated individuals of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, and Department of Probation, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles County Department of Education and the City of Pico Rivera have been invaluable to our efforts to create a safe and healthy environment for the children of the El Rancho Unified School District.

We see our District's personnel - from school board members and administrators to custodians - taking an active and personal role for us to meet the goals set forth when we embarked on this mission to make our schools the best they could be and our kids healthy and productive to meet their life opportunities.

How Do We Measure Success

Creating excellence is not easy, so we are working very hard to make sure we have complete and comprehensive data to measure the success of our programs. It's not enough to see and feel the positive changes in school climate and student well-being. We want to be able to measure them too. Without solid statistics, it can be next to impossible to gauge the effectiveness of the interventions we're implementing to accomplish our mission and clarify the vision we have for the children of this progressive district.

We are diligently tracking our progress toward the goals set out at the beginning of the grant through site visits, surveys, focus groups, interviews, activity logs, training records, and statistics. The tool we use to measure a large portion of our grant activities is the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS). CHKS is a comprehensive youth risk behavior and resilience data survey instrument. The CHKS provides local schools and communities with data to identify the needs of youth (Grades 5 and above) and to guide efforts to address those needs. We are greatly encouraged by the increased participation rates for this annual survey. Not only does this indicate higher parent interest, but when the participation rate is high, we are assured that we're obtaining a high level of accuracy in reporting behavior and attitudes. The following chart is evidence that we're making successful inroads to gather critical data.

CHKS Participation Rates			
	2009	2010	2011
Grade 5	44%	71%	68%
Grade 7	64%	88%	87%
Grade 9	60%	78%	76%
Grade 11	57%	78%	71%
Total	56%	79%	76%



El Rancho Unified School Districts' SS/HS Core Management Team. (L-R) Blanca Monsalvo, LA County Department of Child and Family Services; Jewel Forbes, LA County Office of Education; Lorraine Jimenez, ERUSD, Element 3 Leader; Ray Chaves, City of Pico Rivera; Maria Huerta, ERUSD, Element 4 Leader; Officer Luiz Gomez, ERUSD, Element 1 Leader; Debbie Nelson, LA County Department of Probation; Elizabeth Renteria, ERUSD, Element 5 Leader; Dora Soto-Delgado, ERUSD, SS/HS Project Coordinator; Stacey Newton, Local Evaluator; Jesus Quinonez, ERUSD, Deputy Probation Officer; Sonia Lilley, ERUSD, SS/HS Department Secretary; and Deputy Steve Sanchez, LA County Sheriff's Department.

Aside from the raw data drawn from the survey, there is most definitely a keen sense of success within the ERUSD schools. Teachers, staff, and students are highly invested in the various programs offered through the grant. The enthusiasm and sense of community in many of our schools indicates we are making a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable students and most importantly, creating an environment in which all of our children can learn, grow, and realize their own potential.

In February 2012, we conducted our annual CHKS survey and we expect to review the results from this survey in early June. We can't wait to share the results with you in the Fall.

For additional information about our Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant, please contact Dora Soto-Delgado at ddelgado@erUSD.k12.ca.us

ERUSD CLASS (Crime Line Assisting School Safety)
Anonymously report criminal activity in and around your school
Email: elranchoclass@yahoo.com
[facebook.com/elranchoclass](https://www.facebook.com/elranchoclass) or twitter.com/erspd