



COLLEGE DISCOVERY ACADEMY

KERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

The College Discovery Academy (CDA) is an innovative four-week summer program that introduces 4th-8th graders to college-style learning. Building on Kern CCD's dual enrollment success, CDA helps students explore career pathways, experience authentic courses, and gain confidence in their ability to succeed in higher education.

Evolution of the Program

CDA expands Kern CCD's college pipeline by reaching students earlier than dual enrollment. The pilot program launches in June 2026 with five Bakersfield City School District partners, led by Nicole Alvarez, Executive Director of Early College Innovation and Access.

Why It Matters

- Literacy & Success: Students who read proficiently early are more likely to graduate high school.
- Early College Awareness: Builds confidence and intention to pursue higher education.
- Career Exploration: Hands-on pathways with business and industry partners.
- Strengthening the Pipeline: Extends Kern CCD's dual-enrollment leadership to younger students.

Program Details

- Dates: June 1 – June 25, 2026
- Schedule: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Cohorts: 4th–5th graders and 6th–8th graders
- Pathways: Students will explore pathways including STEAM, Industrial Automation, Healthcare Careers, and Agriculture.

Future Goals

- Expand the CDA to all three colleges in Kern CCD.
- Strengthen the college pipeline with an earlier start to dual enrollment.
- Grow industry and community partnerships for diverse career exposure.
- Create a lasting framework combining literacy, college readiness, and career exploration.

For questions, contact discoveryacademy@kccd.edu