

Community Focus Statement G: Provide quality educational opportunities at all levels.

Action Statement G.2: Investigate the declining enrollment and quality of public schools in the mountain communities through community organizing and involvement (mountain-wide).

G.2

Benchmark: The Rim of the World Unified School District schools consistently rank in the top 25 percent of schools in California.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$8,000–\$40,000



Photo source: Rim of the World Unified School District

The decline in attendance at public schools can be caused by a number of issues. Some are specific to the school itself, such as lack of funding or older materials. Other issues are reflective of regional impacts like an increase in private schools or a decline in local jobs which forces families to relocate. Poorly performing school systems can have a negative impact on the local economy by driving out families who see better educational opportunities in other areas. Further, students who do graduate from underperforming schools can do so ill-prepared for success at a university or struggle to find higher-wage employment. This negative impact on the labor force can potentially deter companies from investing in the area due to a restricted employment

pool.

Community members could volunteer at local schools to informally support teachers or provide other necessary services that are needed. Working professionals could volunteer their time to teach students about their careers and foster learning outside of the classroom. Youth interested in agriculture, business, or technology could be connected to experts within the community.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting to create a committee.	Rim of the World Unified School District		Transforming Schools through Community Organizing – A Research Review http://www.hfrp.org/publications-resources/browse-our-publications/transforming-schools-through-community-organizing-a-research-review Great Schools Rating http://www.greatschools.org/gk/ratings/
2. Evaluate the performance of local schools, including community-specific issues as applicable.	Committee	Months 1–36	
3. Identify policy, practice, and funding barriers to address declining enrollment and quality, along with other barriers as determined.	Committee	Months 1–36	
4. Identify opportunities to remove barriers, including securing assistance from community members and businesses.	Committee	Months 1–36	
5. Adjust district operations to resolve identified problems.	Rim of the World Unified School District	Months 1–36	
6. Adjust district operations to resolve identified problems.	Rim of the World Unified School District	Years 1 – 2	
7. Monitor district performance, report to community members on performance changes, and adjust operations as needed.	Committee with support of Rim of the World Unified School District, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools	Annually	