



**For Immediate Release:**

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**New Graduation Data Shows Pittsburg Unified School District's Grad Rates on Rise**

**Pittsburg, CA...Wednesday, May 18, 2016** - Pittsburg Unified School District digs into cohort graduation data released by State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson, and uncovers continued gains in PUSD's cohort graduation rates; including an overall increase of 13% since 2014. The District's largest student groups saw significant gains, 13.5% for Latino students, 14% for African American students and 21% for students who are English language learners. In addition, the District saw gains of 10% for students who are eligible for attending college within University of California and California State University institutions.

Pittsburg Unified's superintendent is ecstatic with the results of the new data released by the California Department of Education. "This is a recognition of our talented students and the skill, professionalism and commitment of our teachers and staff," said Dr. Janet Schulze, Superintendent of Pittsburg Unified School District. "Our graduates are experiencing the benefits of years of excellent teaching. During the 2014-2015 school year, we used the opportunity under Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) to offer expanded learning to our students, including evening school and summer learning for credit recovery. We underwent a Visioning Process for our high schools, Vision 2027, and committed to reaching all of our students and providing them with every opportunity to succeed. Our drop-out rate decrease of over 10% is a strong indicator we are on the right path."

Yesterday's release of data echoes an honor PUSD was awarded in February for expanding access to college. The District was recognized by the College Board and is one of 130 school districts in the United States to be applauded for creating opportunities

for traditionally underrepresented students. PUSD was placed on the Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll for expanded access to higher education by providing students with rigorous academic offerings and innovative college-preparation programs.

For additional information about cohort graduation rates and data released by the California Department of Education, please go to:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr16/yr16rel38.aspco>

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### **About Pittsburg Unified School District**

Pittsburg Unified School District (PUSD) is a K-12 district serving the community of Pittsburg, California. Founded in 1933, the school system is committed to providing an excellent opportunity for all students to learn. Comprised of eight elementary schools, three junior high schools, one comprehensive high school, one alternative education high school, an adult school, independent study, alternative learning experiences, and early childhood education services, the school district serves more than 10,500 students. PUSD is located in the San Francisco Bay Area, fifty minutes outside of downtown San Francisco.

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