



City of Irvine 2015 Program Synopsis

# Education





## **City of Irvine**

### **Program Synopsis: Education**

The [Irvine Unified School District \(IUSD\)](#) consistently ranks among the finest educational systems in the nation. Irvine schools offer innovative educational programs, open-style classrooms, team-teaching, some schools with year-round terms, and excellent community involvement. IUSD educates a diverse student population numbering over 30,000 (K-12), in 24 elementary schools, 6 middle schools, 4 comprehensive high schools, and 1 continuation high school. Irvine students consistently lead Orange County in SAT test scores, or nearly 90 percent of IUSD high school graduates attend college.

From innovative pre-school programs to world-class doctoral studies at one of the nation's highest-ranked research universities, education is a cornerstone of the City of Irvine. Nearly two-thirds of Irvine residents age 25 or older have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to the 28% national average.

Anchored by the University of California at Irvine, recognition as one of the nation's "smartest" cities extends far beyond Irvine's borders as state and national educators frequently cite Irvine schools for their outstanding educational environment and commitment to success.

### **Universities/Colleges**

The University of California at Irvine is consistently ranked among the nation's best universities. In the *U.S. News & World Report* 2013 annual college survey, UCI is ranked among the top 50 universities nationally, and ranks 11th among all public universities.

Achievements in the sciences, arts, humanities, medicine and management have garnered top 50 national rankings for more than 40 academic programs at UCI. Three UCI researchers have won Nobel Prizes—most recently Irwin A. Rose, in chemistry, in 2004. <http://www.admissions.uci.edu>.

A hub for stem cell research, a trailblazer in understanding global warming, and a leader in the fight against breast cancer, UCI reaches beyond the classroom and laboratory to address social issues and support human development. UCI's nationally ranked medical center serves as Orange County's only Level I trauma center.

Graduate and postgraduate studies are further complemented in Irvine with outstanding programs at Irvine Valley College and Concordia University. Concordia is noted for its advancement in the teaching of the Natural Sciences, including Math, Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry, and Chemical Physics. It has recently built a new Chemical Physics Laboratory, and opened a building dedicated to the schools of Education, Business and Technology.

Irvine satellite campuses include California State University at Fullerton, USC, Pepperdine University, and Chapman University.

## **K-12**

Irvine schools K-12 consistently rank among the finest in the country. Student performance is well above state and national comparisons, with nearly 90 percent of high school graduates in Irvine attending college.

When it comes to preparing students for college, IUSD delivers programs and services unparalleled across Orange County. IUSD's four high schools post the county's highest rate of students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) classes and the top SAT scores. Meanwhile, district middle schools prepare the most students in algebra, allowing young people to begin thinking about college at an early age.

Newsweek's lineup of "America's Best High Schools" in 2013 placed all of IUSD's comprehensive sites within the top 600. University High School led the way at No. 102, followed by Northwood High at No. 156, Woodbridge High at No. 231 and Irvine High at No. 585. The list is based on a formula that factors in graduation rates, college acceptance rates, advance placement tests and college-entrance exams.

In February 2014 Stonegate Elementary was among 286 campuses from across the U.S. to be named a National Blue Ribbon School, widely considered the nation's high level of recognition for public and private schools. Only 15 schools in California were named 2013 National Blue Ribbon Schools, and just two were recognized from Orange County. Stonegate is now IUSD's 14th Blue Ribbon School dating back to the start of the federal program in 1983.

In April 2015 college data website [Niche](#) rated University High School as the 34<sup>th</sup> smartest public high school in the US based primarily on state-assessment proficiency, the colleges that students go on to, AP enrollment and exam pass rates, graduation rates, and composite ACT and SAT scores.

In addition to Irvine's outstanding public schools, there are more than 40 private schools in the community ranging from pre-school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, including Montessori, New Horizon Elementary, Tarbut V'Torah Community, and John Crean Lutheran High School

### **City Support for Education**

Irvine's commitment to education as a top priority began with development Irvine's master plan nearly four decades ago. Shortly after the formation of the Irvine Unified School District in 1972, the seeds for success were planted when Irvine voters overwhelmingly approved an unprecedented \$50 million bond issue to ensure that Irvine students would receive the best public education possible.

Irvine's pledge to educational excellence has extended to the present, shared by IUSD, the City and the community. A local non-profit organization, the Irvine Public Schools Foundation, raises community and corporate funding in support of public education and to manage educational and child development programs in partnership with the school district. The efforts of the Irvine Public Schools Foundation raise awareness of the high value the Irvine community places on education.

In 2006, the Irvine City Council established the Irvine Educational Partnership Fund, a City program that provides annual City funding to support Irvine public schools. The City Council has allocated \$4 million through this program over the past six years to assist in helping offset state budget reductions to education, and \$4 million in Challenge Match grant funds over the past five years to assist in academic class-size support.

In November 2012 Irvine voters approved Measure BB which will provide \$4 million in city funding to local public schools for each of the three academic years 2013-14 through 2015-16. The City also spends approximately \$5 million annually to support School Resource Officers, DARE programs, crossing guards, disaster preparedness and other programs and services supporting Irvine schools. These are examples of actions taken beyond traditional public school funding that demonstrates the City's commitment to our young people, teachers and educators.

One of the most valuable and significant indicators of a successful city is healthy schools. How a community views education is an indicator of the quality of life for its residents and businesses. The investment we make in the education of our young people today pays us back immeasurably in the adults they become and the contributions they make to the Irvine community and to society as a whole.

For more information on education and its impact on the City of Irvine, contact:

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