

Eye On The Board

The Salinas Valley Federation of Teachers

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Board Highlights November 25, 2008

Reported by Mariann Klinger

Number of grads increases; many continue schooling

Fewer students fail to graduate and most of those who do have more than one reason, according to Associate Superintendent Tim Vanoli.

In a report to trustees, Vanoli outlined the current graduation data.

In 2008, 1633 students completed high school requirements. Of those students 1372 graduated in June, 49 completed

requirements in less than or more than four years, 142 finished after the summer session and 70 received a GED.

Of the non-graduates 136 returned to classes in the fall for a fifth year attempt at graduation, 30 went to the adult school and four went on to community college, said Vanoli.

Only 79 of the non-graduates did not graduate and did not continue on with their education. In 2007, 134 did not continue.

Vanoli said that the state set up a system to track students that continue with education, even if they transfer from high school to another program.

Only eight of the non-graduates cited a single reason, mostly the CAHSEE, for

the failure to graduate, he told trustees. The number of students citing a single

reason for not graduating is declining as is the number of students identifying the state exit exam as the reason, according to Vanoli.

Students show steady gains on benchmarks

More and more students achieve proficient or advanced levels on benchmarks, according to a district report.

For instance, on the first English Language Arts benchmark of the year 31 percent of seventh graders, 35 percent of ninth graders and 48 percent of 10 graders scored proficient or above.

In social studies, 63 percent of seventh graders and 47 percent of tenth graders scored proficient or above.

In each case, there was a small, but steady increase in the numbers of students achieving higher levels, the report noted.

In math, 53 percent of algebra readiness students, 41 percent of pre-algebra, 42 percent of algebra and 46 percent of advanced algebra students achieved proficient or above. The number of students taking algebra classes increased by 25 percent.

Sixty-seven percent of seventh grade science students also achieved proficient or above.

Despite the steady improvement trustees expressed concern for the large number of students at basic or below levels.