

Rescue Union School District Superintendent's Parent Newsletter

August 2015



Keeping Parents Informed about Rescue Union School District



IN THIS ISSUE

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back for the 2015-2016 school year!

This is always an exciting time of year, when teachers, support staff, administrators, and our Board of Trustees renew our goals and aspirations for the success of every student. We thank you, our parents, for entrusting Rescue Union with your child's education. We will work with your student every day to teach courage, curiosity, creativity, and a life-long love of learning.

**NEW ASSESSMENT
SYSTEM**
The California Assessment
of Student Performance
and Progress (CAASPP)

New Assessment System – The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)

Last year, we entered a new era in student assessment when more than 3 million students took the new online Smarter Balanced Assessment in English language arts and math. Although this very new and somewhat complicated system is in its infancy, it will evolve (as did the previous STAR program) to help us ensure that we meet the needs of every student and fully prepare them for their future. We recognize that while it is critical for our parents to understand the meaning and significance of this new system, we hope you remember these important points about testing this year:

CURRICULUM UPDATE
Project Lead the Way
Technology Enhancements

- These results are just a starting point. This is baseline information and no comparisons can be made between these scores and scores from the previous testing system.
- The new California State Standards set higher expectations for students than in the past. The standards define subject matter knowledge and the real-world skills (critical, thinking, analytical writing and problem-solving) that students need in order to be on track to graduate from high school ready for college or a career.
- The standards-aligned tests are more challenging, but provide a better assessment of student knowledge and skills. The previous tests simply contained multiple choice questions, but the new tests use more intricate questions, including performance tasks, that require students to integrate their knowledge and skills. Besides being computer-based, the new tests are computer-adaptive, meaning the difficulty of the test is tailored to a student based on the student's responses on prior questions. This helps ensure a more accurate assessment.
- Focusing on progress is important!

**HEALTH INSURANCE
INFORMATION**

DATES TO REMEMBER



Individual Student Reports for this assessment will be mailed home soon. Once again, it is important to keep in mind that the Smarter Balanced Assessment tested students on a new set of standards, which were much more rigorous than we've ever had before. The student reports will also look different.

Students will receive a scaled score for both English language arts and math. Each scaled score will correspond to one of four achievement levels – Standard Exceeded, Standard Met, Standard Nearly Met, and Standard Not Met. Students will also receive scores that relate to the claims of each subject area, such as reading or writing. This is the first time any such scores have been returned to students or schools, and as such, represent baseline data for our students. We are focused on the continual growth of every student, and we use this data to develop learning experiences that match your students' specific needs.

More information on interpreting the upcoming Smarter Balanced Assessment Individual Student Reports can be found at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/caaspp15elamathscrgde.pdf>.

If you would like additional information, you are always welcome and encouraged to contact your child's teacher or principal.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION UPDATE:

By Dave Scroggins, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

This promises to be another exciting and educationally rewarding year for the students of the Rescue Union School District. Our instructional staff is hard at work planning and delivering remarkable learning opportunities to prepare your children to be successful in the ever changing world in which they live. We know that the citizens of tomorrow will need to be technologically prepared, be able to think critically, and be capable of solving complex problems. We are eager to provide our students with highly engaging and dynamic activities to get them ready for their future!

Project Lead the Way

At our two middle schools, we are now proud to provide Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses to students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. These courses offer world class Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curriculum. Students participating in our PLTW Design and Modeling course will use state of the art equipment, including professional grade Autodesk Inventor software and high powered computers, to design, analyze, and construct various real-world objects. Those taking the PLTW Medical Detectives course will conduct forensic science activities, including actual DNA extraction and analysis. We will also be offering a PLTW Flight and Space course to teach students all about aeronautical engineering. To find out more about Project Lead the Way and the courses we're offering, please contact your child's principal or visit the Project Lead the Way website at <https://www.pltw.org/>.

Technology Enhancements

Last year, the Rescue Union School District Board of Trustees made a game-changing commitment to the integration of technology into our instructional programs as essential tools for learning. We are also very excited to enhance technology and computer science instruction at all of our schools. This year, we've hired full time technology teachers at each middle school and a full time technology teacher to serve our elementary-aged students as well. To ensure that we are teaching our students the most relevant skills at the appropriate grade levels, our teachers and administrators have spent a great deal of time refining our technology scope and sequence and aligning it to the standards set forth by the International Society for Technology in Education. We've also invested over \$500,000 on new Chromebooks, laptops, iPads, desktop computers, and tablets for our students and teachers, and our staff has logged over 400 combined hours of technology related professional development in August alone! We're very excited to be able to teach your students the technology related skills they'll need for the future, and we are really looking forward to seeing the creative ways they'll use these skills and devices to demonstrate their knowledge and further their own understanding.

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**HEALTH
INSURANCE
INFORMATION**



**DATES
TO
REMEMBER**

HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION:

By law, most people are now required to have health insurance or pay a penalty when they file their taxes. Through Covered California, a program from the state of California, qualified legal residents of California and their families can compare health insurance plans and enroll in the one that works best for their needs and budget. Financial assistance is available to qualifying individuals and families to help them pay for health insurance premiums. This means the federal government may pay a portion of the health insurance premium. Individuals and families may also qualify for Medi-Cal benefits.

Visit CoveredCA.com to learn more, compare health insurance plans, choose the one that best fits your needs and enroll online. For free, confidential, in-person help, in your area, visit www.CoveredCA.com/get-help/local or call (800) 300-1506. (SEE ATTACHED FLYER)

Labor Day Holiday	September 7
District Day	September 8 (students do not attend)
Board Meeting	September 8
GATE TEST	September 12
Board Study Session	September 29

Please check your individual school website or the District website www.rescueusd.org for scheduled activities, start and dismissal times, as well as the 2015-2016 school calendar.

Thank you for your support!

Respectfully,

David Swart



Find in-person help:
www.coveredca.com/get-help/local/

Enroll. Get Care. Renew. Health Coverage All Year Long

Health Coverage Options

Medi-Cal:

- ▶ Children, foster youth, pregnant women, adults, US citizens, and immigrants—including those with DACA status—may be eligible for no- or low-cost Medi-Cal.
- ▶ Medi-Cal covers immunizations, checkups, specialists, vision and dental services, and more for children and youth at no- or low-cost.
- ▶ Medi-Cal enrollment is available year-round.

Covered California:

- ▶ Covered California is where legal residents of California can compare quality health plans and choose the one that works best for them.
- ▶ Based on income and family size, many Californians may qualify for financial assistance.
- ▶ Enroll during Open Enrollment or any time you experience a life-changing event, like losing your job or having a baby. You have 60 days from the event to complete enrollment.

! Undocumented Families visit: www.allinforhealth.org/resources#Undocumented
Immigration status information is kept private, protected, and secure. It will not be used by any immigration agency to enforce immigration laws, but only to determine eligibility for health programs.

You and your family may qualify for financial help:

Household Size	If 2015 household income is less than...		If 2015 household income is between...
1	\$16,243	\$31,309	\$16,106 – \$46,680
2	\$21,984	\$42,374	\$21,709 – \$62,920
3	\$27,725	\$53,440	\$27,312 – \$79,160
4	\$33,465	\$64,505	\$32,914 – \$95,400
5	\$39,206	\$75,571	\$38,517 – \$111,640
6	\$44,947	\$86,637	\$44,120 – \$127,880
▶	Adults may be eligible for Medi-Cal	Children may be eligible for Medi-Cal	May be eligible for financial help to purchase insurance through Covered California

Enroll.

Three ways to enroll in Medi-Cal and Covered California:

- www.coveredca.com
1 (800) 300-1506
- Find in-person help:
www.coveredca.com/get-help/local/

Get Care.

- ▶ Find a primary care doctor in your network.
- ▶ Schedule an annual checkup for you and your family.
- ▶ Make sure to take your child to the dentist.
- ▶ Pay your monthly premium if your plan requires it.

Renew.

- ▶ Medi-Cal must be renewed every year. Medi-Cal will mail renewal packet. Complete and return. For help, contact your local Medi-Cal office or call 211.
- ▶ Health plans through Covered California must be renewed every year. Renewal information will be mailed at the end of the year, or contact Covered California at 1 (800) 300-1506.

For more information go to:
www.allinforhealth.org

April 2015



A PROJECT OF THE CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP



Ayuda en persona:
www.coveredca.com/espanol/get-help/local

Inscríbese. Cuide Su Salud. Renueve Su Cobertura.

Cobertura de salud durante todo el año

Sus Opciones de Cobertura de Salud

Medi-Cal:

- ▶ Niños, jóvenes en hogares de crianza, mujeres embarazadas, adultos, ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos, e inmigrantes incluyendo personas con el estatus de Acción Diferida (DACA)—podrían ser elegibles para Medi-Cal gratis o a bajo costo.
- ▶ Medi-Cal proporciona vacunas, visitas al doctor de prevención, especialista, oculista y servicios dentales para niños y jóvenes gratis o a bajo costo.
- ▶ Inscripción al programa de Medi-Cal está disponible todo el año.

Covered California:

- ▶ Covered California es donde los residentes legales de California pueden comparar planes de salud de alta calidad y elegir el que les conviene.
- ▶ Dependiendo de los ingresos y el tamaño de la familia, muchos Californianos también podrían calificarán para obtener ayuda financiera.
- ▶ Inscríbese durante la Inscripción Abierta o en cualquier momento durante el año que a tenido un evento calificado de vida, como si perdió su trabajo o tuvo un bebé. Tienen 60 días del evento para inscribirse.

! **Para familias indocumentadas** visten: www.allinforhealth.org/resources#Undocumented
 Su información de inmigración es confidencial, protegida, y segura. Su información no se usará para fines de control de inmigración. Solo se usará para determinar la elegibilidad para cobertura médica.

Usted y su familia podrían calificar para asistencia financiera:

Tamaño de la familia	Si el ingreso familiar en 2015 es menos de...		Si el ingreso familiar en 2015 es entre...
1	\$16,243	\$31,309	\$16,106 – \$46,680
2	\$21,984	\$42,374	\$21,709 – \$62,920
3	\$27,725	\$53,440	\$27,312 – \$79,160
4	\$33,465	\$64,505	\$32,914 – \$95,400
5	\$39,206	\$75,571	\$38,517 – \$111,640
6	\$44,947	\$86,637	\$44,120 – \$127,880
▶	Adultos podrían calificar para Medi-Cal	Niños podrían calificar para Medi-Cal	Podrías calificar para asistencia financiera en la compra de un seguro a través de Covered California

Inscríbese.

Tres formas para inscribirse con Medi-Cal y Covered California:

- www.coveredca.com/espanol/
- 1(800) 300-0213
- Ayuda en persona: www.coveredca.com/espanol/get-help/local/

Cuide Su Salud.

- ▶ Elija su doctor de su red medica.
- ▶ Haga sus citas anuales con su doctor para usted y su familia.
- ▶ Asegúrese de llevar a su hijo(s) al dentista.
- ▶ Si su plan lo requiere, haga su pago mensual.

Renueve Su Cobertura.

- ▶ El seguro de Medi-Cal debe ser renovado cada año. Medi-Cal le enviará por correo su paquete de renovación. Complete y regrese el paquete. Para ayuda, contacte su oficina de Medi-Cal o marque 211.
- ▶ Los planes de salud a través de Covered California se deben renovar cada año. La información para renovar se le enviara a finales de año o contacte a Covered California

Para más información visite:
www.allinforhealth.org
www.asegurate.com



Asegúrate, para el bienestar de tu familia

UN PROYECTO DE "THE CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP"

