



# PORTS

2014/2015 School Year Statistical Report

## Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students

### INTRODUCTION

The Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) program is California State Parks' long-standing distance learning program. It was developed over a decade ago as a collaborative effort between public schools and California State Parks. This program uses the power of videoconferencing and employs California's K-12 High Speed Network (HSN) to deliver content standards-based programs in the context of California State Parks. PORTS is coordinated by the Interpretation and Education Division. Individual PORTS distance learning sites are operated by the nine participating state park districts.

In 2014/2015 PORTS served close to 48,000 students. This healthy increase in our number of students from the previous year can be attributed to the addition of a new program at Angel Island State Park, the dedication of park district staff and management, continued partnerships with targeted school districts, outreach to after-school audiences, and a broadening of our offerings to a nationwide audience at two PORTS sites (over 2,800 students were outside of California).

Through the use of an online tracking system, PORTS has compiled this report of the statistics from the 2014/2015 school year. All statistics are approximate.

### ANNUAL STATEWIDE STATISTICS

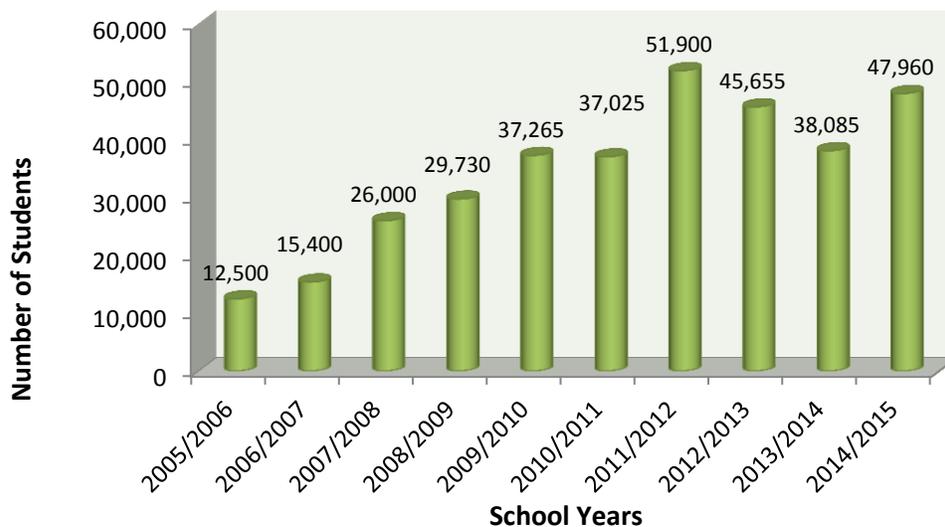
**2014/2015 Total Number of Students** (average of 31 students/class)

47,960

**2014/2015 Total Number of Presentations** (one class per presentation)

1,540

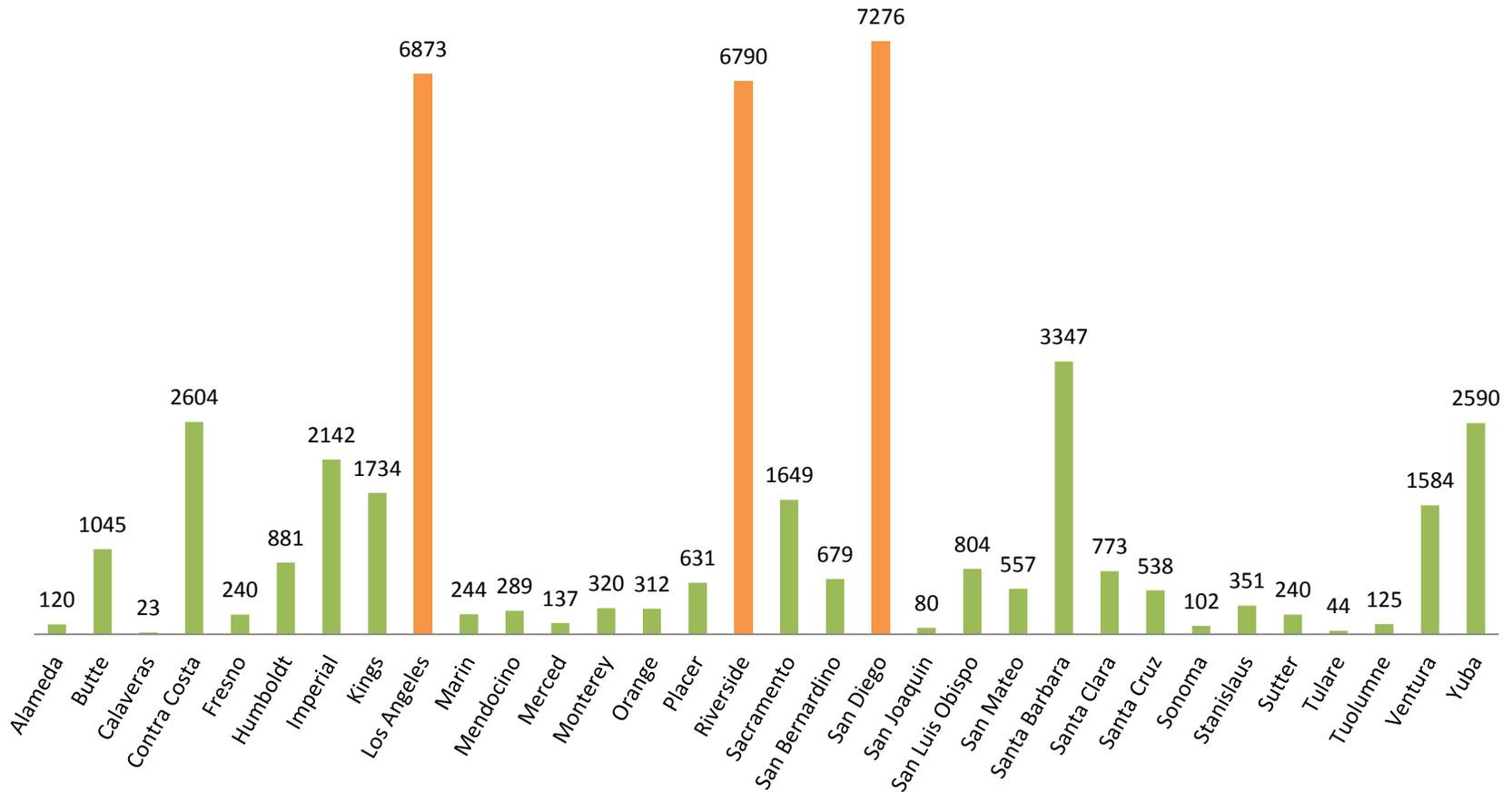
**Annual Comparison of Student Numbers**



**PARTICIPATING COUNTIES**

The PORTS distance learning program continues to focus on California’s K-12 educational community. During the 2014/2015 school year, PORTS programs were delivered to over 45,000 students across California. This year, schools from 34 of California’s 58 counties participated in PORTS programs. The top three counties are highlighted in orange below.

**Student Participation By County**



## **CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

For the 2014/2015 school year, 90 California school districts participated. The return rate for school districts from the 2013/2014 school year is 68%.

Alhambra City Schools	Los Angeles Unified
Arcata Elementary	Maple Creek Elementary
Armona Union Elementary	Martinez Unified
Atascadero Unified	Mattole Valley Charter School
Bonita Unified	Mendocino County Office of Education
Brawley Elementary	Menifee Union Elementary
Capistrano Unified	Merced Union High
Carlsbad Unified	Monterey Peninsula Unified
Carmel Unified	Novato Unified
Coachella Valley Unified	Oakland Unified
Colton Joint Unified	Ontario-Montclair Elementary
Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified	Orange Unified
Cupertino Union Elementary	Oroville City Elementary
Del Mar Union Elementary	Oxnard Elementary
Desert Sands Unified	Pacific Union Elementary
Dry Creek Joint Elementary	Pajaro Valley Joint Unified
El Centro Elementary	Palermo Union Elementary
Elk Grove Unified	Paso Robles Union Elementary
Empire Union Elementary	Pioneer Union Elementary
Encinitas Union Elementary	Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified
Eureka City Schools	Poway Unified
Fremont Unified	Redwood City Elementary
Galt Joint Union Elementary	Riverside Unified
Hanford Elementary	Roseville City Elementary
Hueneme Elementary	Sacramento City Unified
Humboldt County Office of Education	San Diego City Unified
Imperial Unified	San Joaquin County Office of Education
Jacoby Creek Elementary	San Juan Unified
Jamestown Elementary	San Marcos Unified
Kentfield Elementary	San Mateo-Foster City Elementary
Kenwood Elementary	San Ramon Valley Unified
Kings Canyon Joint Unified	Santa Clara Unified
Kings River Union Elementary	Santa Maria-Bonita Elementary
Kings River-Hardwick Union Elementary	Santee Elementary
Kingsburg Joint Union Elementary	Stanislaus Union Elementary
Lafayette Elementary	Sweetwater Union High
Lake Elsinore Unified	Temecula Valley Unified
Lakeside Union Elementary	Trona Joint Unified
Laytonville Unified	Union School District
Lemon Grove School District	Vallecito Union Elementary
Lemoore Union Elementary	Ventura County Office of Education
Live Oak Elementary	Ventura Unified
Lompoc Unified	
Los Altos Elementary	

### STATES/COUNTRIES OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA

During the 2014/2015 school year, PORTS delivered programs to 2,835 students in 20 states across the country. This number also represents a dozen programs delivered to senior living centers, lifelong learning providers, and a series of programs with a school in Taiwan.

Classrooms in these states participated in 2014/2015:

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Alaska        | Montana        |
| Arizona       | New Jersey     |
| Connecticut   | New York       |
| Florida       | North Carolina |
| Idaho         | Ohio           |
| Illinois      | Pennsylvania   |
| Kansas        | South Carolina |
| Maryland      | Texas          |
| Massachusetts | Virginia       |
| Minnesota     | Wisconsin      |

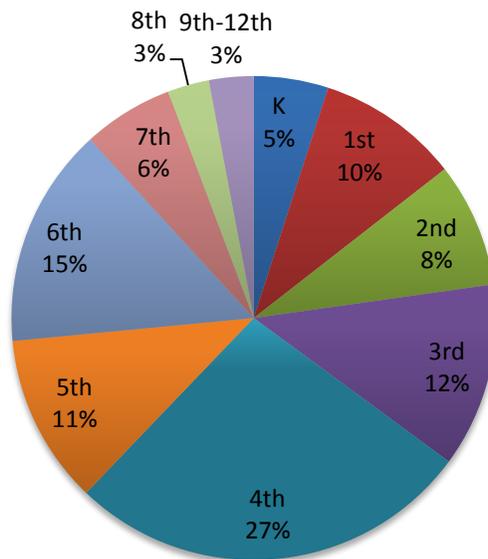
### PARTICIPATING TITLE I SCHOOL STATISTICS

A total of 197 individual schools in California participated in PORTS programs in the 2014/2015 school year. Of the 197 schools, 123 qualified as Title I schools as defined by federal standards. 62% percent of PORTS programs were delivered to Title I schools in California.

### STUDENTS BY GRADE LEVEL

PORTS programs served all K-12 grade levels during the 2014/2015 school year. The highest level of participation was 4<sup>th</sup> grade (27%).

### Number of Students



**PORTS DISTANCE LEARNING SITE STATISTICS**

PORTS programs were delivered from nine individual distance learning sites in 2014/2015

**Students per PORTS Distance Learning Site**

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Anza-Borrego	5400	7446	8390	8750	7360	8840	13900	8410	8086	8127
Seacliff	5550	5030	6170	9220	9570	8860	8200	7945	6313	7827
Crystal Cove	1100	2103	5510	5750	7440	7375	6350	5750	4891	7615
State Capitol	255	490	1310	2820	4300	0	0	875	1190	2047
Columbia	0	0	980	2140	2940	3535	4600	4590	4615	3793
North Coast Redwoods	0	0	0	740	5360	6760	8630	7850	8179	8337
Hearst Castle	0	0	0	0	290	1435	1905	2055	1166	1975
Baldwin Hills	0	0	0	0	0	0	8150	7835	3645	4995
Angel Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	3242

***Total Number of Students Since 2005***

***336,337***

**Site Summaries**

**Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Summary**

The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park PORTS program was delivered using a chroma-key studio housed at the Stout Research Center inside Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. This program was in full operation and delivered by a State Park Interpreter I, Permanent Intermittent. The funding for this position and program is primarily through District funds and the Anza-Borrego Desert Foundation. This year the Anza-Borrego Desert PORTS Program delivered presentations to 8,127 students. Satellite truck programs were delivered in the spring semester.

### **Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Summary**

The 2014/2015 school year saw the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook PORTS program in full operation. The presentations are primarily delivered using chroma-key technology. The studio was in operation five days a week, and it was also utilized for many afternoon and Saturday professional development/conference sessions. The program was staffed by a State Park Interpreter I and is fully funded by the Angeles District. This school year, approximately 4,995 students participated in programs from Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook. Baldwin Hills staff was integral in maintaining our relationship with Los Angeles Unified School District this school year.

### **California State Capitol Museum Summary**

The California State Capitol Museum PORTS program was available for full-time operation this school year. A total of 2,047 students participated in programs from the State Capitol. This number reflects a large number of students in after-school programs in rural Santa Barbara County. In June, the Department (IT Division) purchased a new mobile, high-definition videoconferencing cart for use in the Capitol.

Legislative programs went out to schools in Kings River Union Elementary School and San Juan Union School District. These were the legislators that participated:

- Assemblymember Ken Cooley (D, 8<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, Sacramento)
- Assemblymember Devon Mathis (D, 26<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, Visalia)

### **Columbia State Historic Park Summary**

The Columbia State Historic Park PORTS program was delivered three days a week, initially by a seasonal Park Interpretive Specialist. The district upgraded the position in October and a new staff member took over the role of PORTS presenter at that time. This school year the Columbia PORTS program delivered presentations to approximately 3,793 students from a chroma-key studio. While delivery from a mobile platform is possible, changes in staff hindered our opportunity to expand our operation while the new staff member learned basics of delivery. We're hopeful that mobile delivery will commence in the 2015/2016 school year.

### **Crystal Cove State Park Summary**

The Crystal Cove State Park PORTS program continues to use the "EduGator" roving videoconference vehicle. The program was in operation four days a week and staffed by a State Park Interpreter I, Permanent Intermittent. The funding for this position and program is primarily through District funds, the Crystal Cove Alliance and Department of Fish and Wildlife Marine Protected Area Education agreement. This year the Crystal Cove PORTS program delivered presentations to approximately 7,615 students. This was the inaugural year for delivery from the El Moro Canyon portion of the park. Two days a week were dedicated to Tide Pool Ecology programs and two days a week were dedicated to a new Science of Habitat Restoration and Protection program. Crystal Cove continues to push the limits of mobile delivery, using iPad and wireless technology.

### **Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument Summary**

The Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument (Hearst Castle®) PORTS program delivered videoconference programs solely from a studio using chroma-key technology. A Guide I on special assignment provided programs three days a week. This year 1,975 students participated in programs from this site. In spring, programs were advertised on the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC) to attempt to reach a broader audience for this program.

### **North Coast Redwoods District Summary**

The North Coast Redwoods District PORTS studio delivered programs to approximately 8,337 students. All programs were delivered from a chroma-key studio in the Fort Humboldt State Historic Park visitor center. The program was in operation five days a week and staffed by a seasonal Park Interpretive Specialist. Funding for the position was provided by the Humboldt County Office of Education and a Department of Fish and Wildlife Marine Protected Area Education agreement.

### **Seacliff State Beach Summary**

The Seacliff State Beach PORTS studio delivered videoconference programs solely using chroma-key technology. The studio was in operation four days a week and staffed by a seasonal Senior Park Aide. This school year approximately 7,827 students received interpretive programs delivered from the Seacliff PORTS studio. The Santa Cruz district was successful in upgrading the PORTS position to a State Park Interpreter I, PI. Hiring of the staff member will be during the summer of 2015. We said good-bye to Vonnie Lemke, at the end of the year.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS/OUTREACH**

This school year PORTS staff utilized forty-three formal opportunities to promote the program to teachers, administrators, and professional education organizations. Aside from our ongoing opportunities to promote PORTS among the K-12 education community, PORTS was particularly honored to be invited to participate in the following the special events:

- Oakland Unified School District media event with Comcast, Oakland
- Cultural Connections Panel Discussion, San Francisco
- State Park and Recreation Commission Meeting, Carpinteria
- Parks Onward Day, Cal Poly Pomona, Pomona
- Visiting Russian Educator Delegation, Sacramento

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

PORTS continues to be engaged in social media on Facebook. The PORTS Facebook page is a media tool that helps keep followers abreast of current events with the PORTS Program and is a means of soliciting input from friends and colleagues. Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/PORTSprogram>. At the end of the school year, the PORTS Facebook page had over 520 “likes.” Our increase in popularity can be attributed to the hiring of a Graduate Student Assistant to oversee social media endeavors.

## **PORTS TEACHER SURVEY**

The Department uses a standardized School Group Program Evaluation (SGPE) for school group interpretive programs throughout the state. PORTS staff has modified the standard form over time to meet the needs of this specialized program. This year PORTS developed their survey on Google Forms. The survey was administered by PORTS interpreters via email link after programs were delivered. This greatly increased the responses we received for our survey compared to previous years. We received 292 responses this school year.

The questions on the teacher survey examine the program's overall usability; the relevance of its instructional materials; the effectiveness of its live presenters; the efficiency of scheduling and logistics; and the technology tools for increasing student appreciation of California State Parks values.

### *Summary of key results:*

- 80% of participants gave PORTS the highest grade for "Overall Program Experience"
- 76% of participants gave PORTS the highest grade for "Videoconference Presentation"
- 53% of participants said they used the PORTS online lessons; 48% of those gave the "Online Lessons" the highest grade
- 75% of participants gave PORTS the highest grade for "Scheduling Process and Logistics"
- **83% of participants said they were not able to go on a field trip to a California State Park this school year.**

## **SUMMARY**

The dedication and professionalism of district PORTS interpreters was honored by the Department this year, the tenth year of PORTS programs. This honor builds on previous awards and further solidifies the relevance and importance of this California State Parks program. PORTS remains a relevant, useful approach to engaging a widespread, diverse audience—particularly in underserved populations within California's K-12 system. Likewise this year, PORTS continued to cultivate and maintain partnerships with K-12 education, state agencies, park partners, and private industry. This blend of a partnership-driven, modern approach to interpretation is why PORTS can be held as a shining star of California innovation and one that will continue to transform the Department well into the future. The fact remains that PORTS provides access to parks where that access otherwise does not exist. Close to 48,000 students from 90 school districts in California and 20 states across the country had the opportunity to engage with a park professional while gaining valuable knowledge about California's natural and cultural history thanks to the efforts of the PORTS Program.

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

It's unclear what the next decade of PORTS will look like. However, it is clear that the program is positioned to continue to bring California State Parks resources to thousands of California's K-12 students by staying ahead of trends in technology and education to connect a large group of California's population while addressing evolving Department initiatives. With the advent of a new PORTS program at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, we hope to provide programs to more than 50,000 students in the 2015/2016 school year.