

California State Parks PORTS Distance Learning Program 2009/2010 School Year Statistical Report

INTRODUCTION

PORTS is a distance interpretation and education program developed as a collaborative effort between public schools and California State Parks. This program uses the power of videoconferencing and California's K-12 High Speed Network (HSN) to deliver academic 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 seven participating state park districts.

This report includes statistics from the 2009/2010 school year, the fifth school year since the inception of PORTS. Park districts did not deliver live presentations on any Friday during the 2009/2010 school year due to the Governor's Furlough Program. Through the use of an online tracking system PORTS staff has compiled statistics for the 2009/2010 school year. All statistics are approximate.

ANNUAL STATEWIDE STATISTICS

2009/2010 Total Number of Students (average of 32 students/class)

37,265

2009/2010 Total Number of Programs (one class period per interpretive program)

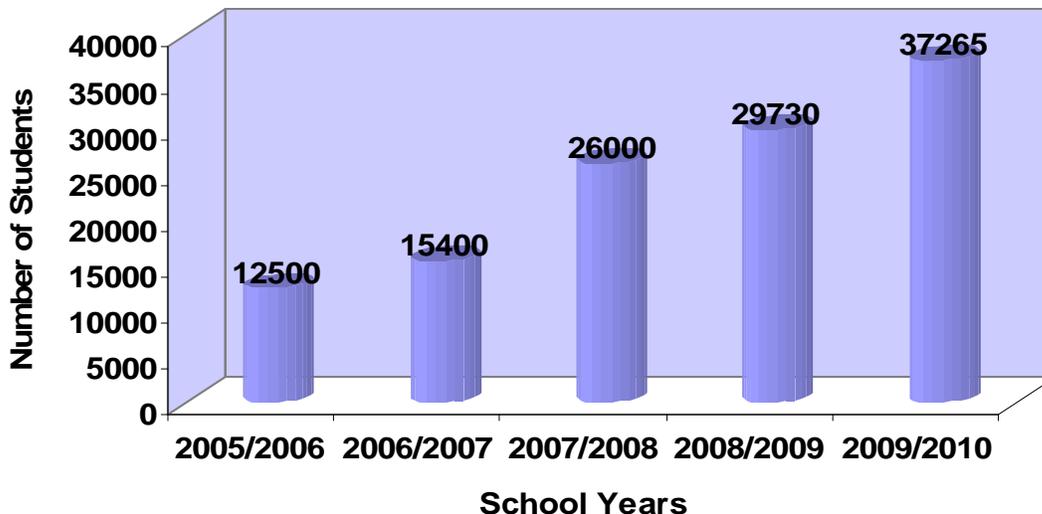
1,158

Annual Comparison of Program Numbers

2005/2006	375
2006/2007	460
2007/2008	910
2008/2009	1,000
2009/2010	1,158

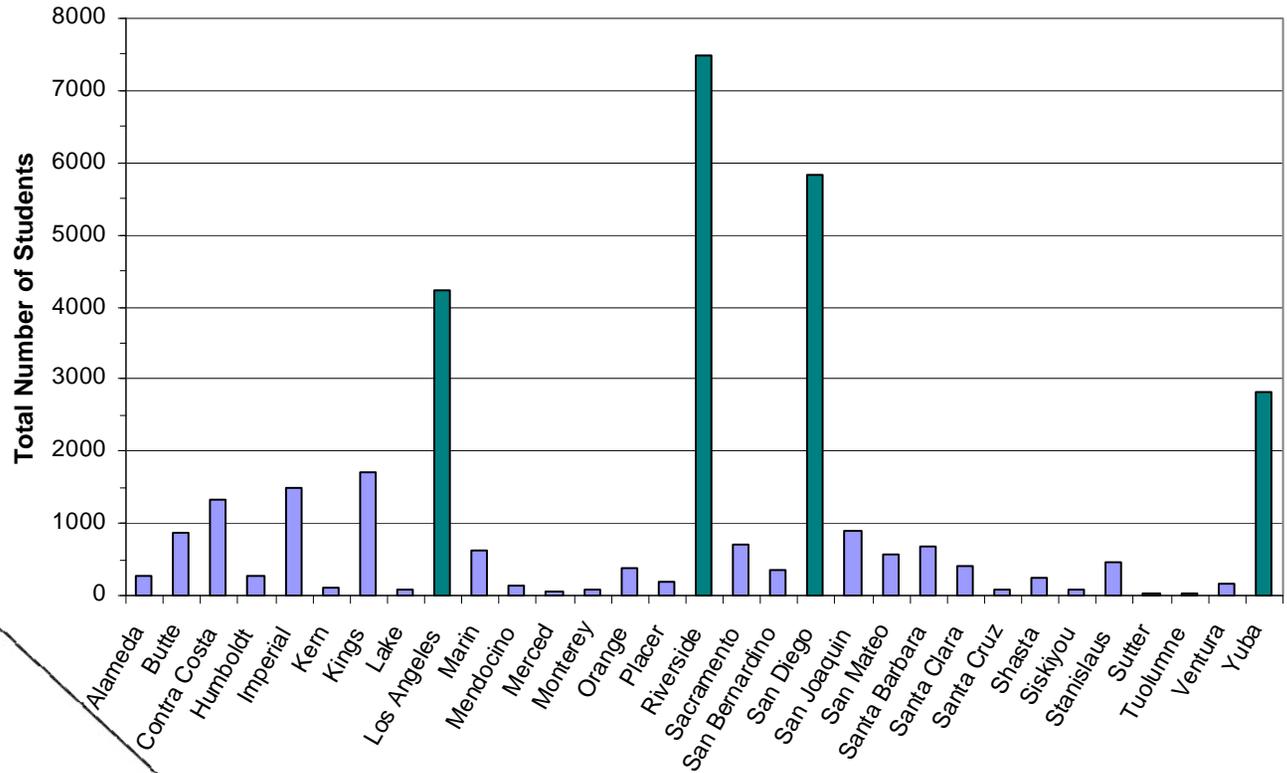
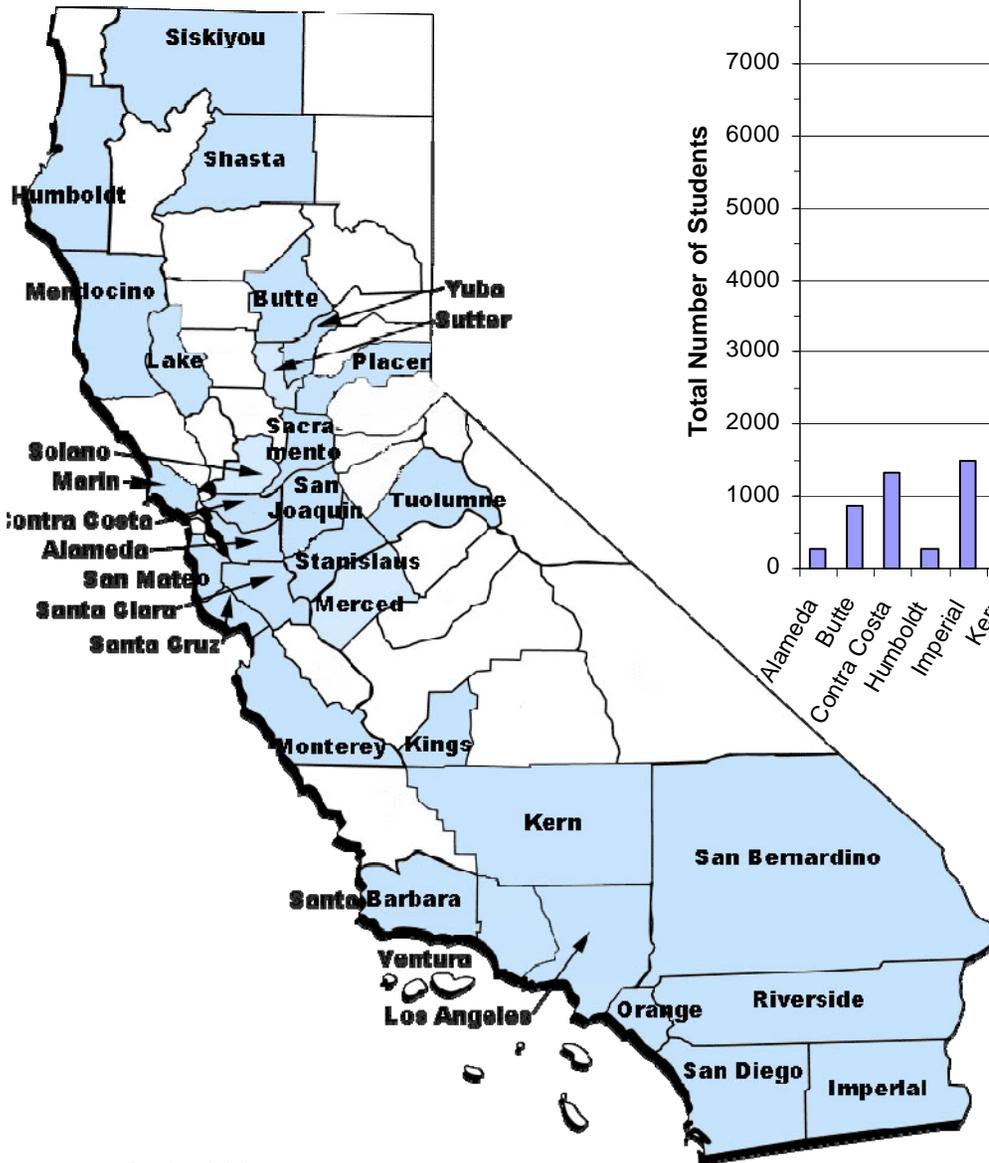
Annual Comparison of Student Numbers

2005/2006	12,500
2006/2007	15,400
2007/2008	22,370
2008/2009	29,730
2009/2010	37,265



PARTICIPATING COUNTIES

The PORTS Distance Learning Program focuses on California’s K-12 educational community. During the 2009/2010 school year PORTS programs were delivered to schools in 31 of the 58 California counties.



CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DISTRICTS

PORTS served 79 school districts in 2008/2009. For the 2009/2010 school year 79 California school districts participated. The return rate for school districts for the 2009/2010 school year is 63%.

Alameda County Office of Education	Los Banos Unified School District
Berryessa Union School District	Manhattan Beach Unified School District
Borrego Springs Unified School District	Martinez Unified School District
Brawley Elementary School District	Mattole Valley Charter School District
Calipatria Unified School District	Menifee Union Elementary School District
Cardiff School District	Middletown Unified School District
Carlsbad Unified School District	Monterey Peninsula Unified School District
Cascade Elementary School District	Murrieta Unified School District
Castro Valley Unified School District	Novato Unified School District
Central Union Elementary School District	Orange Unified School District
Colton Joint Unified School District	Oroville City Elementary School District
Conejo Valley Unified School District	Pacific Union Elementary School District
Del Mar Union School District	Pajaro Valley Joint Unified School District
Desert Sands Unified School District	Palermo Union School District
El Centro School District	Panama-Buena Vista Union School District
Elk Grove Unified School District	Patterson Joint Unified School District
Empire Union School District	Pioneer Union Elementary School District
Encinitas Union School District	Poway Unified School District
Fallbrook Union Elementary School District	Rancho Santiago Community College District
Franklin Elementary School District	Redwood City Elementary School District
Fremont Union School District	Reef-Sunset Unified School District
Freshwater Elementary School District	Ripon Unified School District
Hanford Elementary School District	Rocklin Unified School District
Heber School District	Roseville Unified School District
Holtville Unified School District	Sacramento City Unified School District
Humboldt County Office of Education	San Diego City Schools
Hydesville Elementary School District	San Diego County Office of Education
Imperial Unified School District	San Juan Unified School District
Jamestown Elementary School District	San Marcos Unified School District
Jefferson Elementary School District	San Ramon Valley Unified School District
Kentfield School District	Saugus Union School District
Kit Carson Union School District	Scotts Valley Unified School District
Laguna Beach Unified School District	Stockton City Unified School District
Lakeside Union School District	Ventura Unified School District
Laytonville Unified School District	Vista Unified School District
Lemoore Union Elementary School District	Walnut Creek School District
Lodi Unified School District	Westmorland Union School District
Lompoc Unified School District	Wheatland Elementary School District
Los Angeles Unified School District	

STATES OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA

During the 2009/2010 school year PORTS programs were delivered to 4,570 students in twelve states across the country. In the 2008/2009 school year 1,470 out-of-state students participated. PORTS is becoming more nationally recognized as a leader in distance learning as shown by the 300% increase in student participants over last year. However, as the demand for PORTS programs by California schools is now outpacing our ability to deliver those programs, only a limited number of openings for PORTS programs will be offered to schools outside of California next school year.

These are the states that participated in 2009/2010:

Arizona	Delaware
Florida	Indiana
Michigan	Missouri
New Jersey	New York
Ohio	Pennsylvania
Vermont	Virginia

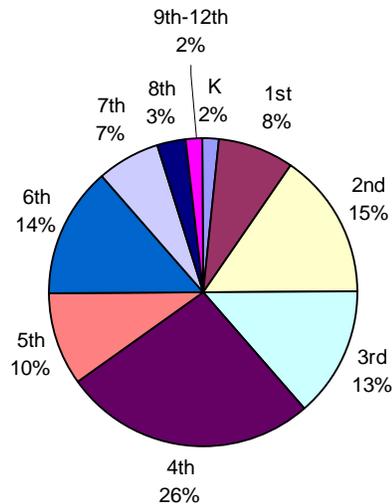
PARTICIPATING TITLE I SCHOOL STATISTICS

A total of 144 individual schools participated in PORTS programs in the 2009/2010 school year. Of the 144 schools, 88 qualified as Title I schools as defined by federal standards. More than sixty percent of PORTS programs were delivered to Title I schools.

STUDENT BY GRADE LEVEL

PORTS programs served all K-12 grade levels during the 2009/2010 school year. The majority of the students served were in grade levels first through seventh.

Students by Grade Level



PORTS DISTANCE LEARNING SITE STATISTICS

For the 2009/2010 school year PORTS programs were delivered from six individual distance learning sites and one pilot distance learning site (Hearst Castle).

Students per PORTS Distance Learning Site

	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010
Anza-Borrego	5,400	7,446	8,390	8,750	7,360
Seacliff	5,550	5,030	6,170	9,220	9,570
Crystal Cove	1,100	2,103	5,510	5,750	7,440
State Capitol	255	490	1,310	2,820	4,300
Columbia	0	0	980	2,140	2,940
North Coast Redwoods	0	0	0	740	5,360
Hearst Castle*	0	0	0	0	290

*Hearst Castle piloted to two schools and participated in a number of professional development training demonstrations.

Anza-Borrego Desert Summary

The Anza-Borrego Distance Learning Program was primarily delivered in a studio using chroma-key technology. The program was in operation four days a week and staffed by a State Park Interpreter I, Permanent-Intermittent. This school year the Anza-Borrego PORTS program delivered programs to approximately 7,360 students.

Some highlights for Anza-Borrego Desert PORTS include:

- Continued participation and support of CSU San Marcos Cyberinfrastructure (CyberTeam) grant for 6th grade earth science teachers and students.
- Increased use of multi-media in programs, including audio and video files, to enhance students' experience.
- Programs went out to 19 counties this year with the top four in order being: San Diego, Imperial, Los Angeles, and Riverside.
- Over 70% of the students served by these programs were in 2nd, 4th, and 6th grade.
- The majority of the programs addressed Paleontology, and Geology and Landforms.

Seacliff Summary

The Seacliff Distance Learning Studio solely delivered videoconference programs using chroma-key technology. The studio was in operation four days a week and staffed by a Senior Park Aide. This school year approximately 9,570 students received interpretive programs delivered from the Seacliff Distance Learning Studio.

Some highlights of the school year for Seacliff include:

- Programs went out to 19 counties this year with the top five in order being: San Diego, Riverside, Yuba, Los Angeles, and San Mateo.
- The programs were delivered to the various grade levels from 1st through 7th grade.
- The main program topics included Elephant Seal Adaptations and Evolution, and Monarch Butterflies.

Crystal Cove Summary

The Crystal Cove PORTS Program continues to use the “EduGator” roving videoconference vehicle. The program was in operation three days a week (Tuesday-Thursday) and staffed by a State Park Interpreter I, Permanent-Intermittent. This school year the Crystal Cove PORTS Program delivered programs to approximately 7,440 students.

Some highlights of the school year for Crystal Cove include:

- Ongoing testing of new and improved technology throughout the school year.
- Programs went out to 19 counties this year with the top five in order being: Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Yuba, and Kings.
- Over 65% of the students served by these programs were in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade.
- The program topic primarily addressed Tidepool Ecology.

California State Capitol Summary

The Capitol PORTS Program talked with students from the Historic Governor’s Office using a simple videoconference set-up. A State Park Interpreter I delivered programs four days a week. The Capitol PORTS Program reached approximately 4,300 students.

Some highlights of the school year for the State Capitol include:

- Coordinated and presented a multi-point videoconference with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The two participating classrooms were in Imperial and Humboldt counties.
- Facilitated a videoconference with Assembly member Joan Buchanan and school in Contra Costa County.
- Programs went out to 15 counties this year with the top five in order being: Riverside, Los Angeles, Yuba, San Diego, and San Bernardino.
- Over 50% of the programs were delivered to 4th and 8th grade students.
- Over half of the programs addressed the topic of State Government, with an increasing number of requests for programs on State Symbols.

Columbia Summary

The Columbia PORTS Program partnered with Cassina Continuation High School for a third year to use their green screen studio. Programs were delivered one day a week by a State Park Interpreter I. This school year the Columbia PORTS Program delivered programs to approximately 2,940 students.

Some highlights of the school year for Columbia include:

- A new HD videoconference machine, on loan from Polycom Inc., was tested and installed in the late spring. The new technology will reduce technical problems related to chroma-key technology and increase quality of green screen functionality.
- Programs went out to 15 counties this year with the top five in order being: Riverside, Kings, Los Angeles, Yuba, and San Diego.
- Programs were predominately delivered to 4th grade students.
- The majority of the programs addressed the Gold Rush, with some special request programs focusing more specifically on mining techniques and Gold Rush communities.

North Coast Redwoods Summary

In its first full year of operation, the North Coast Redwoods Distance Learning Studio delivered programs to approximately 5,360 students. The program was in operation four days a week and staffed by a Park Interpretive Specialist.

Some highlights for North Coast Redwoods include:

- An interpreter was hired to deliver programs full-time, allowing the program to move from pilot stage to full production.
- Programs went out to 17 counties this year with the top five in order being: Riverside, San Diego, Yuba, San Joaquin, and Contra Costa.
- Approximately 54% of the students served were in grades 4th through 6th.
- Over 80% of the programs addressed Redwood Ecology. Other program topics included: habitats, redwood conservation, park careers, and travel brochure.

Hearst Castle Summary

The San Luis Obispo Coast District, Interpretation and Education Division, and PORTS team worked together to build a green screen studio at Hearst Castle. A State Park Interpreter I, Permanent-Intermittent was hired and began working on program development three days a week. Two schools participated in pilot programs. The interpreter participated in a number of professional development demonstrations that PORTS provided to schools. Connectivity issues have limited the ability to expand this program.

CONFERENCE/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS

Delivering in-depth demonstrations for teacher during in-school professional development trainings and educational conferences continues to be the primary outreach for the PORTS Program. This school year PORTS Staff delivered approximately 40 presentations during such events.

PRESS and AWARDS

The PORTS Program uses the website www.delicious.com to catalog their news and web media coverage. You can see all the bookmarks at <http://delicious.com/PORTSPROGRAM>. This year PORTS staff created a Facebook page as an outreach and communications tool.

OnCue, Computer Using Educators Magazine
“PORTS Program Connects Students & Legislators in Video Conferences”
Winter 2009

California Educational Technology Professionals Association
Team Award
November, 2009

In April 2010 PORTS staff participated in Assembly member Tom Torlakson’s 2010 Education Technology Exposition at the Capitol’s north steps. The 2010 Education Technology Exposition brought together students, industry experts and legislators to see how education technology is being used to increase and enhance instruction in California’s classrooms.

EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

During the 2009/2010 school year PORTS staff loaned videoconferencing equipment to schools in 22 different school districts. The loaner equipment was able to serve approximately 6,000 students in 17 different counties. Menifee Unified School District represented the largest

participant in the Loan Program with approximately 3,700 students having the opportunity to connect to State Parks using a videoconference machine loaned to the district.

PORTS TEACHER SURVEY

The Department uses a standardized School Group Program Evaluation (SGPE) for school group interpretive programs throughout the state. Given the unique nature of the PORTS program, PORTS staff created a hybrid school group evaluation, which incorporates many of the key questions on the standard SGPE along with new questions that better serve the needs of the PORTS program. The online PORTS Teacher Survey was sent out in the Fall and Spring to a total of 450 individuals, including teachers, instructional technology coordinators, administrators, etc. Approximately 43% responded to the survey.

The questions on the Teacher Survey examine the program's overall usability; the relevance of its instructional materials; the effectiveness of its live presenters; and the technology tools and infrastructure in increasing student knowledge and appreciation of resources protected by California State Parks. The Teacher Survey used a report card-style grading system (A-F).

A overall summary of the Teacher Survey:

- Overall program experience: 91% A
- 63.5% used the PORTS online lessons—overall grade: 52% A
- Overall videoconference experience: 85% A
- Scheduling process and logistics: 76% A
- 2/3rds of the teachers extended the park experience beyond the videoconference through classroom projects, discussions, and curriculum.
- 74% were able to take their class on a field trip, 20% visited a state park including:

Empire Mine SHP	Petaluma Adobe SHP	Point Lobos SR
Anza-Borrego Desert SP	Año Nuevo SP	Old Town San Diego SHP
Half Moon Bay SB	Lake Oroville SRA	Fort Tejon SHP
San Juan Bautista SHP	Dockweiler SB	La Purisima Mission SHP
Sutter Fort SHP	Natural Bridges SB	Columbia SHP
Big Basin Redwoods SP	Torrey Pines SR	Salton Sea SRA
California State Capitol Museum		

LOOKING FORWARD

PORTS made great strides in serving the educational community and bringing California State Parks to classrooms this school year. The number of students served increased despite furlough Fridays, and budget hits at school and park districts. The quality of PORTS programs continues to improve as Interpreters master and incorporate new skills and techniques into their programs. Feedback from the educational community was overwhelmingly positive.

For the 2010/2011 school year, PORTS expects to continue to increase program numbers and improve program quality. PORTS is working with field staff to develop PORTS programs at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook and Hearst Castle, and increase program availability and diversity for the Columbia PORTS program. We are also planning a three day training session at the Marconi Training Center in early September. The addition of programs (and once again providing Friday programs) should increase the numbers of students served while the expansion of PORTS training and evaluation will facilitate improvement of the presentations.