iLEAD HYBRID CHARTER SCHOOL
Empowering learners to become conscientious, compassionate, and responsible citizens of the world.
iLEAD Hybrid, located in southern California, is an independent study, tuition-free public charter school serving grades TK-12. The school provides educational services through credentialed teacher oversight at both learning studios and/or in the home. The learning studios share Hybrid’s mission and vision through common instructional philosophies, a dedication to educating the whole child, and collaboration between staff and other schools in the iLEAD network.

Learners often choose iLEAD Hybrid because it offers flexibility for learners to dedicate time to their unique passions, explore personalized learning opportunities, and focus on their emotional and physical health. Through a variety of course delivery methods, learners can match their educational goals to their learning style using online, classroom, self-study, small group, and one-on-one options. Through partnerships with multiple community colleges, high schoolers also have a wide array of rigorous academic options through dual enrollment.

iLEAD Hybrid serves a student population that stretches over five counties reflecting a rich variation of socioeconomic qualities. Since its inception in 2015, iLEAD Hybrid has grown to 3,689 learners in grades TK-12 with high school enrollment at 563 students. Over half of its graduating class consists of transfers from an array of California high schools. Having nearly tripled its original projections, this enrollment and transfer boom shows that families enjoy the many programs and opportunities afforded within iLEAD Hybrid’s model of learning. To accommodate the enrollment growth, the number of educational facilitators within iLEAD Hybrid has grown from 35 to over 150.

### BOARD YOUTH AMBASSADORS

iLEAD’s youth board ambassadors are seniors who deliver a two-to-three-minute speech about Exploration news for the iLEAD Board meetings.

- **Sydney Shepherd**
  2020 Board Ambassador

- **Mary Miller**
  2019-2020 Board Ambassador

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**iLEAD Exploration**

iLEAD Exploration is the home study component of iLEAD Hybrid. The program meets the needs of families who prefer home study for their children under the guidance of a credentialed facilitator. It is a program that supports educational options and flexibility. Learners receive advice and support to develop and implement a comprehensive educational plan.

[ileadexploration.org](http://ileadexploration.org)

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**iLEAD Antelope Valley (AV)**

iLEAD Antelope Valley (AV) serves independent study learners in grades TK-8. The learning studio’s space is utilized for exploratory, project-based learning. This accomplishes the school’s overall mission and vision of bringing learners from various backgrounds into a supportive, standards-based environment that fosters the development of the whole child.

[ileadav.org](http://ileadav.org)
On March 13, 2020, families and staff were notified by iLEAD that the school was temporarily closing its physical sites. Until further notice, this meant that iLEAD Hybrid would continue to operate its independent study model in an entirely virtual format.

The school has continuously organized field study events and school-wide activities. This includes a variety of opportunities, from show-and-tell activities to game days, academic-based webinars, virtual celebrations and more! The AV and OC studio classes were also moved to an online format.

iLEAD Schools developed Together Tuesday, a way for learners to submit photos of learning activities to be presented in a school-wide slideshow set to music that was shared each week with all iLEAD families.

The staff worked together to create a resource list for families while their education moved to completely at-home opportunities. Additional resources, such as links to COVID-19 information/updates and meal resources by county, were also added to the website to support families.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
A virtual graduation was held on June 3, and it was very well-received. iLEAD’s high school team, along with iLEAD Schools’ technology team, organized this special ceremony. Two graduates delivered commencement addresses, and one played “The Star Spangled Banner.” iLEAD Founders Dawn Evenson and Amber Raskin, along with other special guests, provided celebratory speeches for the graduates. As the graduates were announced, the high school counselor read their proudest achievement and announced their postgraduation plans. Numerous families and staff members expressed how special the ceremony made their graduates feel. iLEAD Exploration’s graduates were also spotlighted on Instagram.

Prior to graduation, staff members assembled creative graduation-in-a-box materials and each facilitator hand-delivered the box to their graduate. Included in the box were the diploma, fun-fetti, graduation props, cap, decorations for their cap, candy and more!

Due to restrictions surrounding COVID-19, iLEAD’s 8th grade ceremonies, traditionally held in a couple of locations, were moved to an online platform, and 8th grade certificates were sent to learners.

As of fall 2020, some learners were already receiving in-person special education services at the OC and AV studios. In November, under the guidance of iLEAD’s EL Coordinator, learners began initial ELPAC testing either virtually or in person.

iLEAD’s vendor department continuously interacts with over 1,000 vendors to communicate COVID-19 policies and procedures. In October, vendors with a reviewed COVID safety plan could return.
to in-person classes for the counties of Orange, Ventura, and Kern. A contact-tracing plan is in place to support families and staff in the event of an exposure or positive test.

**DREAM UP TO SPACE**

Quentin Gauge’s experiment was chosen for the 2020 DreamUp to Space Design Challenge. Under the guidance of Director of STEAM Initiatives Kathleen Fredette, learners have the opportunity to participate in this exciting program.

**EL**

iLEAD Hybrid currently has 71 EL learners, and eight EL learners were reclassified in the fall of 2020. Regular ELD practice for all domains is incorporated in the individualized learning plans for these learners. The Hub section of the website has a searchable database of resources by domain. Additionally, the EL team publishes an EL quarterly newsletter and provides EL support to learners and families.

**ENROLLMENT**

As of late fall 2020, iLEAD Hybrid’s total enrollment was 3,689 (of which 563 are high school learners). Due to legislation in the summer of 2020, iLEAD Exploration’s independent study growth has been capped for the 2020-21 school year, and there are currently around 3,700 kids on the wait list.
LEARNER SPOTLIGHTS
iLEAD spotlights learners and their talents, passion projects, contributions, and successes in the weekly Monday Message newsletter. The celebration of learning inspires learners to pursue their passions and impact the world around them.

LOGAN VERNE
Logan is a 10th grader in our program who has lived with epilepsy since he was two years old. As part of epilepsy awareness, Logan would like to share this with his fellow high schoolers: “If you have epilepsy, never give up on yourself. You have to keep on fighting. You are your own warrior!”

ARIELLA CLARINO
For the past two years, Ariella has been very involved in the Navy Sea Cadets, a non-profit, youth organization supported by the United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and the Navy League of the United States. Cadets receive instruction in marching, drills, CPR, and classroom content on United States military and seamanship.

HAYDEN CRAWFORD
In order to pursue his acting career, Hayden chose iLEAD, which fits his lifestyle perfectly. Juggling homeschool, courses at the local college, piano lessons and time on set, this learner knows how to get the job(s) done.

JEDIDIAH PIERCE
This active eleven-year-old was born with cerebral palsy, which affects the left side of his body. Even though some activities may take him more time and effort, he keeps the growth mindset at the forefront of his mind. He plays soccer, rides horses, plays Fortnite, swims, and wants to learn archery.

VICTORIA NUCKLES
Victoria Nuckles is a 6th grade learner. She is a child actress and has been seen on ABC’s comedy series Kids Say the Darndest Things with host Tiffany Haddish. She was also featured on an HBO and Cinemax commercial and is a model for Macy’s.

TIMOTHY MAGGS
Timothy Maggs, an iLEAD Exploration who graduated with the class of 2020 as a junior, was a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist, placing him in the top 1% of all students across the country who took the PSAT/NMSQT last year!

ACKAH-MIEZAH FAMILY
Over the summer, the Ackah-Miezah learners invested time in reading books that focus on social justice issues, having lots of family conversations about social justice, and initiating talks with peers and adults about their views on how we can create a more just and equitable world, as well as attending rallies around social justice causes.

DECOURSEY FAMILY
The DeCourseys start out the year by writing down goals, both personal and academic — and even the little ones participate. When something occurs in the world that concerns them, the DeCourseys take action and employ their highly valued and well-honed writing skills to contact local elected officials to express their concerns.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In August 2020, the Exploration leadership team developed a series of training modules to be delivered virtually for staff. Topics included individualized learning plans, curriculum, Hub resources, English language learner resources, student support, high school, time value/assigning work, vendors/ordering, career and technical education, subscriptions, investment teams, calendar of events, beginning-of-year agreements, and more.

Throughout the year, the AV team participated in several training sessions virtually. Topics included literacy and math for small-group instruction, data meetings, individualized learning plans, effective small-group placements using data, professional learning with the Maker Team, student support, science and small-group instruction, planning workshops, facilitator check-ins (English language arts, math and science), and planning sessions.

MAP/STATE TESTING/ DASHBOARD DATA

The school initiated a MAP testing campaign to encourage learners to test. This included a webinar and many resources to support test scores. As a result, the percentage of learners who MAP tested in the fall of 2020 was around 95 percent.

MONDAY MESSAGE

The Monday Message is a weekly newsletter sent to families to feature upcoming school events and activities and provide many educational resources. Additionally, the newsletter features a learner spotlight emulating the school-wide learner outcomes. Each month, the 7 Habits are reviewed with families and resources are provided.

SCHOOL INITIATIVES

The school’s unique design reflects iLEAD Hybrid’s beliefs about how learning best occurs. iLEAD Hybrid’s educational design and philosophy are consistent with the school’s vision, mission and target population. The school design begins with a solid research-based foundation that draws upon the following instructional theories and methods:

- Personalized Learning
- Constructivist Learning
- Project-Based Learning (PBL)
- Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs)
- Technology Integration

Educational facilitators work together with families to develop the whole child with a focus on academic and social-emotional learning.

MTSS training commenced in November 2020 for Exploration’s leadership and will continue throughout the year.
**SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT**

Suicide prevention training will begin for the leadership team in the winter of 2021.

Student support counselors created lunch bunch groups. As a virtual-type recess, lunch bunch is a place where all learners can play games, socialize with one another, or discuss concerns.

iLEAD Exploration provides counseling to all learners in need of support and has provided special trainings for families on social-emotional learning and managing anxiety.

Social-emotional learning supports have also been included in each of the school newsletters (Monday Message, high school, student support and EL).

**TECHNOLOGY**

In the fall of 2020, Google Suite for Education accounts were rolled out to families, as well as a complimentary subscription to BrainPOP and any optional subscriptions.

All EFs can check out Chromebooks to learners in need of technology at this time.

**STUDENT SUPPORT**

A diverse, qualified team comprises the special education department of iLEAD Hybrid. The team consists of a director, psychologists, counselors, speech and language pathologists, occupational/physical therapists, assistive technologists, education specialists, and support staff. The number of learners serviced by the student support staff has nearly tripled from 138 learners in 2015 to 456 learners during the 2020-2021 school year.

The theme of this year’s Student Support Symposium, held virtually on October 13, was Vision 2020! The keynote speaker was Jonathan Mooney, an award-winning writer, entrepreneur, and activist who learned to read when he was 12 years old. The breakout sessions provided educational topics focused on special education.

Since the winter of 2020, representatives from general education and student support have been meeting to develop program improvement strategies for special education learners in the areas of ELA and math participation and math performance.

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What an exceptional resource you offered through the student support symposium. Thank you so much for the valuable information! I’m so thankful to be part of a school that values putting something like this together for staff and parents to learn how to support our learners in the best possible way.

— iLEAD Parent

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The Associated Student Body (ASB) is a leadership team comprised of learners who represent the entire student body of Exploration’s high school. The main objective of ASB is to help learners feel more connected to school and each other through involvement in ASB-organized activities. This year, ASB has planned some events for learners including game days, movie watch parties, a gaming club and a creative writing club!

The 2020-21 ASB includes regional presidents, a communications coordinator, and representatives from each grade level.

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation’s premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to recognize those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. iLEAD Exploration’s NHS consists of learners in the 10th-12th grades who applied, have been enrolled with iLEAD a minimum of one full semester, and have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA. Learners meet monthly to discuss service opportunities and plan for the future.

In the fall of 2020, iLEAD’s college advisor Laura Kazan began teaching a yearlong college exploration course. This course covers both career and college options for learners considering four-year degrees. The first semester consisted of discussion on careers, financial aid, holistic admissions, college fit and more. The second semester will include the college search process, creating a college list, understanding college applications, and writing college essays. High schoolers will leave with a strong understanding of the college system, how to find the best financial aid, a list of appropriate colleges, and how to write college essays.

In the fall of 2020, Scoir log-ins were sent to all Exploration high schoolers. Scoir is a college search tool that helps students search for colleges in greater depth. Learners can take an interactive tour of the college’s campus, watch student videos describing student life, and visit a school’s social media to learn about campus clubs and activities. Scoir provides an overview of important college information, such as admission stats, costs, and application deadlines.
EDUCATOR UNIVERSITY

Through Educator University, iLEAD’s educational facilitators have offered a series of webinars covering a wide array of topics to educate parents and learners on academic and social-emotional growth.

FIELD STUDIES/SERVICE PROJECTS

The field studies team has provided a variety of virtual learning opportunities and enrichment activities. These include a field trip to Hearst Castle, show-and-tell activities, a giant stuffed animal club, a Halloween parade, a Charlotte’s Web book club, and many other virtual touring opportunities including the exploration of the kelp forests at Point Lobos State Preserve.

Activities that encourage family participation have also been planned and enjoyed by iLEAD families. This includes step-by-step cooking presentations by learners, a virtual wax museum, and a kindness rocks activity where learners decorated rocks with encouraging sentiments and placed them around the community.

In the spring, a virtual science fair is planned for all learners to participate.

CURRICULUM LIBRARY

Libib, a scanning software, was chosen for the curriculum library beginning in the fall of 2020. Over the summer, curriculum and materials were scanned in preparation for fall checkout by families. On the first day alone, 150 orders had been placed. The materials are stored at the iLEAD OC Studio, with hopes to expand to a location in Acton at some point when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.
iLEAD Hybrid offers many flexible options for high school graduation. This includes online, customized, CTE and A-G coursework as well as opportunities to attend hands-on A-G science labs.

iLEAD Exploration hired a second high school counselor in the summer of 2020 to support our high school learners, as the team meets with each learner every year to plan for both high school and college.

A meet and greet for high school families was held virtually this fall. Topics included career and technical education (CTE), college planning, UC Doorways and SET support, dual enrollment, and community events (NHS, ASB).

Many high school webinars were hosted for families, including CTE offerings, college information, financing for college, and a high school overview for new families and incoming 9th graders.

High School Highlights is a monthly newsletter sent to all high schoolers featuring information on college deadlines, high school events/activities, learner spotlights, CTE, webinars, tips and tricks, coursework, and more!

### High School Advanced Course Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>11th</th>
<th>12th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Placement classes</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual enrollment classes</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

iLEAD high schoolers average two community college classes per semester.

### INTERVENTION/SST

In the fall of 2020, an intervention coordinator was hired to manage SSTs and roll out Exact Path to struggling learners. A new investment team, Learner University, was also created to focus on supporting struggling learners. Learners can sign up for a small tutoring group that is facilitated by one of Exploration’s EFs.

### OC STUDIO

The OC Studio, located in Costa Mesa and under the direction of Studio Coordinator Kendra Bailey, has provided online courses for learners in grades TK-8. All learners have the opportunity to participate in classes at the studio. This year, learners are exploring science, literature and writing around the world.
The Hub is an interactive, engaging resource for families on Exploration’s website. It includes:

**EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:** Curriculum database, rubrics, “I Can” standards-based statements by grade level, course guidelines, webinars, vendor/class offerings, student support, and curriculum library

**FREE AND DISCOUNTED ACTIVITIES:** Educational opportunities within communities

**FIELD STUDY/VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES:** Enrichment activities to enhance learning

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Graduation paths, course guidelines/outlines, college/career readiness

**TESTING:** State and internal testing requirements, test prep resources

**EL:** Resource suggestions, ELAC agenda minutes, videos

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### iLEAD ANTELOPE VALLEY

AV iSupport is a parent volunteer group that meets once per month and supports iLEAD Hybrid Antelope Valley through hosting events and fundraising for the school and its learners. To support learners during COVID, iLEAD AV created Virtual Fun Days, which are hosted by families every other week and include cooking demonstrations, craft activities, dance parties, hangouts, trivia nights, movie nights, drawing tutorials, and talent shows.

In-person drive-through parades, including a Spirit Week Parade and Glow-in-the-Dark Halloween Parade, have been a fun way to connect with learners in person during the COVID-19 pandemic. Learners receive special treats from their facilitators and Care Team.

This past holiday season, iLEAD AV’s newest intercommunal support program, Adopt a Family with a Box of Love, gave the gift of a warm meal to those in the iLEAD AV community who have fallen on hard times. This box included everything they needed for a holiday family dinner and game night.