

All About the College Discovery Academy



**COLLEGE
DISCOVERY
ACADEMY**

KERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

What is the CDA

- Four-week summer program introducing 4th-8th graders to college-style learning.
- Builds on Kern CCD's successful dual enrollment pipeline
- Engages students in authentic, hands-on college experiences.
- Supports early career exploration and college awareness.
- Faculty mentors inspire confidence and a college-going mindset.

Deeper Meaning

- 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: Early reading proficiency predicts long-term academic success.
- Early College & Career Awareness: Builds confidence, aspiration, and direction.
- Stronger College Pipeline: Extends Kern CCD's dual-enrollment impact to younger students
- Faculty mentors will play a critical role in shaping the future college pipeline.

Program Details

- June 1-June 25, 2026
- Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm
- 150 students from Emerson, Jefferson, McKinley, Owens, & Lincoln
- Two Cohorts 4th-5th graders and 6th-8th graders
- 4 pathways STEAM, Agriculture, Industrial Automation, Healthcare Careers

Program Details

- Transportation covered by KCSOS
- 2 meals daily provided in partnership with KCSOS
- Curriculum, activities, and facilitator training being developed by KCSOS
- Sessions facilitated by BC student workers

Needs

- Seeking 4-5 faculty from the subject areas to serve as CDA Faculty Mentors (non instructional contract ex: Bridge to BC)
- Consult (limited) through curriculum development process
- Serve as mentors to student workers (CDA Facilitators)
- Assist in recruiting student workers from subject areas
- Limited commitment: 16 hours during the week of your subject area and minimal hours in preparation for the academy

Looking Ahead

- Expand the College Discovery Academy to all three colleges in Kern CCD.
- Strengthen our college going pipeline through early exposure to dual enrollment.
- Grow industry and community partnerships for diverse career exploration.
- Establish a sustainable model integrating literacy, college readiness, and career pathways.

Questions?

- Thank you!
- Let's stay connected:

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