



The Alliance for Regional Collaboration to Heighten Educational Success (ARCHES) is a voluntary confederation of collaboratives focused on improving student outcomes and closing the achievement gap through collective action among schools, community colleges, baccalaureate-granting colleges and universities, business, and community and family-centered organizations.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ALLIANCE FOR EDUCATION

History

Early in this decade, the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools initiated a P-16 Council composed of chief executive officers of the county's educational institutions for the purpose of improving the educational achievement of all students, particularly in communities characterized by poverty and low college-going rates. Among the goals of this Council are to:

- increase student engagement in terms of attendance and classroom participation;
- raise high school graduation rates, including passage of the California High School Exit Examination early in secondary school; and,
- close access and achievement gaps in mathematics and science by increasing enrollment in advanced courses, baccalaureate-granting institutional attendance, and degrees in these fields.

The Alliance for Education composed of education, business, labor, and community- and faith-based organizations began in 2002. The 1,500-member Alliance's mission is: "to produce an educated and skilled community that provides a qualified workforce for the continued economic well-being and improved quality of life for all residents of San Bernardino County".

Together, these linked entities are united by a common purpose: To create a seamless educational system for all students that will prepare and support them to meet the demands of the future workforce and the requirements of a democratic society. Moreover, they function together as catalysts for systemic reform throughout the county.

Membership

Both the Alliance for Education and the P-16 Council consists of common members who participate in both initiatives, including the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, ten school districts, Barstow Community College, Chaffey College, San Bernardino Community College District, Victor Valley College, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, California State University, San Bernardino, University of California, Riverside, numerous governmental agencies, businesses, labor organizations, and community groups.

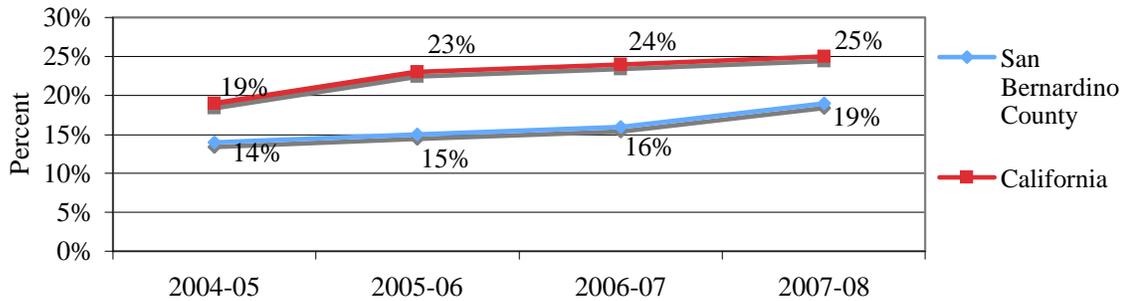
Demographics

As the largest county in the continental United States, San Bernardino County is home to over two million residents. Of that number, over half are Latino residents whose proportion continues to grow dramatically and less than a quarter are White inhabitants. This county ranks among the poorest in the state that especially impacts the growing number of children living in poverty. The socio-economic conditions in the county are reflected in academic achievement. On every measure of student performance, this county ranks below the statewide average, including high school graduation rates, Academic Performance Index, and college-going rates.

Impact

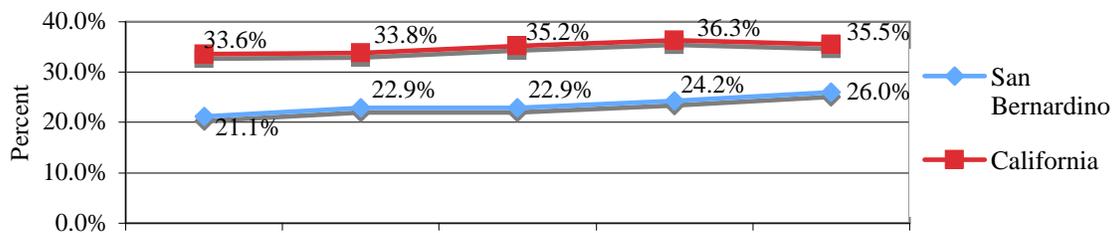
Various measures constitute assessment of progress in raising academic achievement for this Alliance for Education's P-16 Initiative. Displays 1-3 show changes in these measures on the next page: 1) Algebra 1 Proficiency on the California Standards Test; 2) percentage of students completing courses required by public universities; and, 3) proportion of college freshmen requiring remediation in English/Language Arts and Mathematics at California State University, San Bernardino -- the local public baccalaureate-granting institution.

Display 1
 Proportion of Students in San Bernardino County and in California
 Scoring Proficient or Advanced in Algebra on the California Standards Test



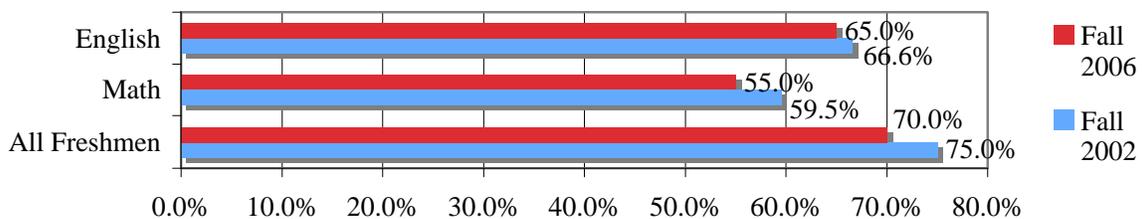
- The proportion of these students scoring at least proficient rose by five percentage points.
- The percentage of this county's students reaching proficiency is below the statewide average.

Display 2
 Proportion of Students in San Bernardino County and in California Completing the
 Requirements for Admissions to the State's Public Universities



- The proportion of students completing the full sequence of courses required for admissions to the state's public universities increased by nearly five percentage points.
- Although still lower than the statewide average, San Bernardino County students are moving considerably closer to the performance of their classmates throughout California.

Display 3
 Proportion of Freshmen at California State University, San Bernardino Requiring Remediation



- The proportion of students requiring remediation in order to enroll in college-level courses in English/Language Arts and Mathematics remains very high; however, the trend is positive.
- Greater progress is evident in mathematics than in English/Language Arts at this campus.

Future Initiatives

- Build pathways in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) areas.
- Implement teaching strategies for students to learn linkages between academics and careers.
- Support developing neighborhood learning centers that offer literacy and tutorial assistance.