

# PRESS RELEASE

**Manhattan Beach Unified School District**  
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## **MBUSD Comments on 2017 CAASPP Results**

MBUSD is proud to report that our students are demonstrating continued strong performances in state testing results. Overall, MBUSD scores have risen 3% in ELA and 4% in Math since 2015. Dr. Michael Matthews, Superintendent of MBUSD, states, “I am so proud of the fact that MBUSD is a high performing district striving to improve. We are committed to personalized learning strategies that require students to analyze, think critically, and communicate. I have observed our teachers in the classroom coaching students, challenging students, caring for students, and encouraging them to succeed. These test scores are just one way to validate their efforts.”

The table below reflects the students who met or exceeded state standards in 2015 and 2017 on the CAASP in grades 3-8 and 11.

### **CAASPP Achievement: Percent Proficient**

<b>ELA/Literacy</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2017</b>
Grade 3	84%	83%	Grade 3	81%	83%
Grade 4	87%	85%	Grade 4	84%	82%
Grade 5	84%	88%	Grade 5	81%	77%
Grade 6	78%	81%	Grade 6	68%	72%
Grade 7	76%	86%	Grade 7	64%	76%
Grade 8	80%	80%	Grade 8	62%	69%
Grade 11	75%	86%	Grade 11	52%	66%
Overall	81%	84%	Overall	71%	75%

The biggest increases in the District have come in secondary math. Improving secondary math instruction has been an MBUSD Board Goal since 2014. Dr. Chad Mabery, MBUSD Director of Data, Assessment, and Professional Development, stated, “We are thrilled with the growth in secondary math student achievement the last two years. Our teachers have done a significant amount of work with new standards, curriculum, and professional development. To have a 16 percent average growth during this time is a testament to the dedication of our math teachers.”

One of the differences in the CAASP exams from previous exams is that in language arts, students are assessed not just for reading, but for writing, listening, and research/inquiry. In math, students are not just tested for procedural fluency, but also for problem solving and listening. The data in the graph below demonstrates that an extraordinary percentage of MBUSD students test at “near or above standard.”

**CAASPP ELA/Literacy & Math Claims**

<b>Percent Near or Above Standard</b>	
Reading	93%
Writing	94%
Listening	95%
Research/Inquiry	94%
Procedures	88%
Problem Solving	90%
Reasoning	92%
Overall	81%

One of the statistics that MBUSD is looking most closely at, in line with our goal on improving math instruction, is the percentage of students who exceed standards in math, broken down by procedures, reasoning, and problem solving.

**CAASPP Math Claims**

**2-year growth in Above Standard**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2017</b>
Procedures	51%	55%
Reasoning	42%	47%
Problem Solving	40%	46%

Dr. Katherine Whittaker Stopp, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, states, “MBUSD students showed growth in each of the math and literacy subcategories. In math, the data shows growth in all claims, however we are most enthusiastic about the level of student proficiency in math problem solving and reasoning, as they have been the major focus for our math teachers and students for that last two years.”

Jennifer Cochran, president of the MBUSD Board of Trustees, states, “Over the past six years, our MBUSD teachers have worked hard to address the significant state shifts in English Language Arts and math. We will

continue to focus our board goals on this commitment to students' acquisition of 21<sup>st</sup> century knowledge and skills.”

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## ABOUT THE MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MBUSD serves approximately 6,800 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Robinson Elementary School and Grand View Elementary School were recently recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2013. Six MBUSD schools have been honored as California Gold Ribbon Schools since 2015. In 2012, Grand View Elementary was named a National Green Ribbon School, joining just 77 other schools in the United States so honored that year. In 2016, MBUSD was named as a National Green Ribbon District. MBUSD's Michael Hayden and Maggie Mabery were the *California* Teachers of the Year in 2015 and 2016. 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 community partners such as the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation, PTAs/PTSAs, MBX—Beyond the Classroom, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Continental Development, the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce, and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at [www.mbusd.org](http://www.mbusd.org).