



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Director of Elementary Education and Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Department Announce Retirement Following the 2023-2024 School Year

Chico, CA – After learning, leading and fostering the next generation of educators, Director of Elementary Education Ted Sullivan and Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Jay Marchant announce plans to retire at the end of this school year.

Drawing on a deep appreciation for the power of education and its ability to foster lifelong skills for students, both administrators provide a brief glimpse into decades of experience.



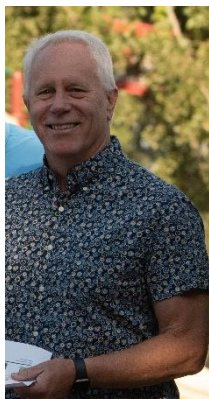
Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Jay Marchant

Jay Marchant spent 34 years in education, serving in positions at the elementary, junior high and District Office. He accepted his first position with Chico Unified School District in 2006.

Marchant is known by many students for his lighthearted attitude and consistently high expectations. With a kind heart, empathetic personality and desire to work with students, families and staff – Marchant always strives to lead by example. Serious when necessary, Marchant chooses to bring positivity and upbeat humor to the room whenever possible. Understanding that every student is different, Marchant has learned how to create a positive school culture for students, acknowledging that every student has their own story, obstacles and ladders to success.

Proud moments include students sharing how experiences have led to accomplishment years after graduation. Hearing him recall a student saying, “We know you care because of how you talk to us; it’s genuine and we never want to let you down,” is heartwarming. Marchant shares, “They’re proud to tell you they made it.”

Sharing advice for those new to the field of education, Marchant emphasizes how every student has a story, a snapshot of time that composes a bunch of individual stories. Listen fully and be patient before giving advice.



Director of Elementary Education, Ted Sullivan

Often described as calm, caring and compassionate, Ted Sullivan reflects upon the last 36 years working in elementary education. A trendsetter by default, Sullivan states he has been working in education long enough to see old become new and the cycle continue. Sullivan shared, “It’s cool to see things come back ten years later.”



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Beginning in Capay, Sullivan worked as a Title I Teacher. As with many small schools, “other duties as assigned” included a wide range from yard duty to bus aide and custodian. Sullivan joined Chico Unified, where he worked at Rosedale, Chapman, Citrus, Parkview and McManus Elementary Schools before working at the District Office. No matter the role, Sullivan felt each position offered him “the best job in the world,” reinforcing his calling to work in elementary education.

Through the years, Sullivan has engaged with students, families and staff to try new approaches and solve problems. The overarching goal was to achieve the best educational experience for each student. His advice to those joining the field of education, be open to new opportunities.

Reflecting on a journey past and looking to future adventures, Sullivan will take his own advice. He plans to follow his love of culture and appreciation of travel to explore new countries with his children. Spending a career doing what he loves, Sullivan feels fortunate to enter now the next stage of his life – a future open to adventure!

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Additional Information

Heading the helm in the 2024-2025 school year, the Chico Unified School District Board of Education has unanimously approved new members of the Educational Services Team:

- Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services – Tina Keene
- Director of Elementary Education – Heather Sufuentes
- Principal of Parkview Elementary – Stephanie Cunniff

Tina Keene was the Director of State and Federal Program. Heather Sufuentes was the Principal of Parkview Elementary School. Stephanie Cunniff was the Assistant Principal at Little Chico Creek Elementary.