

RBGUSD Round-Up Volume 7 Issue 2

HAPPY
New Year
2026

Happy New Year and Welcome to the Second Semester!

Welcome back, RBGUSD families, students, and staff! We hope you enjoyed a restful and joyful winter break surrounded by loved ones. As we begin 2026, we're excited to kick off the second semester of the school year with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

The months ahead are filled with new learning opportunities, school events, and celebrations that continue to make our district such a special place to learn and grow. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership as we work together to make the remainder of the 2025–2026 school year a successful and inspiring one for all students.

Here's to a wonderful start to the new year and an outstanding second semester!

New Year, New Look!

We're excited to
unveil our
refreshed district
logo, featuring a
modern design
that reflects our
continued growth
and commitment
to excellence.



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Rio Bravo-Greeley USD



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Rio Bravo-Greeley Union School District

Recognitions

Rio Bravo-Greeley Union School District & Rio Bravo-Greeley School named 2025 Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll District and School!

We're proud to be named a 2025 Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll district (one of only three in Kern County) and RBG a 2025 Honor Roll school, which recognizes high-performing, achievement gap-closing schools and districts across the nation. The Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll, sponsored by the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence, is the only school district award given in collaboration with state and local business leaders. For more info on @edresults and the ERP Honor Roll program, visit: www.edresults.org. Congratulations to all our students and staff!



Proudly recognized as a
2025 Honor Roll District



Proudly recognized as a
2025 Honor Roll School

Rio Bravo-Greeley School designated as a 2026 California Schools to Watch!



RBG has been designated a 2026 California School to Watch! This national program recognizes outstanding middle schools that demonstrate strong instruction, meaningful student support, and a positive, engaging school environment. Earning this honor is a rigorous process that requires extensive data and evidence of excellence in all areas.

This recognition is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of our entire RBG team.

Congratulations to Mrs. Bussman and Mr. Mejia for their leadership, and to all RBG staff and staff across our district who support our students every day. We also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our families, whose partnership and support help RBG continue to thrive!



RBE News

Rio Bravo Elementary has had an exciting and successful first half of the school year, and we are so proud of the progress happening across campus! Our teachers continue to focus on strong Tier 1 instruction, targeted Tier 2 intervention, and ongoing data monitoring, and students are thriving as a result. WIN groups, 95% Group literacy routines, and collaborative PLC practices are now fully in place, and standards-based report cards are up and running in grades K-3, with fourth grade coming next year. One of our biggest celebrations is early literacy, over 70% of our TK-2 students are meeting or exceeding foundational reading benchmarks! Kindergarten, first, and second grades have each reduced their "Well Below Benchmark" groups by more than 10% from last year. Third grade has moved from 50% Well Below to just 18%, and fourth grade has increased at-benchmark performance from 36% last year to 64% this fall. These amazing gains reflect the hard work of our students, the dedication of our teachers, and the strength of our systems.

Our school culture continues to thrive, with soft starts, daily SEL lessons, positive check-ins, restorative practices, Eagle Valet leadership, Caught Being Good recognitions, and quarterly assemblies all helping students feel connected and supported. Recess has been extra fun thanks to new pickleball nets and our Board Game Zone, and attendance continues to improve as families partner with us to build consistent routines.

Academic innovation is happening in math as well. This year, we successfully implemented Next Gen Math in both third and fourth grade, giving students deeper problem-solving experiences and stronger standards alignment.

Looking ahead, we are excited to keep growing writing instruction, expand training in Write From the Beginning, increase opportunities for peer observation, and continue deepening SEL and intervention supports. Rio Bravo Elementary is truly thriving because of our incredible students, families, and staff who work together every day to make RBE a welcoming and joyful place to learn. We can't wait for all the great learning still ahead in the second half of the year!

Best Regards,
Amy Palmer & Kristina Bauer



RBG News

I am incredibly proud of our staff for their dedication and hard work. This year, those efforts were recognized as we earned both the Schools to Watch Award and the School Honor Roll Award. It's hard to believe we are already halfway through the school year, but it has truly been a fantastic one so far. With the first semester complete, we are excited to begin the second semester.

The first semester was filled with memorable experiences and opportunities for our students. We enjoyed the Gaucho Gallop, pep rallies, Red Ribbon Week, an outstanding Fall Carnival, and a variety of school sports. Our sixth graders had an unforgettable week at SCICON, creating meaningful learning experiences and lasting memories. We wrapped up the semester with the science fair, a Mock Trial showcase, a wonderful Winter Concert performed by our band, and the band and color guard proudly participating in the North of the River Christmas Parade.

Academically, our students showed growth in both STAR Reading and Math assessments during the first semester. I am extremely proud of our students for their perseverance and determination, as well as of our teachers, who work tirelessly each day to provide a rigorous and supportive learning environment.

As we begin 2026, I want to thank our entire RBG community for your continued support and partnership. We wish you all a happy, healthy, and successful new year.

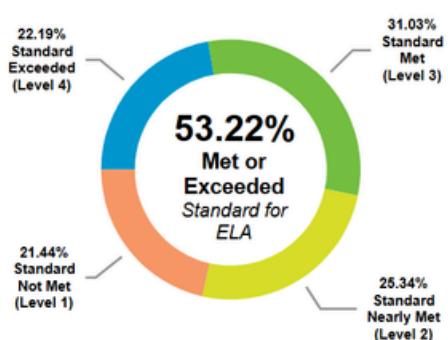
Christina Bussman, Principal
Byron Mejia, Vice Principal



2025 CAASPP Scores Grades 3-8

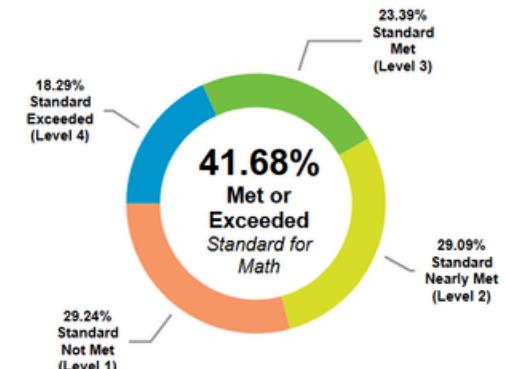
ELA

Percent of students within each achievement level



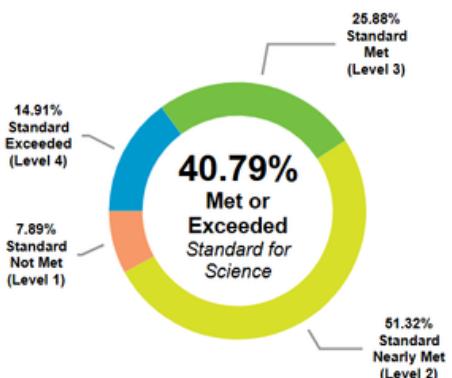
Mathematics

Percent of students within each achievement level



Science

Percent of students within each achievement level

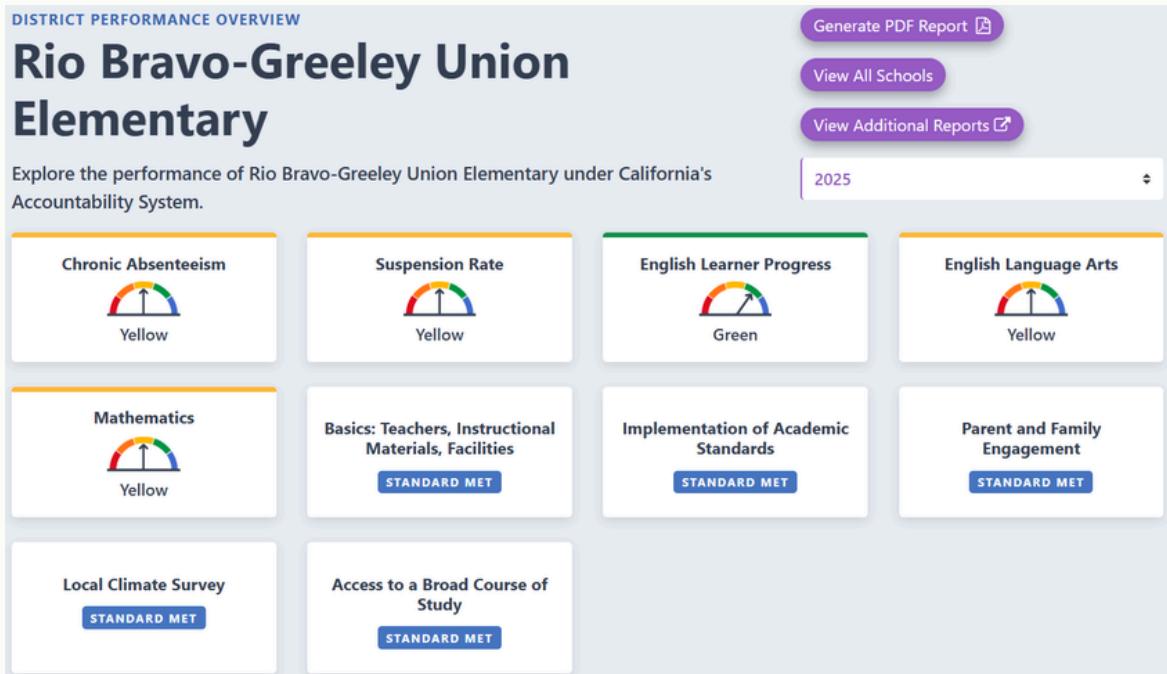


RBGUSD continues to maintain excellent levels of mastery in ELA, Math, and Science compared to the state as a whole and Kern County.

RBGUSD remains one of the highest performing public school districts in Kern County.

	ELA 24/25
RBGUSD	53.22%
Kern (3-12)	39.94%
CA (3-12)	48.82%
	Math 24/25
RBGUSD	41.68%
Kern (3-12)	24.25%
CA (3-12)	37.30%
	CAST 24/25
RBGUSD	40.79%
Kern (3-12)	24.21%
CA (3-12)	32.66%

California School Dashboard Info



District Performance Overview					
	ELA	Math	English Lang. Progress	Suspension	Chronic Abs.
District	yellow ▾	yellow ▾	green ▾	yellow ▾	yellow ▾
RBE	yellow ▾	yellow ▾	orange ▾	orange ▾	yellow ▾
RBG	green ▾	orange ▾	▼	green ▾	yellow ▾

Each school is unique and has unique needs. At RBE students in grades 3rd-4th take the CAASPP while all RBG students in grades 5th-8th complete the CAASPP.

Districtwide: State Indicator Performance by Student Group					
	ELA	Math	English Lang. Progress	Suspension	Chronic Abs.
All Students	yellow ▾	yellow ▾	green ▾	yellow ▾	yellow ▾
English Learners	yellow ▾	orange ▾	▼	orange ▾	orange ▾
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	yellow ▾	orange ▾	▼	orange ▾	yellow ▾
Students with Disabilities	yellow ▾	red ▾	▼	orange ▾	yellow ▾
Hispanic	yellow ▾	orange ▾	▼	yellow ▾	yellow ▾
White	green ▾	green ▾	▼	orange ▾	yellow ▾

Student groups are identified as having 30 or more students. Looking at student groups allows us to analyze data and best serve our students.

Ed Edgmon Aquatic Center Modernization

We are thrilled to share that, after a long anticipated journey, the Ed Edgmon Aquatic Center modernization project is now in its final stages of completion. This project represents years of planning, collaboration, and unwavering community support, and we are excited to be approaching this major milestone together.

The modernization effort was made possible through a blend of State School Facility Program modernization funds, local developer fees, and a generous contribution of nearly \$50,000 from the Rio Bravo-Greeley Educational Foundation. We are deeply grateful for the partnership and investment from our community that made these improvements possible. By utilizing these funding sources, the project was completed without impacting the District's general operating budget, ensuring that classroom resources remained fully supported while this important facility was upgraded.

As we put the final touches on the project, we are preparing to commemorate this achievement with a planned ribbon cutting ceremony later this year. Additional details will be shared as the date approaches.

The upgraded facility now features a new heating system, enabling extended seasonal use, along with modernized systems designed to enhance safety, efficiency, and overall functionality. Once reopened, the pool will also be available for local high school athletic teams to use for training and practice, strengthening our partnerships with neighboring schools and supporting student athletics across our community.

We look forward to welcoming our students and community members back into this beautifully modernized space, where we can create new memories together for years to come!

Our Partners

Rio Bravo-Greeley Educational Foundation

The Rio Bravo-Greeley Educational Foundation greatly appreciates your continued efforts to help fund our goal of supporting educational programs and activities for our students. With the generous help of our community in recent years, we have been able to support programs like STEMTaught, Project Lead the Way, and Band. We have also been able to provide new SMART TVs and assist in both the library and pool revitalization projects. This year, we will be raising funds to continue replacing the remaining outdated smart boards with SMART TVs, as well as funding the sustenance of our STEMTaught and Robotics programs here at RBG. Our goal is to continue to support these well loved programs and educational opportunities for our students, as well as showcase the businesses that have committed to helping our school community. We are so thankful for your generosity and continued support, this would not be possible without you!

REMINDER

16th Annual Blue Jean Ball Educational Foundation Dinner & Auction
Friday, March 20, 2026
Seven Oaks Country Club

Rio Bravo PTC

Happy New Year, Gaucho and Eagle families! We can hardly believe the 2025-2026 school year is half over. The PTC had a stellar Fall Carnival and was able to raise enough funds to continue supporting all of this year's student field trips, from TK to 8th grade. Our Holiday grams and Christmas crafts were a huge success, and we hope our students and their families enjoyed them. The RBE Yearbook is underway, so please send in any candid photos from events throughout the year. RBG Yearbook elective students are working hard, and we are so excited to see what they have created for their peers. Yearbooks can be purchased via the Jostens website, PTC Venmo, or by using the flyer that went home with your student. Check Parent Square for more information. We truly appreciate all of the support from our Rio Bravo families and are so grateful for the ability to continue to positively impact the students, teachers, and staff in our district.



Be Present

At RBGUSD, we know that every day a student is in school is an opportunity for learning, growth, and connection. Students who are chronically absent, missing 10% or more of the school year, may face challenges like lower academic performance, difficulty progressing to the next grade, and reduced social-emotional growth.

Regular attendance helps students build skills, maintain important relationships, and stay on track academically. We are committed to working with families to support consistent attendance and address any challenges that may arise. Please reach out to your school if you need assistance!

Children should stay home if they have:

Fever over 100.4

RETURN WHEN fever goes away over the night and is gone in the morning without the use of medications such as Tylenol®, Advil®

Cold Symptoms

OK TO ATTEND WITH MILD SYMPTOMS

STAY HOME AND SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION for severe symptoms, including a bad cough, difficulty breathing or trouble catching their breath, or wheezing when not controlled by medication (like albuterol).

Skin rash or pink eye

OK TO ATTEND WITH MILD SYMPTOMS.

You should see your doctor if symptoms worsen.

Repeated vomiting or diarrhea

STAY HOME IF vomiting has occurred 2 or more times in 24 hours

Diarrhea, if the stool looks bloody or black, seek medical attention.

And if they are home sick they should ONLY be resting, so they can feel better!

great

kindness

Challenge

Each year, our school community proudly participates in the Great Kindness Challenge, a special week dedicated to celebrating compassion and connection. During this time, students and staff are encouraged to complete acts of kindness, big and small, to spread positivity across our campus and beyond.

Our hope is that these moments of kindness don't end with the challenge, but instead inspire students to carry empathy, respect, and understanding into their everyday interactions. By emphasizing the lasting impact of simple gestures, we aim to cultivate a school culture where kindness is a natural part of who we are.

The Great Kindness Challenge reminds us that even the smallest act of caring can help build a more supportive, inclusive, and joyful school community, one kind action at a time.



REMEMBER

March 2, 2026

- TK & Kindergarten Registration Opens
- Interdistrict Transfer Requests for 2025 Available
- Paid Daycare Registration Interest List Available

Children who turn 4 years old on or before September 1, 2026, are eligible to enroll in Transitional Kindergarten for the 2026–2027 school year.

Breakfast & Lunch are FREE every day for ALL students!



Important messages from the schools and district are sent through ParentSquare. Please ensure your contact information is correct and updated so you stay informed.

RBGUSD Board of Trustees
Shelley Cauzza, President

Katie Young, Clerk

Russell Shipley, Board Member

Gordon Walter, Board Member

Heath Williams, Board Member