

All About River Valley Charter School



East County's Best Kept Secret

MISSION STATEMENT

River Valley Charter School will motivate and prepare students to become college bound within a small and nurturing educational environment while incorporating strong family and community ties.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- River Valley was originally chartered by LUSD in December 1996 and opened in September 1997 with 16 students.
- The founder of River Valley, Bill Wellhouse, was a teacher in the LUSD
- The school was originally founded as a high school for previously homeschooled students.
- Current enrollment 309.
- Largest grade levels are 9th, 10th, & 11th grades.
- Class sizes are 18-1 or less.



COLLEGE MODEL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

7TH-12TH GRADE

- Students attend academic classes two days per week.
 - 7th, 8th, 11th & 12th attend Wednesday and Friday
 - 9th and 10th attend Tuesday and Thursday
- Students are responsible for completing 5-6 hours of assignments on independent study days.
- At the high school level, students are required to take 4 years of English, History, Math, and Science.
- Students (including middle school students) are able to dual enroll in community college courses

A DAY AT RVCS

- Classes are held from 8:20 am to 3:10 pm four days per week.
- Classes are 72 minutes in length.
- Students have a 35 minute lunch period and four-5 minute passing periods.
- Math Tutoring is offered for three and a half hours a day, Tuesday - Friday.
- All subject area tutoring is offered with teachers after school Tuesday-Friday from 3:15-4:00.

RVCS STUDENTS

- Students come from homeschool, independent study, charters, private schools, and traditional programs.
- Majority of new students have heard about RVCS from a friend or family member.
- RVCS students come from all over the county.
- Most new students enroll at the 7th and 9th grade levels.
- Most students who attend RVCS do not want to attend a large comprehensive. For various reasons, the small school environment meets their educational needs.
- We strongly discourage students from attending RVCS if they do not want to be at the school of their own volition.
- Student and family buy-in to our program is essential for the student's success

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- English- 40 credits
- Mathematics- 40 credits
- Social Science- 40 credits
- Science- 40 credits
- PE 20 credits (9th and 10th grade)
- Art 10 Credits
- Foreign Language 20 credits
- Electives & Projects 10 credits
- **Total minimum credits-220**

River Valley students graduate qualified to attend a UC or CSU college or university



CIF SPORTS PROGRAM

- **Fall**

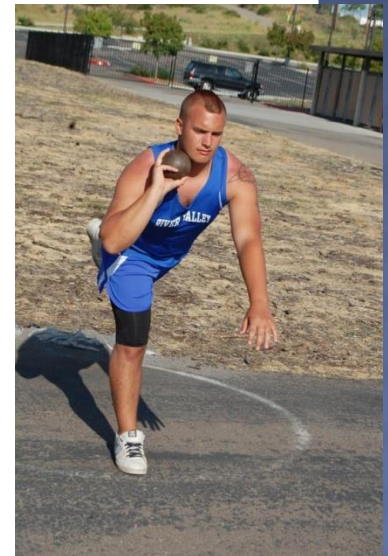
- Cross Country
- Volleyball (girls)

- **Winter**

- Soccer

- **Spring**

- Golf
- Track and Field
- Baseball
- Swim
- Volleyball (boys)



CIF – Frontier League

CAMPUS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- Yearly Back-to-School Family Fiesta
- Winter Formal
- Prom
- Homecoming
- Lunch Time Activities
- Talent Show
- Projects Week
- Desert Trips
- Alumni Events
- East Coast, Europe, Costa Rica Trips



SAMPLE OF COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES RVCS STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TO AND/OR ATTENDED

- UCLA
- Princeton
- UC Berkeley
- Cornell University
- Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- UC San Diego
- Pepperdine University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Air Force Academy
- San Diego State University
- Dartmouth
- Fordham
- Harvey Mudd



RIVER VALLEY FACULTY AND STAFF

- RVCS employs thirteen full-time certificated teachers and one part-time certificated core teachers.
- Support staff includes: one counselor, one media center coordinator, one administrative assistant, one part time custodian, one facilities manager, one campus supervisor, and one principal/executive director.
- All RVCS faculty members are compliant in their subject areas and many of them are credentialed in multiple subjects. Many teachers have subject-specific master's degrees.

RVCS STAFF ROSTER AND CERTIFICATION

| Teacher Name | Credential(s) Currently Used | Credentials Held |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Rachel Altman | Chemistry (provisional), bio (provisional) | Chemistry, Biology (provisional) |
| Zac Bowman | Mathematics | Mathematics |
| Julie Cohen | English | English, French; Multiple Subject |
| Alisha De Busk | Mathematics | Mathematics |
| Michelle Ditomaso | Pupil Personnel Services | Pupil Personnel Services |
| Brooke Faigin | Administrative Services | Multiple Subject; Administrative Services |
| Jerry Hernandez | Social Science & Spanish | Social Science, Spanish |
| Ann Horn | English | English |
| Diane Huff | Spanish | Spanish |
| Stephen Hunsberger | Biology/Chemistry | Biological/Life Science with authorizations in Chemistry and Physics |
| Jamie Lykins | Art; Multiple Subject | Art; Multiple Subject |
| Glenn Melero | Biological Sciences; Chemistry; | Biological Sciences; Chemistry; Industrial and Technology Education; ELA; Supplementary Authorizations in Chemistry & Introductory Mathematics |
| Michael McElman | Social Science | Social Science, English |
| Giavana Neff | Mathematics | Mathematics |
| Seth Phelps | English | English |
| William Smagac | Social Science | Social Science, English |

| Certificated Staff Member | Years in Education | Degree | Year at RVCS |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---|------------------|
| Rachel Altman | 3 | MA, Education; BS Chemistry | 3 rd |
| Zac Bowman | 5 | MA, Education; BS Mathematics and Economics | 3 rd |
| Alisha DeBusk | 13 | MA, Teaching and Learning; BA, Mathematics | 13 th |
| Michelle Ditomaso | 13 | MA, Counseling with PPS Credential; BA, Social Science with a minor in Literature and Writing | 5 th |
| Brooke Faigin | 22 | MA, Educational Administration; BA, History | 20 th |
| Jerardo Hernandez | 9 | BA, Political Science | 2 nd |
| Ann Horn | 17 | BA, English | 10 th |
| Stephen Hunsberger | 20 | MA, Education; BA, Biology | 13 th |
| Diane Huff | 13 | MS, Management; BS, Marketing; BA, Spanish | 5 th |
| Jaime Lykins | 16 | BA, Fine Arts | 12 th |
| Michael McElman | 31 | MA, Secondary Education; BA, Political Science | 22 nd |
| Glenn Melero | 20 | MS Educational Technology; BS Animal Physiology & Neuroscience | 1 st |
| Giavanna Neff | 13 | MA, Education; BA, Mathematics | 12 th |
| Seth Phelps | 14 | MA, Interdisciplinary Studies; BA, Comparative Literature | 10 th |
| William Smagac | 11 | MA, Social Science; BA, History | 6 th |
| Julie White | 24 | MA, Linguistics; BA, Linguistics & French | 21 st |

River Valley Classified Staff

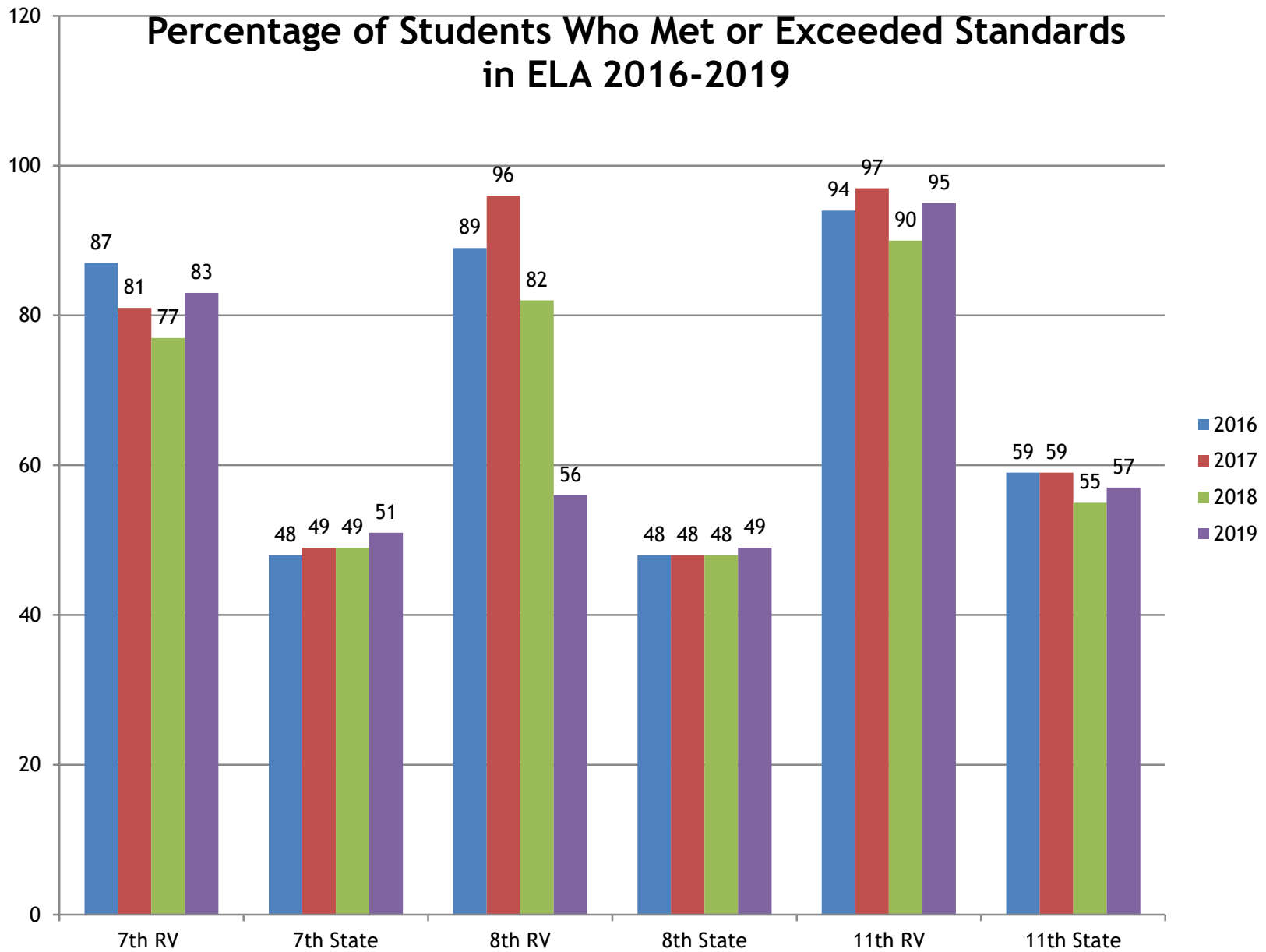
| Classified Staff Member | Years in Education | Year at RVCS |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Stacy Clark | 11 | 11 th |
| Tammy Ferrell | 5 | 5 th |
| Richard Benzing | 11 | 11 th |
| David Lee | 5 | 5 th |
| Steve Riddle | 2 | 2 nd |

HIGHLIGHTS SINCE OUR LAST CHARTER RENEWAL

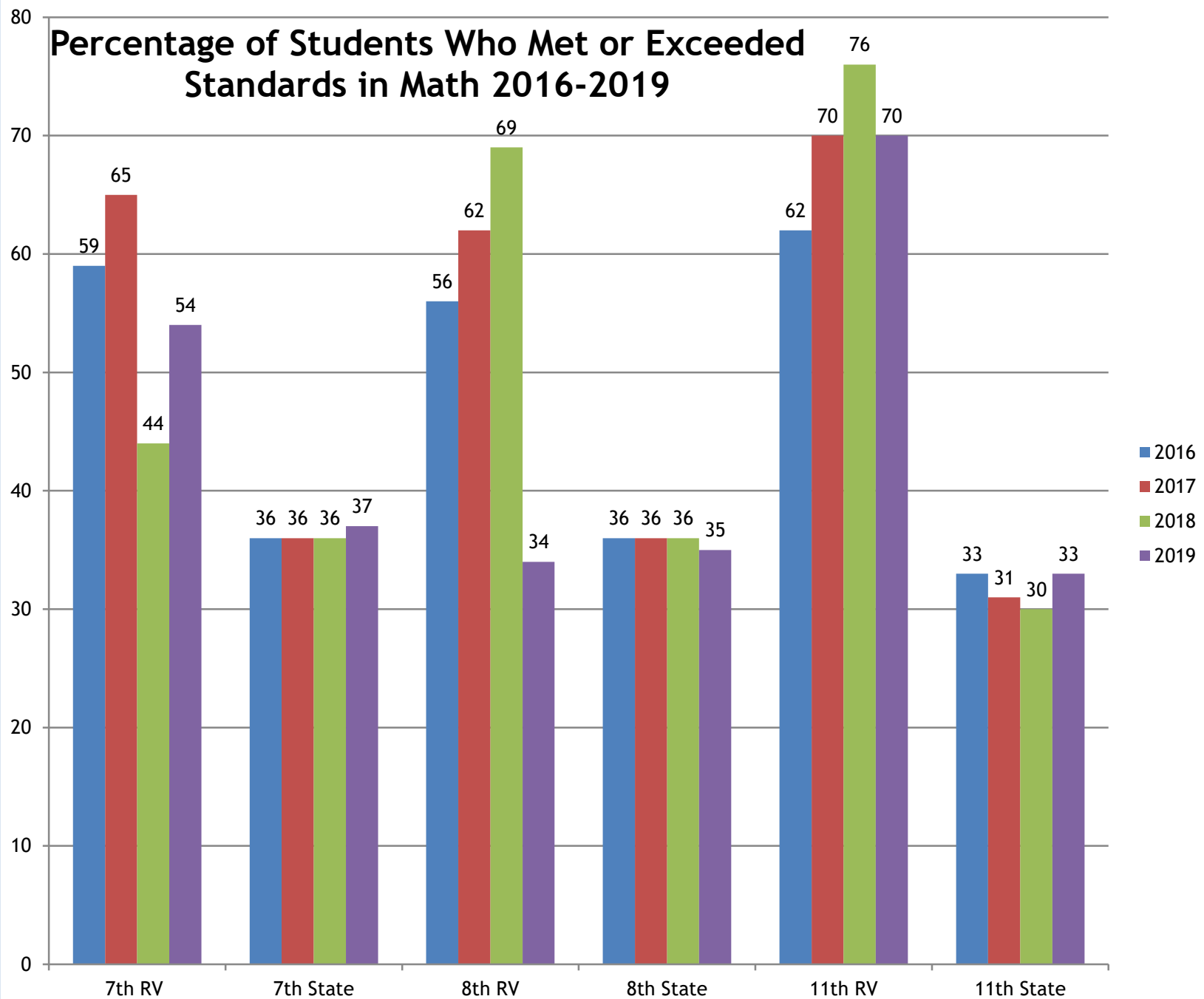
- Recognition as a California Gold Ribbon School
- Created the Digital Arts class to meet the F category Visual Art requirement for UC a to g.
- Hired a new Campus Supervisor
- Completed infrastructure upgrades to include new fiber-optic wiring
- Completed installation of CA Clean Energy Prop 39 new lighting fixtures
- Added two new classrooms, one of which is an additional science lab classroom
- Increased college scholarship awards for graduating seniors
- US News/World Report rankings for *Best High Schools* (California and national recognition received)
- Named one of *Newsweek's* 2020 Top 5,000 STEM high schools in the US
- Participated in countywide Botball competition (placed 2nd)
- Increased the number of seniors applying to and attending 4-year colleges and universities
- Increased diversification of college applications to schools outside of California
- Increased access to technology in each classroom with the installation of Epson BrightLink smartboards
- Added Chromebooks to classrooms
- Expanded sports offerings to include swim and boys' volleyball
- Absorbed students from a charter school whose charter was not being renewed
- All students in the AP Spanish Language course passed the AP exam with a score of 3 or better
- River Valley Charter School's yearbook won 1st place at the San Diego County Fair
- RVCS 8th grader won a statewide video competition for the California Narcotics Officers Association *Say No to Drugs* campaign
- Celebrated the 20th anniversary of River Valley Charter School in June 2017
- Added GradeSlam, a 24 hour a day/7 days a week online tutoring service for students to provide academic assistance to students when they are not on campus

RVCS SBAC ASSESSMENT DATA

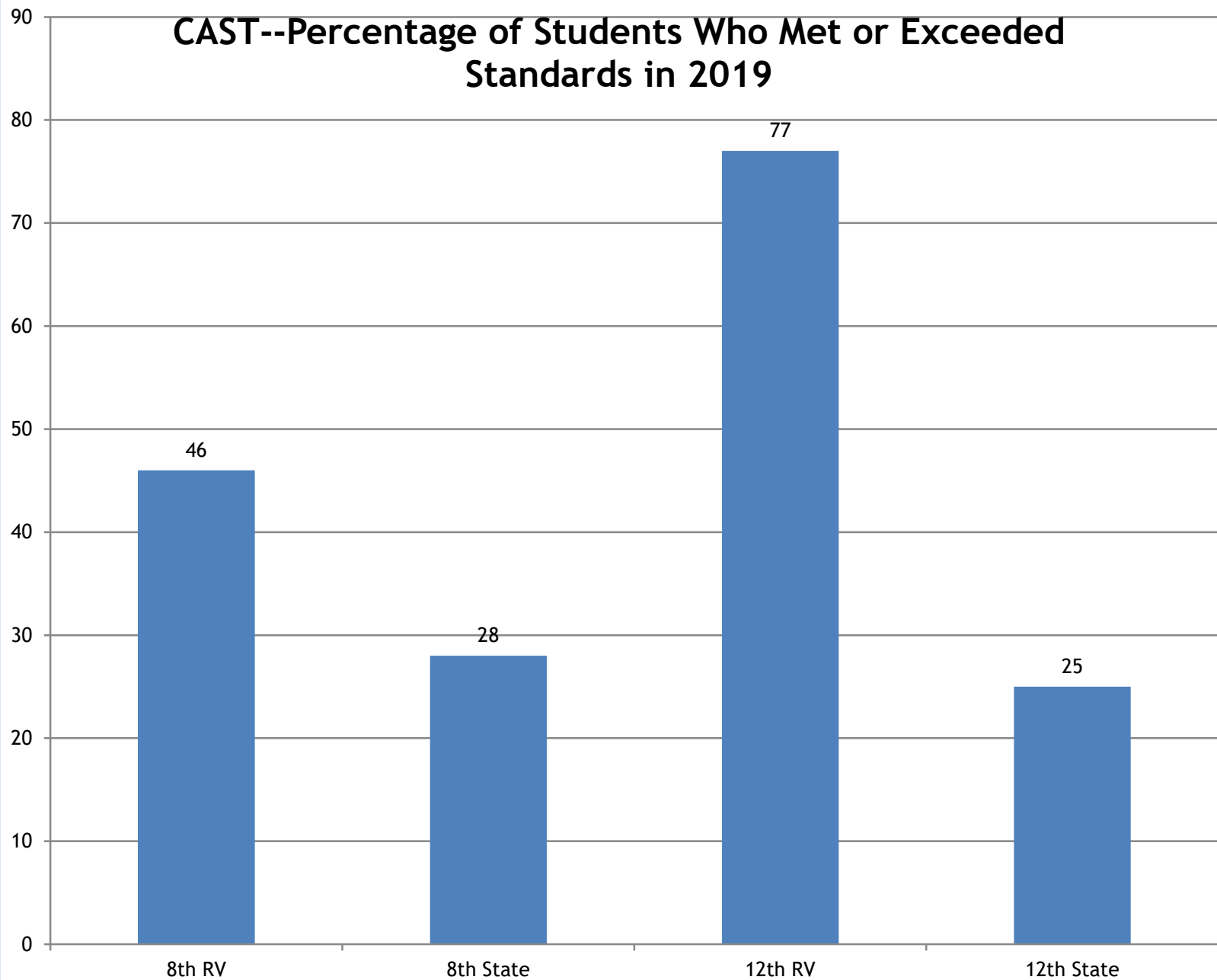
Percentage of Students Who Met or Exceeded Standards in ELA 2016-2019



Percentage of Students Who Met or Exceeded Standards in Math 2016-2019



CAST--Percentage of Students Who Met or Exceeded Standards in 2019



AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

- *Newsweek* Magazine #1 High School in San Diego County -2015
- Gold Medal awarded by *US News and World Report*, “America’s Best High Schools” 2014 and 2015
- Silver Medal awarded by *US News and World Report*, “America’s Best High Schools” 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013
- California Distinguished School-2005 and 2011
- Highest API score in San Diego -2003-2013
- A “10/10” State School ranking - 2003-2016
- Nominated by the California Charter Schools Association for California’s “Charter School of the Year”
- Exemplary Independent Study Recognition Award
- College Board District AP Honor Roll 2014, 2018
- Six Year WASC accreditation 2014
- 2017 California Gold Ribbon School
- 2018 *US News and World Report* America’s Best High Schools
- *Newsweek* 2020 Top US STEM school

THANK YOU