

KRISTIN "KRIS" ERICKSON

Governing Board Member, Orange Unified School District, Trustee Area 5

Orange Unified has been my home for more than 50 years. My husband and I raised our children here, and we are all proud OUSD graduates. For me, this isn't politics, it's personal. Long before my election in 2018, I was a student, parent, and volunteer here, and my commitment to our community hasn't wavered.

Two decades in PTA allowed me to support families and teachers across our campuses. My work earned me the California PTA's Golden Oak Award, its highest honor for service to children. I served as Santiago Middle School Charter Board President. In 2013, I co-founded CARE, a grassroots organization that advocated for the high schools' campus modernization bond. Today our students benefit from the incredible upgrades that followed.

I've practiced law for 33 years, much of it guiding young people through challenging times. This shapes the level-headed, practical thinking I bring to the board. As a volunteer, I worked directly with students coaching Mock Trial at El Modena. Several former students are now attorneys who endorse me.

I'm an invested community member, serving on the board of a local non-profit, which combats poverty through family, food, and employment support, and I've mentored youth through Rotary Club's Mentor Meals program. These experiences shaped my belief in the importance of supporting the whole child.

As Board President in 2025, I helped refocus our work on students, led the search for our superintendent, and rebuilt trust with our community. Since then, we've strengthened academic supports, expanded career and technical programs, and increased mental health services. It's making a difference - our scores are rising faster than other districts and outpacing the state. Our graduation rate is substantially higher than the state average. Additionally, we have invested \$57 million in campus and technology improvements, using money we had responsibly saved.

Good decisions start with listening. I visit our schools and talk with students and parents regularly. Every student's path is different, and I remain committed to strengthening student academic achievement, improved facilities, transparent communication and expanded academic and career options for all students.

I'm officially endorsed by our classroom teachers, fellow school board members, and hundreds of parents, community members, and elected officials. This district gave me opportunities I never thought I'd have. It raised me, my husband, and our children, and I want every child who comes after us to soar. I respectfully ask for your vote.

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