

Cuyama Joint Unified School District

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Friday, December 12, 2025

Cuyama Joint Unified School District journey over the last 7 years

Hello, board members, teachers, classified staff, students, parents and community members:

Today, I am writing to share my decision that I will honor the current superintendent contract that ends June 30, 2026. I cannot begin to express my gratitude to all of you for entrusting me to lead this beautiful Cuyama Valley educational community. Being the superintendent of the Cuyama Joint Unified School District family and working alongside dedicated board members, dedicated teachers, and dedicated staff over the last seven years has been a true honor.

My decision has been influenced by my family over the last couple of years. I would like to express pride in the districts' collective (all of us working together) accomplishments which include but are not limited to the following:

2019-2020: Covid and school closures. We were able to provide students' academic work through weekly packets delivered and, in some cases, students would pick up.

2020-2021: providing 1:1 Laptops to all students prior to start of school year with T-Mobile WIFI hot spots. Offered a rigorous distance learning education program.

21-22: Adopted and implemented protocol procedures for Covid and approved a CDPH protocols on testing.

22-23: Successfully received a 6-year WASC accreditation plan (Maximum number of years allowed)

23-24: Continue to make progress

24-25: Implemented a plan to reduce and eliminate general fund deficits including making the TK/K-8th grade elementary school a small and necessary school TK/K-6th grade elementary school and creating a new Cuyama Valley Jr. High School (7th-8th grade). No audit findings for the 24-25 school year.

2025-2026: Due to our fiscal plan, this year the district has no deficits in the ongoing funding (the plan worked successfully).

Our Academic scores have improved since the 2020-2021 school year and our chronic absenteeism has declined each year after Covid from a high of 35%, to 25 percent to 19% in 24-25.

The district received grants such as the community schools, A-G grant, First Five grant, reading grant, SBHIP grant and other grants totaling over \$2 million dollars.

In 2025-2026: Have new computer lab at Elem/Jr. High and a new computer lab at CVHS. All computers are new as of November 2025. This is exciting for our staff, students, and community.

Transportation: District struggles to send two groups of students on events or field trips due to only having two new vans plus an Ag van (for ag events). The district (with grant funding approved by CCSPP and CDE approval) is buying two additional new vans to be able to have two different away events on the same day with sufficient vehicles for transportation.

FFA program has grown by leaps and bounds, and many students have been recognized at the regional and state level. This year, we have an ag student teacher from Cal Poly. In addition, our Athletic program continues to thrive. Our teachers are providing a top caliber education to our students.

*I will always be here for you to support in any way. The board members (over the years), our teachers, classified staff, the parents, the community, the students and the families have all been very good to me and I thank you for your unwavering support.

Since arriving to Cuyama, I have received four contracts. A temporary contract to start during the 2019-2020 school year, then a two-year contract from July 1, 2020, thru June 30, 2022. Then my contract was extended on September 9, 2021, to last through June 30, 2024. Then on April 20, 2023, the board terminated the extension and gave me a new three-year contract from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026. I plan to complete and honor this 4th contract just like I honored the previous three contracts.

It is an honor to work in Cuyama. I want to thank everyone in the district and in the Cuyama Valley.

*I would like for the board to have ample of opportunity to look for and find a great individual to continue to move the district forward in a positive direction. I will support every step of the way, and my work ethic, energy, and performance will continue at the optimum level every day I work in beautiful Cuyama.

In the future, I do look forward to coming to Cuyama and seeing everyone and all the students. The board also knows that I will support the district in in which way the board may need. Cuyama community is unique and very special to me. I will see everyone on Monday ready for another exciting week with our students.

Once a Cuyama Bear, always a Cuyama Bear

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alfonso Gamino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alfonso Gamino, Superintendent

Cuyama Joint Unified School District