

# POWAY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT STATE OF THE DISTRICT REPORT 2008-2009 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Superintendent's Message

### College Readiness for All— Gateway to Our Students' Future

We are committed to keeping Poway Unified School District as the "school district of choice," even during these difficult financial times.

We continue to have a commitment to prepare each and every student for a successful future – a future which, we believe, will require some form of postsecondary educational experience in order for our graduates to earn a family living wage.



**Superintendent Don Phillips joins  
Del Norte High School students  
and staff on opening day.**

In most cases this will be a four-year college, but many students start out in a community college and transfer to a four-year college, or enter into military service, or attend technical or vocational schools and develop skills for today's work force.

Our job is to help encourage students to develop their passions and interests and provide a first-rate educational program so they will have a wide range of options upon graduation. This important journey begins at home and continues through preschool, kindergarten, and through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

In order to help monitor our progress in preparing our students for their future, we have established targets in key areas supporting college readiness. This document shares our progress since 2002 and how we measure up in comparison with the county and state. As you will see, we have made progress in almost every area.

This is a real tribute to our staff. Our school district's mission is to educate our youth, and at the heart of our success is our people. As I talk with our teachers and school staff, I hear the enjoyment and pride they have in their work with children.

We are very aware that you send us wonderful students, and your support as volunteers and financial partners is key to our success. Thank you for your extraordinary efforts, including financial and volunteer support.

I encourage you to review this report. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Sharon Raffer, Director of Communications, at [sraffer@powayusd.com](mailto:sraffer@powayusd.com).

Sincerely,

Donald A. Phillips, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

### **2008-2009 Poway Unified School District Board of Education**

**Andy Patapow, President**  
**Todd Gutschow, Vice President**  
**Penny Ranftle, Clerk**  
**Jeff Mangum, Member**  
**Linda Vanderveen, Member**

**13626 Twin Peaks Road**  
**Poway, CA 92064**  
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**[www.powayusd.com](http://www.powayusd.com)**

# FACTS, FIGURES, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## Profile of the District

- **Geographic Size:** 100 sq. miles
- **PUSD serves the following communities:**  
Black Mountain Ranch, Carmel Mountain Ranch, Del Sur, Poway, Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Peñasquitos, Sabre Springs, Santa Fe Valley, Santaluz, StoneBridge, Torrey Highlands, and 4S Ranch
- **Size in California:** 26<sup>th</sup> largest
- **Size in San Diego County:** 3<sup>rd</sup> largest
- **2008-2009 Budget:** \$260 million
- **Total Number of Schools:** 37
  - 25 Elementary School
  - 6 Middle schools
  - 5 Comprehensive high schools
  - 1 Continuation high school
- **Also:**
  - 1 New Directions Program
  - 21 Preschools
  - 1 Poway Adult School
- **Location of Schools:**  
PUSD schools are situated in two cities and in the unincorporated area of San Diego County:
  - 11 Schools in the City of Poway
  - 23 Schools in the City of San Diego
  - 3 Schools in the unincorporated area of San Diego County
- **Number of Students:** 33,305 (K-12)
- **Ethnic Diversity:**

African American	3.1%
American Indian/Alaskan	0.4%
Asian	15.8%
Filipino	7.2%
Hispanic	10.7%
Pacific Islander	0.7%
White	56.7%
Multiple or No Response	5.3%
- **Graduation Rate:** 97%
- **Attendance Rate:** 96.6%
- **Number of Teachers:** 1,460
- **PTA/PTSA Membership:** 17,965

## Points of Pride

- **California Distinguished Schools (26)**
- **National Blue Ribbon Schools (15)**
- **National Merit Scholarship Finalists (36)**
- **National Board Certificated Teachers (118)**
- **National Spelling Bee Champion**
- **Milken National Teacher of the Year**
- **Disney Teacher of the Year**
- **California/ACSA Superintendent of the Year**
- **All Comprehensive High Schools Have Academic Performance Index (API) Above 800**
- **PUSD API Score 872 (sixth year of growth)**
- **Top High Schools in San Diego County:**
  - Mt. Carmel • Poway
  - Rancho Bernardo • Westview
  - (*San Diego Magazine* ratings)
- **Abraxas California Model Continuation High School**
- **Valley Elementary School CA Title I Academic Achievement**
- **Meadowbrook Middle School State Democracy Award**
- **San Diego County Taxpayers Association "Golden Watchdog" Award**
- **San Diego County Urban League Gold Award**
- **2009 California Distinguished Schools:**
  - Bernardo Heights Middle School
  - Rancho Bernardo High School
- **San Diego County Urban League Gold Award**
- **AVID National Demonstration Schools:**
  - Black Mountain Middle School
  - Westview High School
- **2009 San Diego County Academic League Championship: Rancho Bernardo High School**
- **California Honor Roll Schools - Scholar Schools**
- **Community Partner of the Year Award for the City of Poway** (Nominated by Poway Unified at the annual Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 18/San Diego County School Boards Association "Honoring Our Own" Awards Dinner)
- **National PTA Award of Merit for PUSD College Fair**

# MAJOR FINDINGS



*“At the heart of our commitment to college readiness  
is our responsibility to prepare each  
and every student for postsecondary success in life.”*



*– Donald A. Phillips, Ed.D.  
PUSD Superintendent*

## How Are We Doing?

### **Most PUSD 2008 Academic Targets Achieved**

In each of the academic target areas, significant gains have been achieved since 2003. District targets for 2008 have been reached in our a - g college preparatory course completion, with over 61% of students completing this sequence. The 2008 target of over 50% of students successfully completing an Advanced Placement class was also achieved. Four of the six components of our goal to increase achievement on the California Standards Tests (CST) were achieved, with high schools and middle schools reaching their targets in English Language Arts, and middle schools and elementary schools achieving their targets in Mathematics.

### **Performance on Major Student Performance Indexes Remains High**

On state and national indexes of schoolwide performance such as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and the state's Academic Performance Index (API), Poway Unified School District achieved all-time highs in 2008. The API at every level increased to well above the state's goal of 800. District scores show a growth of 54 points from 2002 to 2008. Ten schools posted gains in Similar School Rankings and 23 schools posted State Rankings of 10.

### **State and National Comparisons Favorable**

When compared to state or national groups taking nationally scored tests such as the SAT-I, ACT, college entrance, and Advanced Placement exams, Poway Unified students scored higher than students across the county, state, and nation. This finding applies to Poway Unified School District students from every ethnic student group, each scoring higher than their counterparts on every measure of academic progress in 2008.

### **Achievement Gap**

The performance of all student groups continued to improve, and lower performing subgroups kept pace with the gains of all other subgroups. On almost all measures student groups are keeping pace with total district improvement. The district has eliminated the achievement gap between ethnic subgroups on the California High School Exit Exam.

*Poway Unified ranks third highest in California  
among schools with more than 20,000 students for  
its Academic Performance Index.*

*San Ramon Valley — Irvine — Poway*

### **The College Readiness Initiative**

*Poway Unified School District recognizes that education is the key to improving future job opportunities and building a strong sense of community. For most, this will mean a college education or higher levels of training beyond high school. PUSD is committed to working with our families to have students college-ready, including technical training, when they graduate from our high schools.*

# STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS 2002-2008



Beginning in 2002, Poway Unified School District established a vision that all students graduate college ready. This determined that we fulfill a mission to prepare students so they may benefit from a full range of postsecondary education and training options available to them after high school. In 2002 the PUSD Board of Education and the District established two goals benchmarked for measurement in 2008 to evaluate our progress toward meeting these goals.

**Goal Area I – Increase achievement for all students through a comprehensive literacy effort.**  
**Goal Area II – Provide a physical learning environment to support student learning for all.**

**Goal Area I includes academic progress in five critical college readiness measures as well as in the federal and state No Child Left Behind requirements:**

- **By 2008, increase the percentage of all students, including all subgroups, performing at the college readiness levels of Proficient or Advanced on the California Standards Tests:**  
Poway Unified students continue to demonstrate mastery of state academic standards with growth in all student groups. In 2008, over 2,100 more students were proficient or advanced on the California Standards Test in English as compared to 2003. When comparing mathematic achievement, in 2008 over 2,700 more students are meeting standards than in 2003. Significant gains were also recorded in our English Learner and low income student groups. Middle and high schools achieved their 2008 targets in English Language Arts, and elementary and middle schools achieved their 2008 targets in mathematics, while high school saw a gain of 11% in 2008 in the number of proficient and advanced students compared to 2003.
- **By 2006 (year this became law), improve the pass rate on the California High School Exit Exam from 91% in English/Language Arts and 88% in Mathematics to 100%:**  
Beginning in 2006, all students were required to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) to earn a high school diploma. Students were required to take the California High School Exit Exam for the first time in the 10th grade. Poway Unified has closed the achievement gap in success on the high school exit exam, with 99% of seniors passing the CAHSEE in 2008.
- **By 2008, increase from 53% to a minimum of 60%, the percentage of graduating students, including all subgroups, who complete the University of California and California State University college prep, a-g requirements.** The college preparatory completion rate measures the percentage of high school students completing all 15 courses that are required for admission to the University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) system. A critical measure for college readiness is the successful completion of the a-g class sequence. In this area, PUSD continues to significantly outpace county and state averages and has shown a marked increase of over 7% since 2003. The district also achieved the 2008 target of 60% of students completing a - g courses.
- **By 2008, increase from 29% to 50%, the percentage of high school graduates who satisfactorily complete at least one advanced placement course as preparation for college:**  
Advanced placement classes offer high school students a college experience and develop the thinking skills, or “habits of mind,” that support lifelong learning, problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, and ingenuity, and foster resilience. The district has achieved this goal. This represents a gain of 30% more students in advanced placement classes since 2003.
- **By 2008, increase from 63% to 74%, the percentage of students at the comprehensive high schools who take the SAT at least once, while maintaining or improving the district’s average score:**  
Poway Unified values the SAT-I as a measure of academic rigor and student intention to attend college and established a target to increase voluntary participation while maintaining high mean scores. The district has seen an increase of three percent overall between 2005 and 2008, improving from 67% to 70%.
- **By 2008, 100% of all schools in the district achieving No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements:**  
Included within this measure is the California Academic Performance Index (API) which measures overall achievement of the district and schools. District and school level growth on the API shows strong evidence of the continuous improvement of our district, growing 54 points since 2002 to a score of 872 in 2008. This law also sets a minimum level of proficiency for our student groups. In this area we continue to meet statewide goals for almost every student group. Poway Unified’s graduation rate exceeds local and state averages significantly, with 97% of our students graduating in 2008.

# Goal Area I STEPS TO COLLEGE READINESS



## California Standards Test

California has some of the highest academic standards in the nation. The standards are based on readiness to pass college entrance exams administered to freshmen entering the California university system.

**PUSD Target:** Increase the percentage of all students performing at the college readiness levels of Proficient or Advanced on the California Standards Tests.

PUSD 2008 State Standards Targets				
Grade Span	English/ Language Arts		Mathematics	
	2003	2008	2003	2008
2-5	69%	80%	72%	80%
6-8	66%	76%	58%	70%
9-12	60%	65%	32%	60%

Percent of Students Proficient & Advanced English/Language Arts CST Results 2008			
Grades	PUSD	County	State
2-5	77%	53%	47%
6-8	76%	53%	47%
9-11	68%	46%	43%

Percent of Students Proficient & Advanced Mathematics CST Results 2008			
Grades	PUSD	County	State
2-5	81%	63%	58%
6-8	71%	46%	44%
9-11	43%	33%	30%

## STAR

California's mandatory Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (STAR) assesses student performance on the California Content Standards.

Performance standards identify the level of mastery of the content standards tested and include:

- Advanced (exceeding standards)
- Proficient (meeting standards)

The state target is for every student to score at the Advanced or Proficient level.

All school districts in the State of California are required to report their CST results in comparison to the state average.

Percent Proficient & Advanced by Ethnicity				
PUSD	English / Language Arts		Mathematics	
	2003	2008	2003	2008
Student Groups	2003	2008	2003	2008
African American	46%	53%	33%	48%
Asian	75%	84%	74%	82%
Filipino	61%	72%	54%	63%
Hispanic	48%	56%	41%	51%
White	68%	77%	56%	67%

**2008**

**STRATEGIC  
VISION**

**2014**



Starting in the early elementary grades and then through middle school and into high school, students should participate in rigorous studies to ensure a full range of postsecondary options, with the majority of graduates attending college.

*We are committed to fostering a universal commitment to develop a pervasive college-going culture, starting in preschool, to ensure all students graduate "college ready." This requires that we fundamentally believe all students can learn at rigorous levels.*

# Goal Area I STEPS TO COLLEGE READINESS



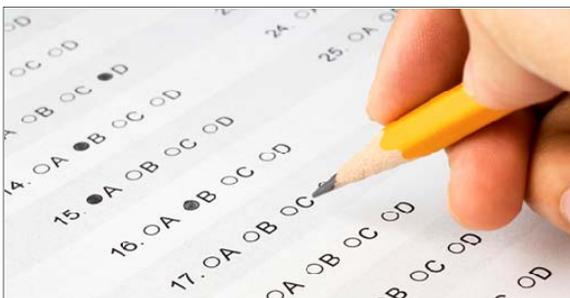
## California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

**PUSD Target:** Improve student pass rates from 91% and 88% to 100% in language arts and math tests.

The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) is a state-mandated test to measure student abilities in math and language arts.

Beginning with the Class of 2006, students must pass both the English/Language Arts and Mathematics portions of the examination, as well as meet district requirements, in order to receive a high school diploma. Students are given several chances to pass the three portions of the test beginning in tenth grade. Once a student passes a portion of the test, he/she will not have to test that portion again.

Percent of Students Passing English/Language Arts CAHSEE Exam 2008			
Student Groups	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
African American	74%	82%	95%
Asian	92%	96%	99%
Filipino	89%	96%	99%
Hispanic	81%	89%	98%
Not Declared	90%	97%	100%
White	93%	97%	99%



Percent of Students Passing Mathematics CAHSEE Exam 2008			
Student Groups	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
African American	72%	84%	95%
Asian	94%	98%	99%
Filipino	92%	98%	99%
Hispanic	81%	88%	97%
Not Declared	90%	96%	100%
White	93%	97%	99%

2008 California Exit Exam Percent of Students Passing		
	English/ Language Arts	Mathematics
PUSD	99%	99%

2008	STRATEGIC VISION	2014
<p><i>We know that at the heart of good teaching or coaching is a caring and respectful relationship. We all recognize and attribute much of our success to individuals who touched our lives and engaged us to be our very best.</i></p>	<p>We are committed to fostering strong student-to-student, student-to-adult, and adult-to-adult relationships to create a safe, supportive, productive, and welcoming learning environment.</p>	

# Goal Area I STEPS TO COLLEGE READINESS



## College Prep a-g Completion Rates

**PUSD Target:** Increase the percentage of high school graduates, including all subgroups, from 23% to 60% who complete the a-g University of California and California State University college entrance requirements. Courses must be completed with a grade of C or better.

### a-g Course Requirements:

- (a) 2 years American History, Economics
- (b) 4 years English, Writing and Literature
- (c) 3 years Math (algebra or higher)
- (d) 3 years Science
  - 1 year Biology
  - 1 year Chemistry
  - 1 year Physics
- (e) 2 years Language other than English
- (f) 1 year Visual/Performing Arts
- (g) 1 year Elective from a, b, d

a-g Completion Rates			
Year	PUSD	County	State
2003	54.6%	35%	34%
2008	61.1%	35%	33%

Percent of Students Completing a-g Course Requirements						
Student Groups	PUSD 2003	County 2003	State 2003	PUSD 2008	County 2008	State 2008
African American	38.1%	21.4%	24.3%	42.6%	25%	22.6%
Asian	68.9%	55%	56.1%	75.4%	61.2%	59%
Filipino	49.7%	45.7%	43.7%	58.6%	49.3%	44.5%
Hispanic	39.2%	20.1%	21.5%	46.6%	24.6%	22.2%
White	55.6%	44.5%	39.2%	61.6%	40.8%	38.7%
All PUSD	54.6%	35.3%	33.6%	61.1%	35%	33.3%

## Advanced Placement (AP)

**PUSD Target:** Increase the percentage of high school graduates, including all subgroups, from 29% to 50% in at least one advanced placement course.

Each AP course gives students experience with college-level curriculum. Passing AP exams with a score of 3, 4, or 5, on a 1 to 5 scale gives students the opportunity to earn college credit. There has been a significant increase since 2003 in both the percentage and pass rate of students taking AP classes.

Poway Unified School District AP Results		
Year	2003	2008
AP Class	40%	59%
3,4,5 Scores	43.8%	80.5%

Percent of 2008 Graduates Taking at Least One AP Class		
Student Groups	2003	2008
African American	22%	43%
Asian	67%	85%
Filipino	28%	55%
Hispanic	38%	49%
White	38%	58%

<b>2008</b>	<b>STRATEGIC VISION</b>	<b>2014</b>
 <p>At the base of our collective leap forward is a requirement that the UC and CSU system college entry standards known as "a-g courses" become the default curriculum for all students in Poway schools.</p>	<p><i>By the term "default curriculum," we mean that the entire teaching and support staff and programs are focused on strategies to help every student successfully meet the "a-g" curriculum requirements. These courses also provide a solid grounding to prepare students for a full range of postsecondary options.</i></p>	

# Goal Area I STEPS TO COLLEGE READINESS



## Scholastic Aptitude Test Scores

**PUSD Target:** Increase percentage of students taking the SAT test from 63% to 74% while maintaining or improving the district's average score.

The Scholastic Aptitude testing (SAT) is a curriculum-based assessment that predicts a student's future success in college. The test measures verbal and mathematical reasoning skills. In 2006, a new test was introduced with the verbal, math, and writing sections each worth 800 points. A total score of 2400 is possible.

SAT Scores by Student Group		
Student Groups	2006	2008
African American	1486	1530
Asian/Filipino	1691	1710
Hispanic	1535	1566
White	1645	1677

SAT Participation by Student Group		
Student Groups	2005	2008
African American	47%	68%
Asian/Filipino	80%	81%
Hispanic	43%	69%
White	59%	65%

2008 SAT Scores			
	PUSD	County	State
Percent tested	70%	53.8%	48.67%
Test scores	1670	1537	1512

# Goal Area I NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND REQUIREMENTS

## Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

**PUSD Target:** 100% of all PUSD schools achieving No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements.

The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that all students perform at or above the proficient level on their state's standard-based assessment by 2014. To reach that goal, districts and schools must achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) by **steadily increasing the percentage of all students who achieve state standards in academic proficiency from year to year.**

Schools Achieving NCLB Requirements 2008		
Level	PUSD	California
Elementary	100%	58%
Middle	67%	33%
Comprehensive High Schools	100%	49%
All Schools	94%	52%

2008	STRATEGIC VISION	2014
<p><i>Students need to possess a full range of habits, attitudes, and behaviors that are embedded in key content knowledge and will support lifelong learning, problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, and ingenuity, and foster resilience.</i></p>		<p>We are committed to personalizing learning by inspiring each student to be an active and engaged partner in his or her own learning.</p> 

## Goal Area I

# NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND REQUIREMENTS



### Academic Performance Index (API)

**PUSD Target:** 100% of all PUSD schools achieving 800 or above on the Academic Performance Index, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements.

The Academic Performance Index (API) measures school performance, sets academic targets, and monitors growth over time based on state testing (STAR) and high school exit exam (CAHSEE) results.

### 100% of PUSD Schools Achieve APIs Above 800

PUSD Academic Performance Index (API) 2002		
Level	2002	2008
Elementary	863	900
Middle	833	878
High	769	825
Districtwide	818	872



### Graduation/Dropout Rates

**PUSD Target:** 100% of all PUSD schools achieving No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements.

The NCLB target is a 4-year high school completion rate of 82.9% or better. In 2008, 97% of Poway students completed graduation requirements. Poway Unified strives to creating opportunities so that every student can graduate.

### PUSD Reaches Lowest Dropout Rate in the County

Dropout Rates for 2008			
Year	PUSD	County	State
2008	3.0%	17.4%	20.2%

## NEXT STEPS

#### Implement Recommendations in District Strategic Vision of 2008

Continue the system-wide development of the college readiness for every student through developing college awareness, increasing student access to rigorous course content including greater access to a - g and challenging courses in the middle school grades. Incorporating models of instruction demonstrating relevance and rigor in the curriculum, strong personal relationships among students and staff and meaningful engagement of students especially with students in underperforming groups is a necessary step to achieve increases in academic goals.

#### Continue Clear Focus on Academic Standards

The existing academic targets serve as a strong hierarchy of achievement leading to college readiness. Continue to utilize student performance data to inform classroom practices.

#### Develop Multiple Pathways and Models to Engage Students in Their Own College Readiness

Continue and fully advance the work of classes, course offerings, and alternative programs to meet the individual abilities, interests and learning styles of students.

#### Participation by PUSD Parents, Volunteers, Businesses, and the School Community

Poway Unified continues to benefit from a community that values education and supports district efforts. At the governance and decision-making levels as well as at the grassroots level, the entire community works together to benefit our students.

2008	STRATEGIC VISION	2014
<p><i>Poway schools must serve as the gateway — rather than gatekeeper — in creating powerful learning experiences that will prepare our students for future success. We share a moral imperative to have each student graduate “college ready” in order to pursue a full range of postsecondary options and be prepared for life beyond high school.</i></p>	<p>Serving as the gateway to our students' future, we will open, not restrict, the range of opportunities and choices and prepare them for success as they pursue their interests and passions upon graduation.</p> 	

# Goal Area II FACILITIES



## Provide a Physical Learning Environment to Support Student Learning for All

Two targets were developed as PUSD reviewed its school facilities to meet the needs of a student population of approximately 34,000 students. Our students live in the cities of Poway and San Diego and in the unincorporated area of San Diego County. We are extremely proud of our building program, which is creating up-to-date environments that are conducive to student learning. The community is welcome to visit our fine facilities.

### The *Building for Success* Program

The *Building for Success* Program manages the modernization and expansion of the 24 PUSD schools funded by Proposition U and Proposition C bonds, and the building of new schools. The building of new schools is under a program funded with locally-generated funds authorized by the Mello-Roos Facilities Act of 1982 combined with dollars from the California State School Facility Program.

### By 2012, complete the repair and renovation of 24 Poway Unified schools funded by the Building for Success, Proposition U and Proposition C bonds.

This program will be finished well ahead of schedule, under the direction of knowledgeable staff and an excellent Citizens' Oversight Committee. By 2011, all major repairs and renovations will be completed.

Schools completed include Garden Road, Los Peñasquitos, Midland, Painted Rock, Tierra Bonita, and Westwood Elementary Schools, Twin Peaks Middle School, and Mt. Carmel and Poway High Schools. Technology and playground upgrades are also complete at Canyon View, Deer Canyon, Morning Creek, Rolling Hills, Sundance, Sunset Hills, and Turtleback Elementary Schools.

Schools completing modernization and expansion in 2008-09 include Chaparral, Los Peñasquitos, Rolling Hills, and Valley Elementary Schools, Black Mountain and Meadowbrook Middle Schools, and Abraxas High School. Schools planned for completion in 2009-2010 include Canyon View, Deer Canyon, Pomerado, Sundance, Sunset Hills, and Turtleback Elementary Schools. Morning Creek Elementary, Bernardo Heights Middle School and Rancho Bernardo High School are scheduled for upgrades in 2010.



**Abraxas High School**



**Valley**



**Black Mountain**



**Chaparral**



**Chaparral Solar Roof**

### Building New Schools

By 2010, plan, design, and build new schools in the western portion of the school district, as determined by enrollment.

In recent years, Stone Ranch and Monterey Ridge Elementary Schools and Oak Valley Middle School have been built in the western portion of Poway Unified.

Del Sur and Willow Grove Elementary Schools opened in August 2008. Del Norte High School opened in August 2009.



**Del Sur**



**Willow Grove**



**Del Norte**