

Education & Health Snap Shot



We have the power to build healthy communities for the next generation.

Education and Health in South Kern: At a Glance

We focus on schools because that's where our kids are! Health and academic achievement go hand in hand. When students are healthy in mind and body, they miss less school, focus better in class, and are more likely to graduate. For this reason, Building Healthy Communities South Kern (BHC-SK) places education as a top priority and is working closely with education leaders, parents, and students to create positive learning environments where children and youth can thrive. We believe that students will excel when they have access to quality school food and beverages and can incorporate exercise in their school day. In addition, when schools re-think their discipline policies, students will demonstrate improved behavior and better decision-making.

In just three years we have added water filtration systems for clean drinking water in the Arvin Union School District and in all five Head Start programs. We have increased physical education and daily activities while also improving food quality in the Arvin, Greenfield, Lamont, and Vineland School Districts. These same districts have adopted a positive school discipline approach to improve school climate.



BHC-SK is an effort to positively change the health of our communities through a shared vision, goals and action plan. Residents, youth, businesses, and organizations in Arvin, Lamont, Weedpatch and Greenfield are proving that we have the power to make health happen in our communities. In doing so, they are creating a brighter future for our children.

By 2020, are goals are...

- Parents and youth partner with teachers and educational institutions to promote children's success.
- Child development programs will help parents and children be prepared to enter kindergarten.
- Student academic success in local schools will increase.
- Youth have positive and supportive environments and are learning and exhibiting positive behavior.
- South Kern has a college-bound culture.



**BUILDING HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES**
CONSTRUYENDO COMUNIDADES SALUDABLES
SOUTH KERN · SUR DE KERN



An initiative of
The California Endowment.

Successes and Challenges

Over the last three years, Building Healthy Communities South Kern (BHC-SK) has achieved several victories in the area of education, but there is still more work to do!

BHC-SK's partnership with Bakersfield College (BC) has increased college-going for youth in the South Kern area. Since 2009, South Kern has made great strides in the number of young adults, high school students and residents improving their lives through education.

34%

Increase of young adults enrolled in any BC program

406%

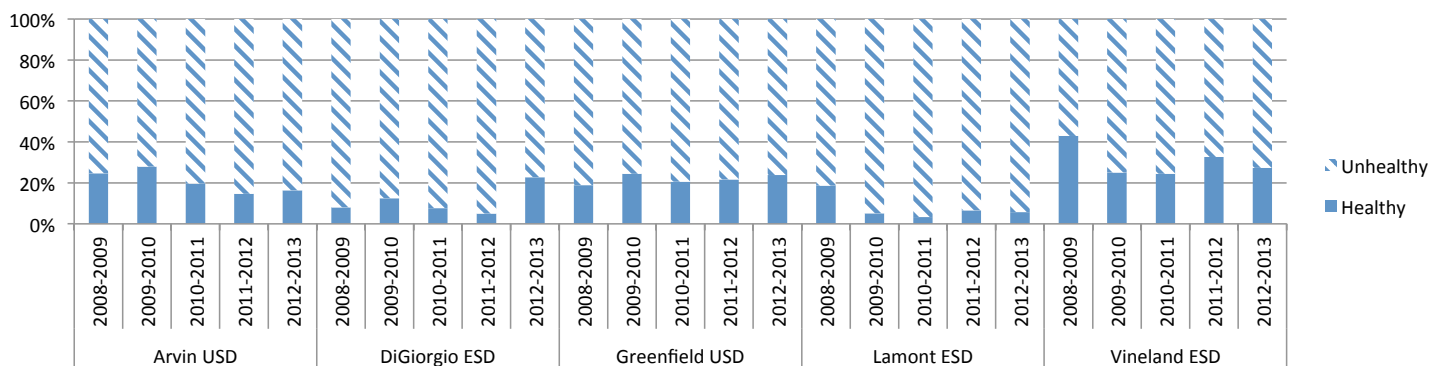
Increase in Arvin High students concurrently enrolled at BC

19%

More students from South Kern enrolled at the main BC campus

Data Source: Bakersfield College

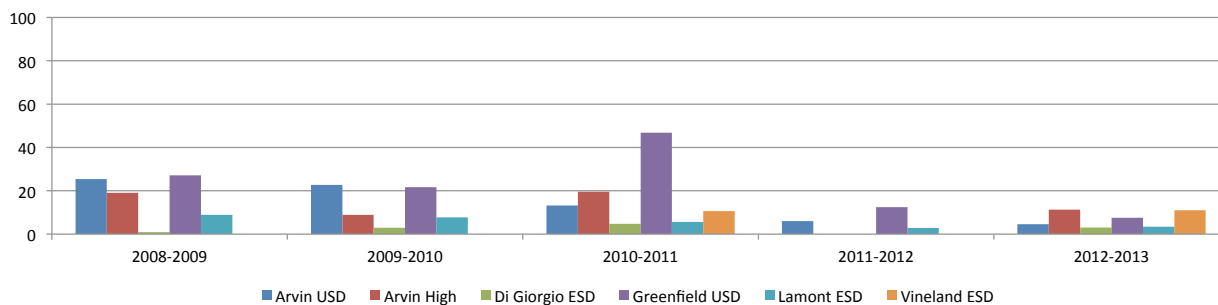
Fitness Level of South Kern 5th Grade Students



Healthy students = solid lines. Results for 7th and 9th grade students are better than 5th grade results, but they still have a long way to go. We have a lot of work to do to improve the health of our students so they are ready to learn.

Data Source: California Department of Education

Percent of Student Body Suspended



South Kern has seen a marked decrease in suspensions since 2010. However, a small increase in suspension numbers this year shows we still have more work to do in our districts.

Data Source: California Department of Education