

PRESS RELEASE

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

API INCREASE FOR MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Manhattan Beach, CA, September 13, 2010

NOTE: Any publication of these scores is not allowed before Monday, September 13th at 10:00 AM.

Dr. Michael D. Matthews, MBUSD's Superintendent of Schools, announced the release of the state's 2010 Academic Performance Index (API) and the federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) accountability report for the Manhattan Beach Unified School District. The District's 2010 Growth API is now at an all-time high of 926, a 12-point gain over the 2009 Base API.

In 2009, Manhattan Beach Unified School District's API was the fifth highest in the state when compared to other unified school districts. The 12-point gain for 2010 now places Manhattan Beach as the third highest unified school district in the state.

"Mira Costa High School's API increase of 26 points is particularly impressive," stated Carolyn Seaton, Executive Director of Educational Services. "The percentage of students who were proficient or advanced increased in every academic area – English, Math, Social Studies and Science. The biggest advances were in science, where approximately 10% more of the student body scored proficient or advanced."

The District is pleased with the increase in science scores in all schools since 2007. "The Board of Trustees has made a commitment to improving and expanding science instruction at all levels. We are proud of our high quality science teaching and very pleased with our student progress," said Dr. Matthews. Ida VanderPoorte, President of the MBUSD Board of Trustees, commented, "Because of the Board's focus and the generous support of the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation, our science program has continued to thrive in the midst of statewide economic difficulty."

"The science instruction," added Ms. Seaton, "is far more than just teaching to the test. We have emphasized hands-on science, where our students are not just hearing about science, they are actually doing science."

Dr. Matthews added, "This is a community with a strong history of businesses that succeed through science, technology and engineering expertise. We are proud that our students are clearly demonstrating excellence in an area so important to our community."

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (formerly No Child Left Behind Act) also requires that schools demonstrate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) by meeting benchmarks in four areas: testing participation rate, API, graduation rate and Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. All seven Manhattan Beach USD schools met all AYP requirements.

The 2010 API scores for all schools, and the base API scores for each school for 2008 and 2009, are listed below.

School	2008 API (Base)	2009 API (Base)	2010 API (Growth)
MBUSD	907	914	926
Grand View Elementary	930	955	955
Meadows Elementary	936	937	948
Pacific Elementary	965	963	961
Pennekamp Elementary	949	966	957
Robinson Elementary	964	965	965
Manhattan Beach MS	934	935	941
Mira Costa High School	864	872	898

All Manhattan Beach schools, when compared to similar schools, scored above the median API for those schools. All of the District's elementary schools either had no gain or slight decreases in API. Ms. Seaton commented, "With schools that have very high APIs, such as all of our elementary schools, there is an increasing vulnerability in year-to-year fluctuations. While the state's growth target for schools with an API above 800 is to simply remain at or above 800, we in MBUSD strive for continuous improvement. We will use data from our new student data system, Illuminate, to disaggregate the API and CST data and use what we learn to modify teaching practices and improve student achievement."

The state's Academic Performance Index is reported for the district as a whole and for numerically significant groups of students within the district. In Manhattan Beach, these groups include Asian, Latino, and White students as well as economically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities. Results from the 2010 API reveal growth in all numerically significant subgroups and a narrowing of achievement gaps from 2009 to 2010 for economically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities.

MBUSD 2009 Base and 2010 Growth API

	Base API 2009	Growth API 2010	Growth
MBUSD	914	926	+12
Asian	950	956	+6
Latino	866	878	+12
White	920	934	+14
Economically Disadvantaged	818	844	+26
Students with Disabilities	750	770	+20

Approximately 10% of the students tested were students with disabilities. Ms. Ellyn Schneider, Executive Director of Student Services, is very proud of the increase in the API score for students with disabilities. "I am very impressed with the growth of our students with disabilities, but not surprised. We have an excellent staff that is dedicated to student success. Our teachers have been carefully examining prior assessment results and using the information to develop and implement new interventions for each student."

Dr. Matthews praised the hard work of teachers, administrators, and support staff that has led to the District's continued growth in API. "As the new Superintendent, one of my main responsibilities this year is to learn about our outstanding teaching. We need to celebrate what we are doing well and learn from these effective practices. But since continuous improvement is our goal, we need to identify our least successful areas and direct our focus there. With clear goal-setting and a true focus on the best instructional practices, I am confident more and more MBUSD students will demonstrate the high level of academic success we want for all of our students."

About the Manhattan Beach Unified School District

Manhattan Beach Unified School District is one of the highest performing unified school districts in the State of California with a 2010 Academic Performance Index (API) of 926. MBUSD serves nearly 6,900 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Mira Costa High School's API places it in the top 2.5% of public high schools in California, and it was named number eleven in ESPN's "Fab 50" High Schools in the Unified States in 2009 for its superior athletic programs. In addition to outstanding students and excellent teachers, MBUSD is extremely fortunate to have a high level of parental involvement in the schools and very strong partnerships with the Manhattan Beach Education and Athletic Foundations, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Northrop Grumman, and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at www.mbusd.org.