

Superintendent Timothy Baird, Ed.D. and the Encinitas Union School District (EUSD) responded to a strong community focus on healthy living, acting as a catalyst that eventually spurred the school district to promote health and wellness within their funding plan.

Focused attention on nutrition emerged within the district about five years ago when edible gardens were first built on school grounds. Now, health and wellness have been brought to prominence and are included as one of EUSD's Four Pillars of Distinction, along with Environmental Stewardship, 21st Century Learning, and Academic Excellence. The Four Pillars communicate the district's commitments and provides the foundation upon which district-wide decisions are built.

Prioritizing health and wellness district-wide has forged stronger links between academics and wellness within EUSD schools. In 2015, EUSD created further alignment when they set aside general fund dollars to maintain and improve "innovative learning environments that engage students and promote health and wellness." This health and wellness promotion goal was included as one of five goals identified in the district's LCAP.

Actions to achieve this goal include developing a 10-acre farm space that provides innovative learning experiences with a connection to nutrition, agriculture, and ecology. Educational activities on the farm connect with the new Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards; the District's One-to-One Digital Learning Program; and Design, Research, Engineering, Art, Math and Science (DREAMS).

Besides educating students, the farm will also provide fresh produce for school lunches at the district's nine campuses. The farm now supplies all of the lettuce served through the district's federal school lunch program. Research suggests that Farm to School programs like these enhance academic performance and increase consumption of healthy foods.

ENCINITAS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT



“It only made sense that environmental stewardship and health and wellness should be included.”

Leighangela Brady, Assistant Superintendent
Encinitas Union School District

DISTRICT ACTION

EUSD funded efforts to support the Farm Lab, a 10-acre farm which brings both farm-to-cafeteria produce and innovative educational activities aligned with Common Core State Standards to all nine schools within the district. The program was prioritized in their LCAP.