

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news galleryweek

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Over 1,000 students participate locally in annual Special Olympics



This year, Tulare County Special Olympics organized four events to encourage more students and adults to participate in the games. The games began March 28 with Special Olympics in Visalia. This month, Porterville held its Special Olympics on April 4, followed by the North County games at Dinuba High School on April 11. Tulare County's final Special Olympics will be held Friday, April 25 at Bob Mathias Stadium in Tulare, beginning at 9:00 a.m. In all, well over 1,000 students and adults will participate locally.

From Special Olympics mission statement, the purpose of the program is, "Through the power of sports, people with intellectual disabilities discover new strengths and

abilities, skills and success. Our athletes find joy, confidence, and fulfillment — on the playing field and in life. They also inspire people in their communities and elsewhere to open their hearts to a wider world of human talents and potential.”

In Tulare County, students come from TCOE and district-run special day classes, Community Based Instruction classes, and adult programs run by various community agencies. At each venue, high school students from various clubs turn out to help run the competitions, recording finishers, measuring distances thrown or jumped, and cheering for the athletes. Local law enforcement agencies also attend to support the events.



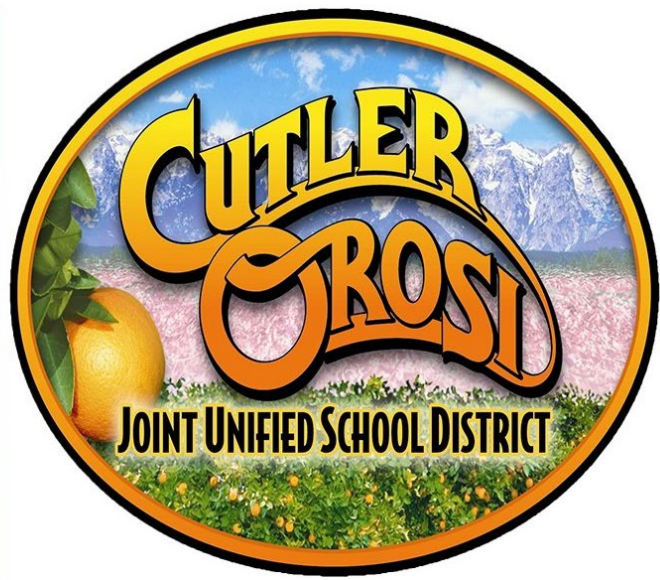
Photos above:

~ Student groups are a big part of Special Olympics in Tulare County, cheering on the athletes and helping to score the events. Students from Burton Middle School cheer on a runner at the Porterville Special Olympics.

~ Athletes enter their local stadiums to crowds of cheering students as pictured at the North County Special Olympics, held at Dinuba High School.

Around the County

Two Tulare County districts named Model School Attendance Review Board recipients by state



Last Wednesday, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced that 19 school attendance review boards (SARBs) were designated as model programs by the State SARB for exemplary practices that have contributed to reducing chronic absenteeism rates and improving student attendance.

Tulare County's [Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District](#) (chaired by Antonio Quintanilla) and Woodlake Unified School District (chaired by Melissa Lawson) were named as Model SARBs.

"School attendance improvement programs are a critical tool to have children back in the classroom, which is an important part of academic success and social-emotional well-being, especially for our most vulnerable students," said Superintendent Thurmond. "I commend each Model SARB as they voluntarily undertake the responsibility to serve as an example of best practices and extend technical assistance to other SARBs, school districts, and counties throughout California."

This technical assistance includes providing sample materials and telephone consultations, along with invitations to visit, see, and discuss the model SARB in person. Model SARBs may also be asked to present best practices through participation in webinars and in workshop presentations at statewide and regional conferences.

The Model SARB Recognition Program identifies and recognizes multi-tiered school attendance improvement programs at the district or county level, including efforts to reduce the use of exclusionary school discipline practices of suspensions and

expulsions and replace them with prevention efforts and positive alternative means of correction. Attendance interventions have been modified to address students in independent study and students in quarantine.

For more information about the recognition,
visit <https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr25/yr25rel20.asp>.

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