



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Jurupa Unified Brings Book Vending Machines to Schools A Ribbon-Cutting Event Takes Place Wednesday, Dec. 13**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**JURUPA VALLEY, CA** - The secret to nourishing students' minds, fueling their imaginations, and building skills for future success just might be found in... a vending machine.

But these aren't just any vending machines. The newest additions to Jurupa Unified School District campuses don't dispense candy, chips, or soda. They offer books. The novel school literary devices are part of the JUSD Literacy Without Limits campaign, aimed at promoting literacy awareness and support across the district and community.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the newest book vending machine at Sunnyslope Elementary will take place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, December 13 at, 7050 38th Street in Jurupa Valley.

***Photo/video opportunity: Transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students will be on hand to help celebrate the occasion and will be choosing books with help from their parents and upper-grade Student Council peers. Interview opportunities in English and Spanish will be available.***

Book vending machines are being installed at every JUSD campus and are funded through one-time federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds. They augment a wide variety of resources and programs designed to empower students to take ownership of their literacy journey. Students can "purchase" books from the machines with tokens earned with good citizenship, improved attendance, or other positive behavior. The idea is to make literacy accessible and fun for all students and to create positive lifelong learning habits.

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“We’re so excited to bring these unique, eye-catching vending machines to our schools as we continue to seek innovative, creative ways to help our students reach their full potential,” said Dr. Trenton Hansen, JUSD Superintendent. “We know that literacy is essential to academic and social success. We also understand that a variety of obstacles often can prevent students from accessing books or reading regularly. These vending machines, along with the work taking place in our classrooms, our libraries, and at home, help make anything possible for students and can help make school seem magical and exciting.”

Jurupa Unified has made literacy – especially literacy in the primary grades – a priority this year and has developed several engaging and fun programs to elevate literacy awareness. Research shows that attaining proficiency in reading by the third grade is critical to future success.

In addition to the vending machines, JUSD libraries also offered “book tasting” events this fall to encourage students to read a variety of book genres. Special guest readers have been visiting school libraries to serve as “mystery readers” and the JUSD Family Reading Challenge encourages families to read with their students.

“We know that reading every day, for as little as 10 minutes a day, can make a significant difference for students,” Dr. Hansen said. “We’re doing everything possible to help our students access books and to see reading as a fun activity so they can realize Literacy Without Limits and Learning Without Limits for life.”

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## **ABOUT JURUPA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*The Jurupa Unified School District is located within Riverside County. JUSD is made up of twenty-six schools total; fifteen elementary schools, one TK-6 music academy, one K-8 STEAM academy, three middle schools, three high schools, one continuation school, one adult alternative school, and one Pre-K school readiness center. Twelve JUSD campuses are Community Schools.*