

Sandy Thorstenson, Partner

Biographical Information

- Sandy Sanchez-Thorstenson served as the superintendent of the Whittier Union High School District for fifteen years, having spent her entire 39-year career in Whittier Union. Prior to becoming superintendent, Mrs. Thorstenson served as assistant superintendent, educational services, high school principal, assistant principal and teacher. She graduated from Whittier High School and her daughter graduated from the school district as well.
- The Whittier Union High School District, a minority-majority high school district with a student enrollment comprised of seventy percent socio-economically disadvantaged students, has demonstrated remarkable gains in student achievement at every school, in multiple indicators and over time. The District's commitment to do "Whatever It Takes" to ensure student achievement for all students has resulted in state and national recognition. Most importantly, Whittier Union has narrowed the achievement gap from 35% to 9% and has proven on behalf of their students that demographics do not determine destiny.
- The Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) selected Mrs. Thorstenson as California's 2016 recipient of the Marcus Foster Administrator Excellence Award and its 2012 California Superintendent of the Year for AASA. She was selected as ACSA's Region XV Superintendent of the Year for 2007. Sandy Thorstenson served as president of ACSA's State Superintendency Council, president of California City School Superintendents Association, and was a member of Southern California Superintendents' Association and Urban Education Dialogue. She also served on the board for Pivot Learning Partners and the board of directors for the Whittier Chamber of Commerce.
- Mrs. Thorstenson was appointed by Governor Brown as the superintendent representative of the five-member board of the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) and served as chair helping to launch the state agency focused on providing support and assistance to school districts throughout California. She is a member of the California Collaborative for District Reform, and serves on the board of directors of the Soroptimist International of Whittier.