



## Career Technical Education Programs At A Glance

Located in the central area of the Coachella Valley in the desert of Southern California, Desert Sands Unified School District serves children from Bermuda Dunes, Coachella, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, and Rancho Mirage. The district is 750 square miles, separated into five trustee areas. DSUSD operates on an annual budget of \$324,000,000.

- Nineteen elementary schools (1 charter school) with one set to open in 2018
- Seven middle schools (1 charter school)
- Four traditional high schools
- Two alternative high schools
- One k-8 home school program
- One 9-12 independent study program
- One Early Childhood Learning Center; two district pre-schools (Head Start and federally funded programs) in addition to school-housed pre-school classrooms; a home school pre-school program
- 28,958 students
- 2,700 employees (certificated, classified, management)
- 73% of students are of Hispanic descent or culture; 20% are white; 2% African American; 2% Asian; 3% other ethnicity
- 32 languages are spoken in our schools
- 6,960 are English language learners (6,663 home language is Spanish)
- 3,068 special education students (11%)
- 67% students on free and reduced lunch programs with over 24,000 meals prepared each day.
- 26,284 Chromebooks and 4,584 tablets are in the hands of our students, teachers, and staff. An additional 3,804 Chromebooks will be added in the 2017-2018 school year. 18% of classrooms are equipped with LFDs (large format displays.)
- A district-owned fleet of busses and vehicles including: 37 traditional school busses, 53 special education busses, and 129 trucks and cars including eight security vehicles.

DSUSD offers a number of Career Technical Education (CTE) programs along with traditional and high-level academic programs, preparing our students for college, career, and life. Other CTE programs are currently being formulated.

- Amistad High School:
  - Automotive Pathway
  - HVAC Certification Pathway (in collaboration with College of the Desert)
- Indio High School:
  - Health & Nutritional Sciences Academy
  - Animal Science Pathway
  - Ornamental Horticulture Pathway
  - Engineering & Design Pathway
  - Environmental Engineering Pathway
  - IMPACT Pathway (Institute of Media Production Arts & Creative Technology)
- La Quinta High School:
  - Public Service Academy
  - Medical Health Academy
  - Culinary Pathway
  - Information Technology Pathway
- Palm Desert High School:
  - Business Management Pathway
  - Health Careers Academy
  - Engineering, Energy, Power & Technology Pathway
  - F.I.L.M Pathway (Foundations in Literary Media)
- Shadow Hills High School:
  - Aviation Academy
  - Technology Landscape & Management Academy
  - Engineering Pathway
  - Education Pathway

All CTE programs in Desert Sands include a clear, consistent course sequence and incorporate work-based learning opportunities.

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- Middle Schools
    - Many DSUSD middle schools offer career technical education early interest courses. La Quinta Middle and Palm Desert Charter have adopted Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum as a means of increasing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) focused content. Indio Middle School is a medical magnet school and has partnered with One Future Coachella to provide a medical focused curriculum. In addition, all middle schools have implemented elective courses and programs to expose students to a variety of career themed courses.

## Student Achievement

91% cohort graduation rate for class of 2015-2016

44.8% a-g completion rate

2016 college enrollment:

56% of graduates enrolled in college for the 2015-15 school year (52.9% African American; 68.1% Asian; 54.8% Hispanic/Latino; 58.3% White)

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The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) annually assesses all students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics.

Baseline data was established in 2015, the first operational year of the new statewide assessment system.

Desert Sands Unified School District has shown significant growth in the percent of students scoring at "Standard Met" or "Standard Exceeded" in both ELA and mathematics. ELA increased from 45% in 2015 to 50% in 2016. Mathematics increased from 28% in 2015 to 33% in 2016. The five percentage points increase in each content area exceeds the gains made by Riverside County.

***The mission of the  
Desert Sands Unified School District,  
a dynamic system of challenging educational choices,  
is to ensure that every student develops the  
knowledge, skills, and motivation to succeed as a  
productive, ethical, global citizen by assuring equal  
access to learning provided by caring, committed,  
and collaborative staff working with our  
families and extended partnerships.***

### **Desert Sands Unified School District**

District Office • 47-950 Dune Palms Road • La Quinta CA 92253

Web Site [www.dsusd.us](http://www.dsusd.us) • 760.777.4200 • [workingtogether@desertsands.us](mailto:workingtogether@desertsands.us)

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The Board of Education meets twice monthly on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Check online for any exceptions due to holidays. Meetings take place in the Board Room at the District Office.

