Similar to statewide results, only about half of San Bernardino County’s public school students are proficient in English-Language Arts and 43% are proficient in Math. Further, San Bernardino County lags behind the regions compared in terms of high school graduates who are eligible for a UC or CSU and residents with college degrees. However, in each of these areas, and with high school dropouts, the county shows recent improvement. The county is also a destination for higher education, with many public and private universities.

**Building Alliances, Promoting STEM**

The Alliance for Education – a countywide initiative that builds powerful partnerships between education, business, labor, government, community, and faith-based organizations – is working collaboratively to create a higher-skilled, higher-educated workforce for San Bernardino County. The Alliance emphasizes STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) for middle school through post-secondary students. The goal is to prepare students throughout the county for high-paying, high-demand science, technology and engineering jobs.
Racial/Ethnic Achievement Achievement Gap Shows Improvement

**Description of Indicator**
This indicator has three components: the California Academic Performance Index (API), which summarizes progress toward achievement of academic growth targets for K-12 public schools and districts; the California Standards Test in English-Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, which reports the proportion of students testing proficient or better; and the federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), which reports if schools and districts met targets as determined by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).

**Why is it Important?**
Tracking academic performance enables school administrators and the public to evaluate if San Bernardino County schools are meeting state and national targets.

**How is San Bernardino County Doing?**
Most schools improved their API scores:

- In 2010, 70% of San Bernardino County public schools showed API improvement and 74% met or exceeded API growth targets.
- Only 36% of schools have an API at or above the state target of 800.
- The median API score statewide for elementary districts was 806, and for unified districts was 759.
- In comparison, the median API score for San Bernardino County elementary districts was 812, and for unified districts was 744.

Socioeconomic status continues to affect student achievement, but the gap is narrowing by race and ethnicity:

- Almost half (48%) of all students were proficient or better in ELA in 2010 and 43% were proficient and above in Math, marking a three and two percentage point improvement since 2009, respectively.
- Among economically disadvantaged students, 39% and 38% were proficient or above in ELA and Math, respectively. Students who were not economically disadvantaged were 61% and 52% proficient, respectively. While both groups have improved, this gap has not changed appreciably since 2003.1
- However, the achievement gap between White and Hispanic students has narrowed by four percentage points in ELA and three points in Math.

As criteria for AYP get increasingly strict, districts and schools experienced difficulty meeting No Child Left Behind performance targets:2

- Only two of 33 San Bernardino County school districts achieved AYP in 2009.
- More than half of San Bernardino County’s districts (20 of 33) have been identified for Program Improvement.
- Looking at schools, 29% of San Bernardino County public schools met all the criteria to achieve AYP.
- 52% of Title I schools (184 of 354) are in Program Improvement.3

**Performance Targets**

**Statewide**
The California Department of Education uses API scores to measure performance. The API – ranging from a low of 200 to a high of 1,000 – is calculated for each school based on the performance of individual pupils on several standardized tests. Each year, schools are given a state-identified API growth target.

**National**
A school district is said to have achieved the AYP threshold if the four NCLB targets have been met: API growth score; testing participation rate; proficient performance or better in English-language arts and mathematics; and high school graduation rates for districts with high schools.

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1 A student is defined as “economically disadvantaged” if both parents have not received a high school diploma or the student is eligible to participate in the free or reduced-price lunch (FRPL) program (www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tp/rt/flspp.asp). See Family Income Security for the proportion of students eligible for the FRPL program.

2 Proficiency rates rise by 10% annually until 2014, when 100% of all students must be at or above proficient to achieve AYP.

3 Schools with high percentages of children from low income families receive federal “Title I” funding.
Academic Performance may be improved through increased investment in Technology especially in the classroom.

Program Improvement

Districts that fail to make AYP for two consecutive years on the same criteria are identified for Program Improvement (PI) and must develop or revise performance improvement plans among other interventions. A district must achieve AYP for two consecutive years to exit PI status and avoid corrective action from the state Department of Education. PI for schools is similar, but interventions vary from those imposed on districts. For example, schools in the first year of PI must offer students an option to attend a non-PI school in the same district with paid transportation.

Source: California Department of Education (www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ti/programimprov.asp)
SAT Scores/College Eligibility Rates Low but Improving

Description of Indicator
This indicator measures the number of public high school graduates who have fulfilled minimum course requirements to be eligible for admission to University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) campuses. It also includes the percentage of high school graduates taking the SAT and the percentage of students scoring 1,500 or better on the SAT.

Why is it Important?
A college education is important for many jobs and can lead to increased earning power, as well as societal benefits, better health, and a strong workforce. Median earnings rise in step with education levels, resulting in benefits to the individual and community through increased personal income, discretionary spending, and payment of taxes. Voter participation is associated with higher levels of education, as is participation in healthy behaviors such as exercise. Finally, a college education supplies students with the varied skills needed in the local economy and provides a solid foundation for future academic or career pursuits.¹

How is San Bernardino County Doing?
UC/CSU eligibility increased in 2008/09:
• In the 2008/09 school year, 24% of San Bernardino County seniors graduated with the necessary coursework to be eligible for a UC or CSU campus.
• This proportion is equal to San Bernardino County’s 10-year average of 24% eligible, but represents a 22% increase in eligibility since the previous year.
• San Bernardino County’s rate of eligibility is lower than the statewide average of 35%.

UC/CSU eligibility varies by race and ethnicity:²
• Asian students are the most likely to be UC/CSU eligible (46%), but comprise only 6% of all high school graduates.
• Hispanic students are among the least likely to be UC/CSU eligible (20%), but comprise 50% of all high school graduates.
• Still, Hispanic students showed the greatest degree of improvement over the past year.
• White students make up 31% of high school graduates, with 27% UC/CSU eligible.
• African American students comprise 10% of high school graduates, with 20% UC/CSU eligible.

SAT test taking and scores are low but show improvement:
• At 1,423 out of 2,400 possible points, San Bernardino County’s average SAT score is the same as Riverside County but lower than the California average and neighboring counties.
• 38% of test takers scored above 1,500 points, lower than the California average of 49%.
• San Bernardino County’s proportion of students scoring 1,500 or better improved over the last year while California’s proportion remained stagnant.
• The percent of students taking the test has declined each year since 2005/06.

¹ College Board, Education Pays, Update 2005 (www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/press/cost05/education_pays_05.pdf)
² “Asian” includes students identified as Asian, Pacific Islander and Filipino.
Average SAT Scores and Percent Scoring 1,500 or Better
County Comparison, 2008/09

SAT Trends: Average Score, Percent Tested, and Percent Scoring 1,500 or Better
San Bernardino County, 2006-2009

Setting a Path to College
The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools works with school districts, community colleges, Cal State University San Bernardino, Cal Poly Pomona and UC Riverside to promote student participation in the Early Assessment Program (EAP). This program for 11th graders provides students an early indication of their readiness for college in English language arts and math. In this era of limited resources, high schools, community colleges and universities align coursework, teacher training, tests and college entrance expectations so students are prepared, at graduation, for the next stage of their education. In short, ensuring that high school graduates are on a college path and ready to succeed.

College, Here We Come!
The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program targets students in the academic middle who have a willingness to work toward college acceptance. AVID empowers students to take charge of their education by setting goals, learning good study habits, and using proven reading and writing strategies to excel in their school work. The end result: more at-risk students are completing high school and taking the necessary coursework to become eligible for college. Typically, AVID students are the first in their families to attend college, and many are from low-income or minority families.

Of this year’s AVID graduating seniors, 89% were accepted to at least one four-year university. As many as 76% were accepted to one California State University and 31% were accepted to at least one University of California.

For more information visit: www.sbcusd.k12.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=469

Source: San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

Connecting the Dots
College Readiness and pursuing higher education can increase lifetime earnings and satisfaction, as can Career Preparation.
High Placement Rates Among Career Tech Students

Description of Indicator
This indicator aggregates and reports career technical education (CTE) data from the San Bernardino County Regional Occupational Programs (ROP) and San Bernardino community colleges.

Why is it Important?
Career technical education allows residents to acquire skills for specialized jobs instead of (or in preparation for) obtaining a two- or four-year college degree. It provides opportunities for those reentering the workforce, changing careers, or needing on-the-job skill upgrades. The many benefits of additional education discussed in College Readiness also apply to career training.

How is San Bernardino County Doing?
Many students benefit from participation in ROP:
• San Bernardino County’s three Regional Occupation Programs – providing career-technical education to high school students, as well as a smaller number of adults – served approximately 18% of all San Bernardino County public high school students in 2009/10.
• Among the 11,617 high school seniors completing ROP education in 2009/10, fully 86% continued to post-secondary education or training, found a job, or joined the military.
• At 76%, the placement rate among adult ROP participants was not as strong – but there are far fewer adults completing ROP (1,843), with more adults furthering their education at local community colleges.
• Adult students were more inclined to find a job related to their course of study (57% compared to 31% of secondary students). Greater experience and more developed career goals may contribute to this result.

Community colleges or trade schools provide career education or four-year college preparation:
• San Bernardino County’s community colleges awarded 3,244 Associate’s degrees and 1,148 certificates in 2009/10, and 85% of graduates were placed (pursued further education, found a job, or joined the military).
• Similarly, Riverside County’s community colleges awarded 4,408 Associate’s degrees and 2,768 certificates in 2009/10, and 85% of graduates were placed.
• These placement rates are slightly lower than the statewide average of 87%.
• Enrollment data for local trade schools are not available at this time; however, there are many private trade schools serving the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area, providing certificates in health, technology and other fields.

Connecting the Dots
Increasing Career Preparation among our youth can help to reduce Gang-Related Crime.
Region is Destination for Higher Education Opportunities

Description of Indicator
This indicator compares the degrees granted from major San Bernardino County and Riverside County colleges and universities compared to the level of education needed for the projected annual number of job openings in the region.

Why is it Important?
The region boasts many institutions of higher learning, offering the full spectrum of academic and professional certifications and degrees. For the individual, a well-paying, satisfying job depends in large part on finding a job that maximizes his or her skill-set. If residents can’t find a good match locally, they may be required to move or commute long distances. Additionally, an appropriately trained local labor force is important for existing businesses in the region, as well as those looking to relocate or expand.

How is San Bernardino County Doing?
The degrees granted at San Bernardino County and Riverside County colleges remained steady over the past five years:
- Doctorates and Professional degrees (+21%) and Master’s degrees (+13%) increased the most, while certificates decreased the most (-11%).
- The number of Bachelor’s degrees increased 1% over this five-year period, while Associate’s degrees rose 4%.

Projections between 2008 and 2018, which take into account new jobs created and existing jobs vacated, indicate that there will be an estimated 43,422 job openings annually:
- The vast majority (72%) require only work experience or on-the-job training.
- 15% require a Bachelor’s degree, 5% require post-secondary Career Technical Education, 4% require an Associate’s degree, and the remaining 4% require a Master’s, Doctorate or Professional degree.

The Riverside-San Bernardino metro area is a resource for higher learning:
- Each year, there are more degrees granted in all levels of education in the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area than there are job openings in the area.
- This suggests that the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area has a niche as a destination for higher education, whether or not the student remains in the region after graduation.
- It may also suggest graduates must leave the area to find a job appropriate to their level of education or take a job locally that requires less education.

Sources:
- California State University, San Bernardino; University of California, Riverside; Cal Poly Pomona; University of Redlands; Claremont Colleges (Pomona College, Claremont Graduate University, Scripps College, Claremont McKenna College, Harvey Mudd College, Pitzer College), Loma Linda University, University of La Verne (College of Law, Inland Empire Campus, High Desert/Victorville Campus, Main Campus), California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (San Bernardino County and Riverside County community colleges)
- San Bernardino County Department of Education, Regional Occupational Programs (adult participants only), California Employment Development Department, 2008-2018 Occupational Employment Projections, Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area (www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/?pageid=145)
Educational Attainment Makes Steady Progress

Description of Indicator
This indicator measures the educational attainment of San Bernardino County residents over age 25 compared to the state, nation, and peer regions. It measures the adjusted percentage of public high school students who drop out annually, in total and by race/ethnicity. It also reports career technical education data from the San Bernardino County Regional Occupational Programs (ROP).

Why is it Important?
A high school diploma, college degree, or technical skill opens many career opportunities that are closed to those without these achievements. The education level of residents is evidence of the quality and diversity of our labor pool – an important factor for businesses looking to locate or expand in the region.

How is San Bernardino County Doing?
The proportion of college graduates continues to increase:
- Since 2005, the proportion of residents over the age of 25 with a Bachelor’s degree or higher rose 6%.
- This rate of growth is more than twice as fast as the state and nation experienced over the same period.
- However, San Bernardino County is below the state, nation, and all regions compared for college graduates.
- 19% of San Bernardino residents over the age of 25 have at least a Bachelor’s degree, compared to 28% for the nation and 30% for California.

The five-year trend in high school graduates is positive:
- Since 2005, the proportion of residents over the age of 25 with a high school diploma or GED grew 3%, more than twice as fast as both the state and nation.
- Among regions compared, San Bernardino County has the second lowest proportion of high school graduates (78% in 2009), and falls below the state and national averages.

San Bernardino County’s high school dropout rate improved:
- The San Bernardino County estimate of students who drop out over the course of four years of high school was 22% in 2008/09, down from 26% in 2006/07 and 23% in 2007/08.
- San Bernardino County’s rate is now on par with the statewide average.
- Among all dropouts in 2008/09, Hispanic and White students were the two largest groups (54% and 26%, respectively).
- Hispanic and African American students have a disproportionate share of dropouts when considering their share of enrollment.

Note: Data presented in the chart are not comparable to data reported previously. “Other” includes all races and/or ethnicities not otherwise shown in this chart, as well as multiple or no response.

Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/)

Connecting the Dots
Educational Attainment is important not only to our future economy but to an informed and active citizenry as represented by Voter Participation.