



Irvine City Manager Sean Joyce

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Support for Irvine Schools Pays Dividends

The Irvine City Council recently approved the 2017-18 budget that includes its long-term support of our public schools.

All in, the City Council approved a \$9.7 million package that includes direct financial support of \$4 million.

It is money well-spent. Part of Irvine's continuing story is the excellence of its schools. Families move here for the schools; businesses locate here for the schools. Graduates go on to college because of Irvine schools. We all benefit.

Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) and those Irvine campuses administered by Tustin Unified School District are among the best educational programs in the state.

Here are examples to make that point, using the 39-school, more than 33,000-student IUSD as the model:

- IUSD has received 63 Distinguished School Awards, 7 Gold Ribbon School Awards, and 14 Blue Ribbon School Awards.
- While IUSD has always had high academic performance, for the past two years, under new state testing, IUSD has ranked among the highest performing school districts in California in Math and English Language Arts/Literacy, outperforming both Orange County and State score averages.
- IUSD was named a top five district in the nation for student achievement by the nonprofit Education Cities in 2016.
- IUSD is one of the most diverse school districts in the country, with 72 languages spoken at home.

By the way, there is more that can be done to support Irvine's schools. Your support through the Irvine Public Schools Foundation (ipsf.net) is an important consideration.

There is pride in walking the campuses of all the Irvine schools. These include Portola High School, which will welcome its second-ever freshman class in August; Beacon Park, which opened last year as a K-6 and will welcome its first seventh-grade class; and Eastwood Elementary, which opens this school year. ■