



# ALL-AMERICA CITY FINALIST

## CHULA VISTA

### Community Snapshot

Chula Vista is the second-largest city in San Diego County and the seventh-largest city in California. Located eight miles south of downtown San Diego and seven miles north of the U.S./Mexico border, this bi-national city was originally dubbed the “Lemon Capital of the World.” In 2001, Chula Vista celebrated its centennial with special community events and held a birthday bash at the city’s Olympic Training Center, the nation’s only warm-weather Olympic facility.

### Community Solutions Action Plan

To achieve the desired percentage of students reading at grade-level by the end of third grade, Chula Vista has created a comprehensive strategy based on the following focus areas:

- **School Readiness:** Increase the number of children ready for kindergarten through parent education, specifically by helping parents understand that they are their children’s first teacher
- **School Attendance:** Increase the number of children attending school by incorporating attendance incentives, personalized early outreach and an attendance data team. Special attention will also be given to increasing parent engagement to increase attendance in the early years
- **Summer Learning:** Maximize reading opportunities over the summer and increase the number of participating children. Success will be measured by tracking attendance at summer programs and the number of businesses that provide free books to children

### Partnerships

This plan to ensure that more Chula Vista children are reading at grade level by the end of third grade was submitted by the City of Chula Vista through the efforts of Mayor Cheryl Cox, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, district leaders and United Way of San Diego County. The strategies were developed by three teams — the School Readiness Team, the Student Attendance Team and the Summer Learning Team — consisting of more than 30 leaders representing approximately 25 organizations. These three teams also worked closely with additional community partners.

### DEMOGRAPHICS

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- **250,000 residents**
- **Approximately 27,700 students**
- **45 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals**
- **35 percent are English language learners**
- **55 percent of third graders tested as “reading-proficient” (STAR E-LA assessment)**
- **79 percent graduation rate**
- **96 percent of K-3 students attend school daily**
- **Organizations throughout Chula Vista provide six-week summer learning programs, many of which are free**

### GOALS

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- **Increase percentage of students reading at grade level to 80 percent**
- **Increase school preparedness to 75 percent**
- **Reduce the number of chronically absent students by 34 percent**
- **Increase the number of children participating in summer learning programs to 45 percent**

*“Chula Vista is a city with a history of collaboration, effective partnerships and the understanding that the community shares the responsibility with parents to support the schools’ efforts in educating*