



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## JUSD Leaders Advocate for Students in Washington

**WASHINGTON D.C.**--Jurupa Unified School District leaders were among a small group of California educators invited to meet with Vice President Kamala Harris' staff last week to discuss important issues affecting students and families.

JUSD Superintendent Dr. Trenton Hansen and Board of Education Clerk Robert Garcia were invited to participate in the meeting with the Vice President's team as the only representatives for Inland Southern California. Although Dr. Hansen and Mr. Garcia were unable to meet with Vice President Harris personally due to her recent positive COVID-19 test, they were very grateful for the opportunity to speak to her staff directly and engage in meaningful discussions about support for our students.

The meeting was part of the Coast2Coast federal advocacy trip, sponsored by the California School Boards Association (CSBA) and Association of California School Administrators (ACSA). Dr. Hansen, Board of Education President Melissa Ragole, and Mr. Garcia spent the week in Washington D.C. meeting with lawmakers to advocate for Jurupa Unified and public education.

"We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to represent Jurupa Unified and California in our nation's capital as we continue to advocate for our students, so they receive the tools they need to be successful," Dr. Hansen said. "It is heartening to know that we have legislators in Washington D.C. who are willing to listen and want to do their part to support our schools."

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“Having leaders from JUSD represent California schools and meet with the Vice President's staff was an honor,” stated Mrs. Ragole. “When strengths and opportunities for students and staff are discussed among representatives from all levels of government, it allows for unified planning with students top of mind. In addition, these discussions help us to prioritize decisions by continuing to elevate programs, resources, and funding for a better education plan that improves the learning experience for K-12 schools.

I look forward to representatives from our state continuing to hold collective conversations for our students and staff in Jurupa Valley and across our state.”

“It was an honor to be part of the JUSD team meeting with our federal lawmakers on behalf of our district’s students and community,” Mr. Garcia stated. “It was wonderful to see that even at the highest levels of our nation’s government, children and families come first.”

A wide variety of topics on how the federal government can support our students were discussed, including:

- An extension of the deadline for school districts to spend Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund monies. These funds were made available to school districts as part of the American Rescue Plan to assist in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Purchases of some needed supplies have been delayed due to supply chain issues.
- Continued access to monies through the Electronic Connectivity Fund, which supports broadband access. Although JUSD students are now primarily learning in-person, there continues to be a need to assist students with connectivity to electronic devices. So far, JUSD has provided hot spots to 3,000 households and 4,000 students.
- Support for mental health programs
- Additional support for school nutrition programs
- Greater support for special education – particularly for younger students via the Individuals with Educational Disabilities Act (IDEA)

Also discussed were student privacy and online safety, and the educator shortage.

Last week’s meetings are just one example of how JUSD leadership seeks to advocate for students so that they receive the very best educational supports possible. Be sure to follow Dr. Hansen – @JUSD\_Supt – on Twitter and Instagram and the Jurupa Unified School District @jurupausd on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date with the latest district information.

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## **ABOUT JURUPA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*The Jurupa Unified School District is located within Riverside County. JUSD is proudly 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.*