

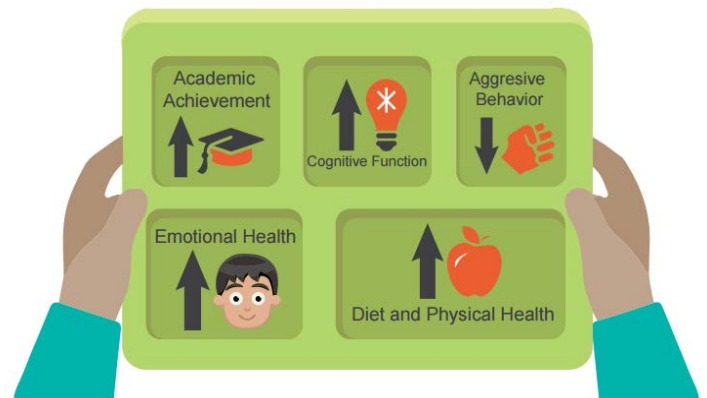
Pittsburg Unified School District (PUSD) is a small school district serving approximately 10,500 K-12th grade students in the community of Pittsburg, CA. The district is known for creating opportunities for traditionally underrepresented students.

PUSD received additional state education funds upon implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula, because of their high unduplicated pupil rate (85% PUSD students qualify for free or reduced-price school meals). Through stakeholder engagement sessions, the district looked to parents to help determine how the new funds should be spent. “Throughout the different meetings we held, parents shared strategies and we listened. Now we are looking back at the results saying, Wow, that was a great strategy the parents had,” shared PUSD’s Deputy Superintendent, Enrique Palacios.

With the new funding, PUSD was able to launch programs that help students beyond the traditional academic year. They implemented a summer ‘early-back’ program for kindergarten students who did not have any formal preschool education. The program supports children who would be at the greatest disadvantage when entering kindergarten and eases their entry. PUSD also implemented an early-back program for students entering first grade who need additional support to catch up to their peers.

Expanding learning into the summer supports student’s academic achievement and provides essential resources like summer meals. Summer is an especially vulnerable time for low-income students. When school is out, many children lose access to healthy, affordable meals. Expanded summer learning programs support academic achievement while helping to meet the nutritional needs of young children. In California, all public schools providing summer learning activities are required to offer at least one free or reduced-price meal to eligible students (except charter schools and those who have been granted a waiver). PUSD goes beyond that requirement and offers meals to all students and their families through USDA’s Seamless Summer Feeding Program. Together their summer learning and nutrition programs help to ensure that more students have access to nutritious meals for the summer.

PITTSBURG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



“Having the summer learning program and summer feeding program provides academic and nutritional nourishment that students would otherwise not have.”

Enrique Palacios, Deputy Superintendent
Pittsburg Unified School District

DISTRICT ACTION

PUSD expanded summer learning opportunities for their disadvantaged students. Expanding summer learning opportunities results in more children accessing free, healthy meals through the USDA’s summer nutrition programs.