

# HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## *Message From The Superintendent*

Previously, school and districts in California have had their success measured by the Academic Performance Index (API) and given a three digit number. The API number system was based solely on the standardized test scores. The State of California has now come out with a new accountability system for schools and districts called the California School Dashboard.

The new School Dashboard system measures a school in multiple areas. The areas are; Mathematics, English Language Arts, English Learner Progress, Suspension Rates, Graduation Rates and College/Career Preparedness. Each of these areas will be measured both on the school or district's current status, where they are now, and also their change from the previous year. Accountability will no longer be reported to our communities by the three digit number, but instead on a color scale that begins with red for poor, and increases to orange, yellow, green and then hopefully to blue which is the top of the scale. The purpose behind these changes was to move to a multiple measure system and report these findings in a manner that is more easily understood by parents and the community alike.

The desire of a report card for students is to report where a student is at a given time, their status, and then begin or continue a conversation on how the student can become better at that specific task. The same is true for the California School Dashboard system and how we respond in the Huntington Beach City School District. We are very proud that once again, our schools and district excel in the areas of Mathematics and English Language Arts. The hard work of our students and teachers and the support of our parents and community is reflected in a blue score and a green score in these core content areas. However, the data also shows that as a district we need to take a look at our suspension rate for students and determine trends and outcomes and develop a plan of action to improve these numbers.

The California School Dashboard system is new, as is the data that is currently generating the colors that are reported out. The expectation is that this system will continue to improve to tell the important story of how our schools are performing and meeting the needs of our students and community. In HBCSD we are committed to continuous improvement and have already begun the work of utilizing this system to help us improve. If you would like to learn more about the California School Dashboard or our plans to improve HBCSD, please feel free to contact your school office or the district office.