



COLLECTIVE UNIFICATION NEWSLETTER

This Unification Newsletter is a joint effort of the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE), Greenfield Union School District, King City Union Elementary School District, and South Monterey County Joint Union High School District. Its purpose is to provide timely updates as district and county leadership continue the state-directed planning process for a potential dual unification.

On April 28, 2026, the Monterey County Committee on School District Organization convened to review, deliberate, and take action on the proposed Plans and Recommendations for the reorganization of Greenfield Union School District, King City Union School District, and South Monterey County Joint Union High School District into two new unified school districts. The meeting featured presentations from MCOE Special Counsel Marguerite Leoni and financial expert Christy White, CPA. District superintendents representing the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District, Greenfield Union School District, and King City Union School District also shared comments, along with members of the public. Public input received during the meeting reflected support for the proposed unification. Following months of collaborative planning, presentations, and community engagement, the County Committee officially adopted the final Plans and Recommendations, marking a significant milestone in the process.

As part of the final recommendation, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed in close collaboration with legal counsel representing each of the involved school districts. The MOU is intended to address key transition considerations, including financial responsibilities, potential liabilities, and operational alignment between districts. All three districts affirmed their commitment to continue working collaboratively to refine any provisions needed to the MOU as the process moves forward.

Another key highlight of the adopted plan is the proposed election timeline. The Plans and Recommendations include a proposed election date of November 2026, which would provide earlier clarity as to if the voters want two unified school districts or not. Additionally, this timeline would provide staff, students, and the broader community with greater certainty and continuity, while still maintaining an approximate 18-month transition period prior to implementation should the unifications be approved. While there is broad agreement on the overall unification plan and the importance of a thoughtful transition period, the King City Union School District expressed a differing perspective regarding the timing of the election. These perspectives are clearly documented in the final submission, and the State Board of Education will ultimately determine the election timeline.

During the meeting, Christy White, CPA, presented a review of the nine criteria required under California Education Code § 35753. The County Committee voted on each individual criterion and determined that all nine were substantially met. These findings affirm that the proposed unification meets key requirements related to enrollment, community identity, equitable division of assets, fiscal stability, and the continuation of strong educational programs.

With the adoption of the Plans and Recommendations, the proposal will now advance to the State Board of Education for consideration at its July 9, 2026 meeting, where the State Board will determine whether to approve, disapprove, or continue the matter.

This milestone reflects a highly collaborative effort, including extensive planning meetings, public hearings, and ongoing coordination among district and county leadership. Further updates will be shared as the process continues.