



# ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Four Antelope Valley School Districts Focus on Improving Student Achievement through ACS WASC Accreditation Alignment

*Accreditation alignment to provide opportunities for school program improvement, better prepared students*

### Press Release

**Burlingame, CA, May 4, 2017** — The Antelope Valley Union High School District, Eastside Union School District, Palmdale School District, and Westside Union School District have agreed to align their ACS WASC accreditation processes to allow for more collaboration between elementary, middle, and high school education programs.

The Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) is a world-renowned accrediting association and one of six regional accrediting agencies in the United States. Accreditation is a dual-purpose process that ultimately shows that schools are worthy of the trust placed in them to provide high-quality learning and clearly demonstrate continual self-improvement.

Antelope Valley Union High School District has gone through the accreditation process since 1961. The Eastside, Palmdale, and Westside elementary school districts are now opting to participate in the accreditation process and align efforts.

“The goal of aligning accreditation among our districts is to strengthen our students’ learning ability by providing programs that prepare them to excel in the next grade level, and a contiguous learning experience from preschool through kindergarten,” said Dr. David J. Vierra, Antelope Valley Union High School Superintendent.

Beginning with the 2017–2018 school year, the four districts will go through accreditation simultaneously, allowing ACS WASC to provide evaluations that will highlight education programs that show strong alignment and those that demonstrate opportunities for greater partnership.

ACS WASC accredited schools are focused on student-oriented missions and goals. The schools continuously examine student performance and accept objective evaluation from a team of outside peer professionals trained by ACS WASC. They maintain a qualified faculty within effectively organized schools, and regularly collaborate to assess the quality of their educational programs and plans for the future.

For additional information about ACS WASC, please visit the ACS WASC website at [www.acswasc.org](http://www.acswasc.org) or contact the ACS WASC office directly.

For information about Antelope Valley School District, please contact Betsy Sanchez, Director, Communications, [bsanchez@avhsd.org](mailto:bsanchez@avhsd.org) or 661-948-7655, ext. 264.

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**Accrediting Commission for Schools, WASC**

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