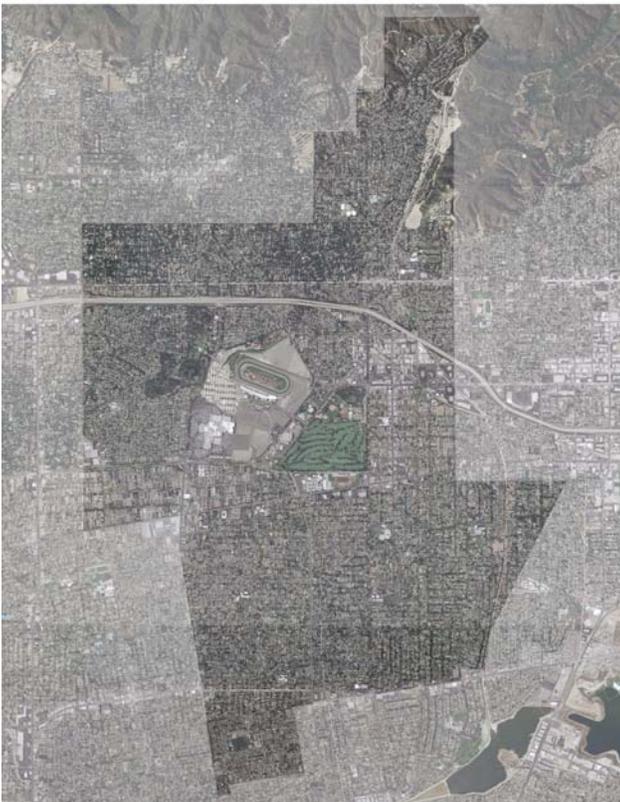## DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

In the Arcadia Unified School District, families and community are partners for student success. The policies, personnel and resources of the Arcadia Unified School District are used to ensure that all students are provided engaging, meaningful schoolwork that results in challenging them to think and reason, develop ownership for their own lifelong learning, respect diversity, and be contributing members of society.

The Arcadia Unified School District is located in Los Angeles County, approximately ten miles east of Los Angeles. The District operates six elementary schools with a grade span of kindergarten through fifth grade; three middle schools, grades six through eight; one senior high school, grades nine through twelve with an alternative program; and one independent study high school. In the 2005-2006 school year, enrollment was slightly over 10,000 students.

The Arcadia Unified School District schools have the deserved reputation of providing a quality, academically challenging educational program which results in high student achievement. Arcadia schools excel at providing students with advanced and exceptional opportunities in math, science, communication, civics, Robotics and the arts.

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Arcadia USD Background

With the support of the Arcadia Education Foundation, the District has made a substantial investment in proving the technological resources necessary to acquire high-level skills. On standardized tests, Arcadia students consistently score well above state and national averages. In one recent survey, Arcadia High School ranked in the top 4% in the Nation. Arcadia High School graduates are well prepared to attend the finest schools and universities (99% go to college) or enter the work force.

In addition to academic successes, Arcadia High School fields nearly 60 athletic teams and provides numerous opportunities for participation in academic competition, clubs, and organizations, volunteer opportunities and fine arts. The District also offers excellent opportunities in art, drama, dance and choral music and Arcadia High School's award-winning instrumental music program is the largest in the state, including universities and colleges.

In the mid 1990's Arcadia USD schools received funds from the State "School Facilities Program" (SFP) to modernize portions of their sites. This funding was used to upgrade portions of critical systems infrastructure at all sites that was nearing the end of useful life, and to add new classrooms to the high school to accommodate growth. Since that time and with financial support from the City of Arcadia, and the Arcadia Educational Foundation, a state-of-the art artificial turf athletic field to compliment its high quality all-weather track has been added to Arcadia High School.

Arcadia campuses also continue to be very secure places for students to learn with a focus on incident prevention. This program includes an officer on campus at the high school and one shared by the middle schools. The District also employs over 700 dedicated and talented certificated and classified staff members that provide information and attend to the needs of the students and parents on a day to day basis.

The City of Arcadia, located in the San Gabriel Valley, approximately ten miles east of Los Angeles, is an attractive community with a total population of over 50,000 individuals. Many of these residents, primarily middle-class families with professional and business backgrounds, have been attracted to the area because of their high regard for the District's educational program. Community support for education has been a high priority as parents expect their students to maintain academic excellence. Together with

community and parent involvement, Arcadia schools uphold the goal and commitment to work hard each day to uphold the community's faith and pride in providing the best education to its students.

LPA