

2017

# Guide to the Alan Bersin papers

Alan Douglas Bersin

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[San Diego City Schools, 1989, 1993-2008](#)

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[Board of Education, 1998-2005](#)

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[Administrative Records, 1987, 1998-2008](#)

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## Guide to the Alan Bersin papers

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### Overview of the Collection

<b>Title:</b>	Alan Bersin papers
<b>Dates (Inclusive):</b>	1987-2008
<b>Dates (Bulk):</b>	1998-2006
<b>Creator:</b>	Bersin, Alan Douglas, 1946-
<b>Quantity:</b>	72 boxes (70 linear feet)
<b>Summary:</b>	The Alan Bersin papers document Alan Bersin's tenure as the Superintendent of San Diego City Schools and the Secretary of Education for the State of California.
<b>Identification:</b>	USDSC_2010_001
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Repository:</b>	<a href="#">University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections</a> Copley Library 5998 Alcalá Park San Diego, CA 92110 Telephone: 619-260-2730 <a href="mailto:spcoll@sandiego.edu">spcoll@sandiego.edu</a>

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### Biographical Note

Alan D. Bersin was born in Brooklyn, New York on October 15, 1946. He graduated from Harvard University, magna cum laude, with an A.B. in Government in 1968 and became a member of Phi Beta Kappa National Honors Society. He played on the Harvard Crimson football team and in 1995 was inducted into the Harvard Varsity Club Hall of Fame. From 1968 to 1971, Bersin

attended Balliol College, Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar where he met future President Bill Clinton. In 1974, he earned a J.D. from Yale Law School.

After graduating from Yale, Bersin served as special counsel to the Los Angeles Police Commission. He then joined the prestigious Los Angeles law firm Munger, Tolles and Olson in 1975 where he specialized in RICO, securities, insurance and commercial litigation. Later, he became a senior partner and is credited for his role in developing Munger, Tolles and Olson's paralegal program and for chairing the committee which oversaw the firm's pro bono legal services program.

Bersin taught law briefly at the University of San Diego before he was appointed U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California by President Clinton in 1993. He was awarded a degree of Doctor of Laws (Honorary) by the University of San Diego in 1994, and then again by California Western School of Law in 1996. From 1995 to 1998, he served as Special Representative for the Southwest Border and oversaw law enforcement along the U.S.-Mexico border. In this capacity, Bersin implemented "Operation Gatekeeper" which fortified the border near San Diego, shifting the traffic of illegal immigrants to the deserts of Arizona and New Mexico.

Between 1998 and 2005, Bersin served as Superintendent of Public Education for San Diego City Schools, the eighth largest urban school district in the United States. While superintendent, he initiated a major reorganization of the school district which included the controversial "Blueprint for Student Success" and the creation of the Institute for Learning. Bersin also served between 2000 and 2003 as a member of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and chaired the Commission for a two-year term.

In 2005, Bersin accepted Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointment to become California's Secretary of Education. He held this post until 2006, when he was appointed Board Chairman of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority.

In April, 2009, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced the appointment of Bersin as Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Special Representative for Border Affairs. Later in March 2010, he was selected by President Barack Obama to serve as Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

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## **Scope and Content Note**

The Alan Bersin papers consist of records collected by Bersin during his tenure as the Superintendent of San Diego City Schools and the Secretary of Education for the State of California. The vast majority of the records are in the form of correspondence, memoranda, meeting minutes, reports, and newspaper articles. These records delve into the workings of Bersin's office, planning behind such programs as the Blueprint for Student Success, the Institute for Learning, Special Education, and Charter Schools. Correspondence, news articles, and court cases

document reaction to those programs from the public, labor unions, and the San Diego Board of Education. Records also include meeting minutes and meeting preparatory material for the Board of Education as well as correspondence between Bersin and Board members. Also included are grant proposals and grant reports for a variety of Foundations, as well as legislative records to assist funding San Diego City Schools.

The Alan Bersin papers also consist of California-wide education records collected during his tenure as Secretary of Education. Records cover topics such as standards, testing, curriculum, facilities, funding, charter schools and implementation of No Child Left Behind. Transition materials related to Bersin's time as Superintendent of San Diego City Schools, as well as letters from the public regarding Bersin's successes and failures, are also included.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two Record Groups:

[A. San Diego City Schools](#)

[B. Office of the Secretary of Education](#)

**San Diego City Schools** is further arranged into five series:

[Series I. Administrative Records](#)

[Series II. Board of Education](#)

[Series III. Foundations](#)

[Series IV. Programs](#)

[Series V. Audio/Visual Materials](#)

**The Office of the Secretary of Education** is further arranged into two series:

[Series I. Administrative Records](#)

[Series II. Transition](#)

Physical arrangement of this collection remains in original order. Records have been intellectually arranged in the above manner to enhance the findability of like records.

Records were originally organized in individual folders, with many folders grouped into file units. Original folders have been replaced with alkaline, archival quality folders. File unit and folder titles have been retained to represent original groupings and original order.

While the physical records retain original order, this finding aid represents intellectual arrangement in order to group like records together. Individual folder titles are not represented in this finding aid, rather file units are described and

reflect the total number of folders contained within that file unit. Please contact University Archives if an individual folder listing of this collection is desired.

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## Restrictions

The majority of this collection is open for research. Few files have been restricted due to confidentiality.

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## Separated Material

Some publications have been removed for cataloging. Photographs have been removed for preservation purposes. Separation sheets are included where applicable.

Details can be found with collection processing notes held in Archives.

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## Index Terms

This collection is indexed under the following headings.

Alvarado, Anthony  
Bersin, Alan Douglas, 1946-  
Cuban, Larry  
Davis, Gray, 1942-  
Hess, Frederick M.  
Ottinger, Ron  
Schwarzenegger, Arnold  
Usdan, Michael D.  
Zimmerman, Frances O'Neill  
Advancement Via Individual Determination (Program)  
Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Broad Foundations  
California. Commission on Teacher Credentialing  
California. Department of Education  
Carnegie Corporation of New York  
Edna McConnell Clark Foundation  
Educational Leadership Development Academy  
Eduventures (Firm)

Harvard University  
National Science Foundation (U.S.)  
San Diego City Schools  
San Diego Education Association  
San Diego (Calif.)  
Academic Performance Index  
Blueprint for Student Success (Program)  
California High School Exit Exam  
California. Proposition MM (1998)  
Charter schools  
Education, Elementary  
Education, Secondary  
Education--California--San Diego.  
English language--Study and teaching (Elementary)  
San Diego City Schools--Evaluation.  
San Diego Education Association  
San Diego Reads  
Schools for a New Society  
September 11 Terrorist Attacks, 2001  
Special education  
United States. No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

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## **Administrative Information**

### **Preferred citation**

[Folder Title], Box # Folder #, Alan Bersin papers, Copley Library,  
University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections.

### **Processing Information**

Initial processing of this collection was conducted by Tessie Camina in 2010.  
Additional processing was conducted by Ashley Toutain in 2017.

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## **Detailed Description of the Collection**

### **Record Group A: San Diego City Schools, 1989, 1993-2008**

The San Diego City Schools records document Alan Bersin's tenure as Superintendent. Records cover the administrative workings of SDCS, San Diego Board of Education meeting materials, grant proposals and reports, and documentation of the various programs implemented by Bersin.

The San Diego City Schools records are intellectually arranged into four series:

[Series I. Administrative Records](#)

[Series II. Board of Education](#)

[Series III. Foundations](#)

[Series IV. Programs](#)

[Series V. Audio/Visual Materials](#)

Each series is organized into topical file units which are arranged alphabetically. File units consist of groups of folders organized together. In most cases, the file unit title has been derived from the file creator. A box and folder range is given to identify file unit locations within the collection. The total number of folders within that file unit are also listed.

A full folder listing in original order can be made available upon request.

## **Series I: Administrative Records, 1989, 1995-2008**

Records in this series document administrative matters of San Diego City Schools during Bersin's tenure. Records include budgetary information, testing data for schools, memoranda sent by Bersin's office to constituents, legal and legislative matters, and teacher credentialing information. Also include are meeting materials for various councils and committees associated with San Diego schools.

**Box.Folder Quantity  
Range**

### **File 1: Academic Achievement Council, 1997-2001, 2005**

1.1 - 1.41 41  
folders

Academic Achievement Council records include creation statement, reports, meeting materials, and correspondence specific to the AAC. Records also include test results for the Academic Performance Index (API) and the Stanford 9 (SAT9), as well as reports and implementation information on the Blueprint for Student Success and the Institute for Learning. Discussions of closing the achievement gap for students of color as well as testing data are also included.

### **File 2: Accountability System, 1998-2005**

1.72 - 2.21 49  
folders

Records document the San Diego School District's approach to helping schools meet performance standards. These records include Academic Performance Index (API) data which informed SDCS of student performance and areas where improvement was needed. Records include materials for the Accountability Working Group, correspondence and memoranda regarding ways to improve student success, school performance summaries, and discussion of Learning Communities and their outcomes. Records also include discussion of historically underrepresented student and low socioeconomic status student performance, discussion of No Child Left Behind requirements and the California High School Exit Exam. Also included are the District Accountability Framework information, reports and a transcript of the November 22, 2002 School Board Meeting.

### **File 3: Administrative and Legislative Services, 1999-2004**

1.51 - 1.58; 13  
20.6 - folders  
20.10

Materials on legislation affecting education, lobbying activity information, Copeland Lowery lobbying contract, and a 2001 policy manual update on

administrative procedures. Also includes Large City Schools Superintendents (LCSS) news and memos.

<b>File 4: Bersin's Writing and Correspondence, 1996-2005</b>	11.46 - 37 11.47; folders 12.18 - 12.24; 46.30 - 47.18
<p>Compilation of informational memos sent by Superintendent Bersin to staff, community leaders, and parents. Includes Bersin's "Separate Again, Still Unequal" presentation, letters to colleagues, and the 2002 State of the District speech. Also includes audio file of Bersin interview on School Choice and various presentations given by Bersin.</p> <p>Audio file and presentations on CD are located in Box 71 with other audio/visual materials.</p>	
<b>File 5: Budget, 1998-2005</b>	7.1 - 8.20 75 folders
<p>Records pertaining to the budgetary concerns of the school district.</p>	
<b>File 6: Business and Risk Management, 2002-2003</b>	23.26 - 2 folders 23.27
<p>Budget and insurance presentation slides from the Business and Risk Management office.</p>	
<b>File 7: Business Services, 1999-2004</b>	2.45 - 2.47 3 folders
<p>Records pertaining to budget, class size and calendar year for San Diego Schools. Also, plans and guidelines for modernizing San Diego schools.</p>	
<b>File 8: California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, 2001-2003</b>	34.2 - 29 34.30 folders
<p>Primarily consists of correspondence regarding the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing activities. These largely pertain to teacher credentialing requirements and analysis of teacher effectiveness. Records also pertain to the Office of Governor Gray Davis and legislative bills affecting teachers.</p>	
<b>File 9: California Endowment, 1999-2003</b>	8.21 1 folder
<p>Documents of Early Childhood Education and the Health and Social Services Delivery Model, aimed toward elementary education.</p>	
<b>File 10: Center for the Study of Teaching and Policy, 2000</b>	1.66 - 1.67 2 folders
<p>Materials include Administrator and Principal Survey results covering data about San Diego Schools as well as attitudes of teachers, administrators, and peer coaches.</p>	
<b>File 11: Classified Employees, 2001 June 12</b>	11.45 1 folder
<p>Includes regulations for classified employees.</p>	
<b>File 12: Communications and Community Relations Department, 1998-2005</b>	11.48 - 12 12.8; 12.17 folders
<p>Records from the San Diego City School's Communications and Community Relations Division. These include the communications plan, informational materials, memos, and news releases put out by the Community Relations Division. Also includes Bersin's calendar and information about Bersin</p>	



visiting area schools. Includes communication regarding events, commemoration for the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack, communication regarding San Diego fires and school closures, and the school tribute to Ronald Reagan. Survey results for Partnerships in Education are also included.

<b>File 13: Comprehensive Health, 2000-2004</b>	11.38	1 folder
Nutrition and Physical Activity Policies and Procedures.		
<b>File 14: Coordinated Compliance Review, 2004-2005</b>	11.39	1 folder
Includes Coordinated Compliance Review updates conducted by teams from the California Department of Education. These include findings of school compliance and what schools need to do to reach compliance.		
<b>File 15: Correspondence and Publication, 2004, undated</b>	21.16 - 21.17	2 folders
PeopleSoft product correspondence and Personal Finance education publication from the Board of Education of New York.		
<b>File 16: Council of Great City Schools, 2001-2005</b>	11.40 - 11.44	5 folders
Documents include the 2005 Urban School Board survey, and correspondence and information for the Council.		
<b>File 17: Counseling and Guidance, 2000-2003</b>	12.25 - 12.26	2 folders
Materials include counseling information and attendance data.		
<b>File 18: Curriculum and Instruction Workshops, 2005</b>	16.21 - 16.23	3 folders
Workshop presentation materials for math, science, and language arts.		
<b>File 19: Delegation of Power, 2004</b>	12.28	1 folder
Resolutions regarding superintendent delegation of power.		
<b>File 20: District Comprehensive Review, 2001-2004</b>	24.22 - 25.18	42 folders
Known as "San Diego Review" which resulted in a San Diego Review conference and the 2005 book, <i>Urban School Reform: Lessons from San Diego</i> , edited by Frederick M. Hess. The Review was comprised of 17 individuals studying multiple facets of Alan Bersin's SDCS reforms. These records include correspondence about the review, planning materials for the conference, and some gathered research. Also included are Alan Bersin's self-assessments dating 2001 through 2004.		
<b>File 21: District Organization Structure, 1998-2003</b>	23.16 - 23.25	10 folders
Correspondence, planning, and reports regarding the reorganization of the San Diego City Schools central office.		
<b>File 22: Education and School Services, 1998-1999</b>	2.4	1 folder
Community Advisory Committee for Budget Development records.		
<b>File 23: Eduventures, 2000-2001</b>	14.15 - 14.16	2 folders
Material for Eduventures, an education and training market research firm. Eduventures provided information on how to improve student academics and		

revitalize business practices and infrastructure, particularly looking at performance based compensation for leadership and district reorganizing.

<b>File 24: English Language Development Standards, 2000</b>	14.28	1 folder
Executive Summary for English Language Development.		
<b>File 25: Executive Committee, 2000-2005</b>	44.14 - 45.6	7 folders
Meeting minutes and associated documents for the San Diego City Schools Office of the Superintendent Executive Committee.		
<b>File 26: Executive Leadership Team, 2003-2004</b>	45.7 - 45.13	7 folders
Meeting minutes and associated documents for the Executive Leadership Team. Also includes a plan for restructuring schools according to No Child Left Behind regulation and a 2005 Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) report.		
<b>File 27: Facilities, 1995-2004</b>	13.1 - 13.10	10 folders
Includes the Facilities Master Plan, correspondence regarding various school sites, joint understandings between the City of San Diego and SDCS regarding facilities, and proposed projects. These folders represent files housed within seven separate hanging folders, all pertaining to facilities management.		
<b>File 28: Finance Division, 2002-2005</b>	13.11 - 13.12	2 folders
Financial department records and correspondence regarding district audits, budget proposals, and Federal Impact Aid.		
<b>File 29: Food Services Facility, 1999-2003</b>	13.13 - 13.16	4 folders
Business plan and economic concerns for food services at San Diego Schools.		
<b>File 30: Harvard Visiting Committee, 1998-2007</b>	34.31 - 34.37	7 folders
Records from the Harvard Graduate School of Education Visiting Committee, on which Alan Bersin served as chair. Harvard University's Visiting Committees were made up of alumni and experts from outside Harvard charged with objectively assessing University departments. Visiting Committees produced evaluation and recommendation reports about their assessments. Bersin was a member from 2003 to 2006 and chair from 2006 to 2009.		
CD of Visiting Committee reports is located in Box 71 with other audio/visual materials.		
<b>File 31: Human Resources Services, 1998-2005</b>	15.17 - 15.22	6 folders
Records regarding compensation, employee classifications, and employee healthcare benefits.		
CD of additional human resources records is located in Box 71 with other audio/visual materials.		

<b>File 32: Independent Citizens for California's Children (IC3), 1999-2004</b>	34.38 - 35.7	10 folders
Meeting materials and correspondence for the Independent Citizens for California's Children (IC3) concerning childhood education.		
<b>File 33: Leadership and Outreach, 2001-2002, 2004</b>	12.12 - 12.16	5 folders
Articles and publications pertaining to leadership, information regarding Bersin's school visits, safety information from the United States Department of Education regarding school safety in the aftermath of the Beslan, Russia terrorist attack, and information for incoming principals.		
<b>File 34: Legal Department, 1999-2004</b>	18.16 - 20.3	32 folders
The bulk of these materials cover cases filed against the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). Case materials include summaries, case reports, newspaper clippings about the cases, and District Advisory Council records. Also includes meeting materials from the San Diego City Schools Board of Education Advisory Committee charged with redrawing district lines after the 2000 census. These reapportionment files include materials from the 1992 redistricting.		
<b>File 35: Maintenance and Operations, 2001-2002</b>	20.13 - 20.14	2 folders
New employee and budget information for Maintenance and Operations.		
<b>File 36: Michael D. Usdan and Larry Cuban, 2000-2002</b>	24.20 - 24.21	2 folders
Materials regarding Michael Usdan and Larry Cuban's book <i>Powerful Reforms with Shallow Roots: Improving America's Urban Schools</i> with San Diego as one of the featured cities. Records include newspaper articles and correspondence about San Diego's place in the book.		
<b>File 37: Miscellaneous, 1999, 2001-2005</b>	23.14 - 23.15	2 folders
"Philanthropic Social Capital Markets" article draft by Allen Grossman and Public School Services correspondence.		
<b>File 38: National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, 2000-2005</b>	20.21 - 20.22	2 folders
National Board of Certified Teachers meeting information, information regarding teacher certification, and reports and publications from the NBPTS.		
<b>File 39: News, 1995-2008</b>	53.3 - 55.6	69 folders
News articles about San Diego City Schools during Bersin's tenure as Superintendent.		
<b>File 40: No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 2002-2003</b>	20.19 - 20.20	2 folders
Includes the Local Education Agency Plan for No Child Left Behind as well as correspondence regarding implementation of No Child Left Behind.		
<b>File 41: Panasonic Foundation, 1998-2003</b>	21.1	1 folder

Includes issues of *Strategies*, a newsletter of the Panasonic Foundation. Bersin wrote an article on San Diego City Schools for *Strategies*.

<b>File 42: Parent Involvement and Support Office, 2002-2004</b>	21.11 - 21.15	5 folders
<p>Parent Congress materials including information, meeting materials, handouts for parents' involvement with student education. The Parent Congress was a district-wide initiative for parents, parent group leaders, principals, and district staff to discuss childhood education.</p>		
<b>File 43: Personnel Data Systems, 2000</b>	22.4	1 folder
<p>Personnel Data Systems Inc., was hired by SDCS in 1996 to develop an automated system to deal with school district personnel records. By 2000 the project was three years behind schedule and nearly \$2 million over budget. Records include newspaper clipping and correspondence regarding the investigation.</p>		
<b>File 44: Police Task Force School Safety, 2001-2002</b>	22.5	1 folder
<p>Correspondence and articles covering how to keep students safe in schools.</p>		
<b>File 45: Principals' Conferences, 1998-2004</b>	45.17 - 46.29	37 folders
<p>Principal's Instructional Conference materials including agenda and instructional materials used during the conference.</p>		
<b>File 46: Procurement Department, 2005</b>	22.14	1 folder
<p>Reorganization planning for the Procurement Department.</p>		
<b>File 47: Professional Development, 1999-2005</b>	22.15	1 folder
<p>Publications regarding professional development, particularly for principals.</p>		
<b>File 48: Proposition MM, 1998-2004</b>	22.16 - 23.13	18 folders
<p>Materials related to the \$1.5 billion school bond issued in 1998 to support maintenance of school facilities. Documents include campaign material, planning and implementation materials, reports, and meeting materials for the Independent Citizen Oversight Committee. Campaign documents include the lawsuit filed against SDUSD regarding Proposition MM.</p>		
<b>File 49: Public Education Leadership Program (Harvard), 2002-2004</b>	21.18 - 22.3	7 folders
<p>Correspondence and program materials for the Harvard Public Education Leadership Program. Includes material gathered about SDCS in preparation for the Harvard Site Visit.</p> <p>CD moved to Box 71 with other audio/visual materials.</p>		
<b>File 50: San Diego Dialogue, 2000-2002</b>	24.9 - 24.17	9 folders
<p>Includes informational materials for San Diego Dialogue publications.</p>		
<b>File 51: San Diego Education Association, 1989, 1995-2008</b>	32.1 - 32.101	101 folders
<p>Includes correspondence and articles regarding teacher salaries, benefits, contracts, and teacher concerns. Includes both original and copy issues of the <i>SDEA Advocate</i> newsletter.</p>		
<b>File 52: SDCS Health Link, 2000-2002</b>	15.16	1 folder

Correspondence and publications regarding student healthcare.		
<b>File 53: Senior Management Group Advance, 1998-2003</b>	45.14 - 45.16	3 folders
Correspondence, meeting materials, and plans for the San Diego City Schools Senior Management Group.		
<b>File 54: STAR Program, 2003</b>	12.11	1 folder
Standardized Testing and Reporting program information.		
<b>File 55: State Funding, 2000</b>	20.4 - 20.5	2 folders
Includes Title 1 state compensatory education report and state budget correspondence regarding school funding.		
<b>File 56: Superintendent search and transition, 1990-2005</b>	51.23 - 53.2	81 folders
Documents pertaining to the search for a new superintendent and transition materials between superintendents. Includes related correspondence, Board of Education meeting materials, news releases, Fact Sheets collected from the San Diego City Schools website in June 2005, and notebooks of transition materials regarding the Parent Congress, Communications, and Small School Conversion. These search and transition materials encompass both the beginning of Bersin's tenure as well as Bersin's departure.		
<b>File 57: Superintendent's Evaluation, 1998-2004</b>	47.19 - 51.22	203 folders
Evaluations of Superintendent Alan Bersin. These include Bersin's self-evaluations submitted to the Board of Education as well as Board evaluations of Bersin. Evaluations include description of performance expectations along with evidence related to the expectations. Final evaluations and drafts are included. Also includes evaluation criteria for Senior Managers and Executive Committee members. Fact sheets largely containing SDCS policy information, reports, and data are also included.		
<b>File 58: Teaching, 1986, 1997-2006</b>	28.26 - 29.11	15 folders
Five hanging files covering teacher housing, teacher recruitment, teacher training, teaching in low performing schools, and Teachscape.		
<b>File 59: Technology Support Services, 2001-2004</b>	29.12	1 folder
Presentation printouts and publications on technology in San Diego schools.		
<b>File 60: Testing Data, 1999-2005</b>	29.25 - 31.28	75 folders
Test results and reporting for various state and national reporting requirements including the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program, the Academic Performance Index (API), the Adequate Yearly Progress and Title I Program, Norm-Referenced Test Results, California Standards Test (CST) Data, California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), dropout rates, demographic data, California English Language Development Test (CELDT), SAT 1 and SAT 9. In addition to testing data, correspondence, newspaper articles, and meeting materials regarding test results are included.		
<b>File 61: Transportation Services, 2003-2005</b>	29.13 - 29.15	3 folders
Studies and presentation materials regarding transportation of students.		

**File 62: UCSD Undergraduate Admissions, 2001, 2005** 1.68 - 1.71 4 folders  
Includes memoranda regarding educational requirements for graduating high school students as well as science curriculum information.

**File 63: Unions, 1998-2005** 33.17 - 7 folders  
34.1  
Collective Negotiation Contracts and correspondence regarding negotiations for the California State Employees Association, the Peace Officers Association and the Administrators Association.

**File 64: Urban Education Dialogue, 2000-2004** 29.16 - 2 folders  
29.17  
Meeting materials and correspondence for superintendents from inner-city school districts.

**File 65: Vice Principal and Administrator, 2003** 18.3 1 folder  
Welcome and informational materials for newly appointed vice principals and administrators.

## Series II: Board of Education, 1998-2005

The bulk of this series contains meeting materials for the San Diego Board of Education dating from May 1998 to June 2005. Meeting materials include agendas for the closed session, transcripts of open sessions, and reports, plans, and proposals to be discussed during the open session of meetings. This series also includes correspondence regarding board members, board decisions, budget materials, class size, course instruction, concern about changes to administration and how schools function.

### Box.Folder Quantity Range

**File 1: Board of Education [Correspondence], 1998-2005** 4.9 - 6.32 101 folders

The bulk of this set of records includes correspondence regarding board members, board decisions, budget materials, class size, course instruction, concern about changes to administration and how schools function. Transcripts of board meetings are also included. Correspondence covers topics such as specific schools within SDCS, San Diego communities, parents concerns, Proposition MM, and how school board meetings functioned. Correspondence includes that of board member Frances O'Neill Zimmerman and president Ron Ottinger as well as memos sent to board members from Superintendent Bersin. Discussion of open versus closed meetings, new board member orientation materials, and the decision to televise Board Meetings on local television are also included.

**File 2: Board of Education [Meeting Materials], 1998 May - 2005 June** 35.8 - 275 folders  
44.13

San Diego Board of Education meeting minutes and documents used in those meetings. Meetings largely occurred weekly, with a closed session and an open session. Minutes include an overview of the agenda for the closed session without going into specifics. Open session minutes are detailed and often include reports, plans, and proposals discussed in the meeting. Each folder contains materials for separate meetings. Meetings with large amounts of additional materials span multiple folders.



## Series III: Foundations, 1997-2005

This series contains grant proposals, grant reports, and correspondence regarding grants and funding for San Diego City Schools from various Foundations. Grants focus on education reform, educational leadership, mathematics and science education from foundations including the Broad Foundation, the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, and the National Science Foundation. Also included are materials for the Broad Foundation superintendent study.

	<b>Box.Folder Range</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
<b>File 1: Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2001-2004</b>	12.9 - 12.10	2 folders
Correspondence regarding grant funding as well as the 2003 final report to the Foundation.		
<b>File 2: Broad Foundation, 1999-2005</b>	2.41 - 2.44	4 folders
Records include 2002 and 2003 case studies on San Diego City Schools conducted by the Broad Foundation and the Center for Reform of School Systems, as well as grant materials and information on the Educational Leadership Development Academy. The ELDA was a partnership between the San Diego City Schools and the University of San Diego.		
<b>File 3: Carnegie Corporation of New York, 2000-2005</b>	13.17 - 13.20	4 folders
Correspondence and reports for the Carnegie Corporation of New York Schools for a New Society grant. This was a planning grant focused on improving urban high schools. It was offered to ten urban schools districts including San Diego. After success with the planning grant, San Diego City Schools received a five-year \$8 million implementation grant to advance student achievement in high school.		
<b>File 4: Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, 1997-2003</b>	10.24 - 11.28	45 folders
Correspondence and reporting for grants focused on Middle School Reform. Reports include both data based reporting as well as publications documenting teacher and student stories. Also includes reports and documents from Perry and Associates who assisted with grant implementation.		
<b>File 5: Foundation for the Improvement of Math and Science Education, 1999-2003</b>	14.17 - 14.25	9 folders
Includes board meeting agendas, donations, correspondence and reports regarding improvements in math and science education.		
<b>File 6: Foundations, 1997-2003</b>	14.30 - 15.13	14 folders
Grant and fundraising materials from foundations including The Ball Foundation, The Ford Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts, the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, the San Diego Foundation, the Stupki Family Foundation, the Walton Family Foundation, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York.		
<b>File 7: National Science Foundation, 1998-2004</b>	20.24 - 21.7	9 folders

Information on the National Science Foundation Urban Systemic Initiative and Urban Systemic Program grant funding including grant plans, reviews, and correspondence. Includes correspondence and news reports regarding SDCS's loss of grant funding due to a focus on literacy over science. Funding was denied to SDCS in 1999 and 2000, but later awarded. An audit of the awarded grant is included.

**File 8: San Diego Foundation, 1999-2000** 14.27 1 folder  
Reading Recovery Research Project materials.

**File 9: Superintendents' Academy [Broad Foundation], 2003** 13.21 - 13.29 9 folders

Contains the San Diego City Schools Case Study binder compiled for the Broad Foundations' Center for Superintendents. Records include reports, analysis, and correspondence covering the successes and failures of Alan Bersin's plans for San Diego City Schools.

### Series IV: Programs, 1993-2007

Records in this series document various programs implemented during Alan Bersin's tenure as Superintendent. A large majority of these records pertain to The Blueprint for Student Success and the Instructional Leadership Program. Many records also pertain to policies and guidelines for the establishment and functioning of charter schools.

#### Box.Folder Quantity Range

**File 1: Active Physics, 2000-2006** 1.42 - 1.50 9 folders

Materials of the Active Physics program for improving 9th grade science education through a hands-on, active based physics curriculum. Materials include American Chemical Society presentation materials, correspondence regarding pros and cons of the program as well as K-8 and graduation plans for science requirements.

**File 2: After School Programs, 1998-2005** 1.59 - 1.65 7 folders

Documents for the "6 to 6" Extended School Day Program proving before and after school programs for students. Includes 2001 annual report and 2001 satisfaction summary, brochures, correspondence about the program, and a 2003-2004 summary of the program.

**File 3: Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Program, 1999-2000** 2.22 - 2.23 2 folders

Documents consist of implementation and informational materials for the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Program.

**File 4: Biliteracy and English Learner Support, 1997-2005** 2.24 - 2.39 16 folders

Records pertain to developing standards for biliteracy and aiding students in English language development. Standards, status reports, and records for the Latino Coalition on Education are included.

**File 5: Blueprint for Student Success, 1999-2003, 2005** 3.1 - 4.8; 14.29 40 folders

These records document the implementation of the Blueprint for Student Success and responses to the program. Includes a synthesis of teacher, staff, and administrator attitudes about the program, planned changes for the second year of implementation, reports and evaluations, grant proposals, and



newspaper clippings. Also includes documentation about Anthony Alvarado's leaving his position in SDCS.

<b>File 6: Charter Schools, 1997-2007</b>	8.24 - 10.20	87 folders
<p>Key among these records are individual charter school proposals, renewals, and surveys which document the history, mission, and functioning of each charter school as well as policies and guidelines for the establishment and functioning of charter schools. Includes records from the Office of School Choice, information regarding school restructuring and improvements in accordance with No Child Left Behind, plans for assisting low performing schools, and the San Diego Plan for Racial Integration.</p>		
<b>File 7: City Heights Pilot, 1998-2006</b>	11.29 - 11.36	8 folders
<p>Records related to the City Heights Pilot which was an agreement between San Diego State University, San Diego Education Association, Price Charities, San Diego Unified School District, Rosa Parks Elementary, Monroe Clark Middle School, and Hoover High School that focused on educational excellence and reform in those schools. The program began in 1998, and was renewed in 2002. Records include proposals and reports as well as advisory board meeting materials.</p>		
<b>File 8: Clairemont Cluster, 1999-2004</b>	10.22 - 10.23	2 folders
<p>Records pertaining to the Clairemont community of schools.</p>		
<b>File 9: Classroom of the Future, 2001-2004</b>	11.37	1 folder
<p>Outline for Statement of Support regarding Classroom of the Future.</p>		
<b>File 10: Educational Leadership Development Academy (ELDA), 2000-2005</b>	13.30 - 14.14	16 folders
<p>Grant materials, reports, correspondence, and agreements between San Diego Unified School District, the University of San Diego, San Diego State University, San Diego County Office of Education, and the University of California San Diego regarding the Educational Leadership Development Academy. With the University of San Diego as the lead organization, ELDA aimed to prepare educational leaders, provide support and training to teachers.</p>		
<b>File 11: Educational Technology, 2002-2005</b>	12.29 - 12.33	5 folders
<p>Records pertaining to increasing technology in schools.</p>		
<b>File 12: Focus Schools Teachers and Parents, 2000-2001</b>	14.26	1 folder
<p>Correspondence regarding school resources, Focus Schools, and the Blueprint for Student Success. Focus Schools was a consolidation of low performing schools grouped to receive focused attention and resources to improve performance.</p>		
<b>File 13: Gifted and Talented Education (GATE), 1999-2004</b>	15.14 - 15.15	2 folders
<p>Information and reports for the Gifted and Talented Education program.</p>		
<b>File 14: High School Reform, 2000-2006</b>	15.26 - 16.20	29 folders

Reports, correspondence, and meeting materials pertaining to High School Reform and the Carnegie Corporation of New York Schools for a New Society initiative. Also includes correspondence with the Mexican American Legal Defense Education Fund (MALDEF) regarding disparities in high school course offerings. Includes grant proposals and reports for various funders including the Hewlett Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation, and the Gates Foundation. Also includes Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Center collaboration materials and plans for reforming San Diego High Schools including Crawford, Kearny, and San Diego High School.

CD of presentation material on High School Renewal, May 7, 2004 located in Box 71 with audio/visual materials.

<b>File 15: Instructional Leadership, 1997-2006</b>	16.24 - 18.2	49 folders
Documents regarding Bersin's program to developing the instructional and leadership roles of principals. Materials cover topics such as improving student literacy, improving curriculum and teacher preparedness, and Learning Community Materials. Also includes demographic profiles of many San Diego schools.		
<b>File 16: International Center on Collaboration for Student Support Services, 1999-2000</b>	8.22 - 8.23	2 folders
Correspondence and information on Student Support Services as well as a report entitled "Redesign of Student Support Services" compiled by the International Center on Collaboration, with analysis and recommendations.		
<b>File 17: Kindergarten Program, 1998-2005</b>	18.4 - 18.15	12 folders
Records pertaining to kindergarten and K-5 education. Topics concern full-day kindergarten, literacy, Peer Coaches, Staff Developers, and Site Administrators.		
<b>File 18: Lincoln and Gompers, 2001-2003</b>	20.11 - 20.12	2 folders
Correspondence and reports related to Proposition MM and the redevelopment/expansion of the Lincoln and Gompers schools. Includes the 2002 "Final Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Demolition, Reconstruction and Expansion of Lincoln High School."		
<b>File 19: Marston Middle School, 1999 February</b>	10.21	1 folder
City code restricting signs on public property.		
<b>File 20: Mathematics Department, 2000-2004</b>	20.15 - 20.18	4 folders
Discussions, reports, and analysis on improving mathematics and science education.		
<b>File 21: Naval Training Center, 2002</b>	21.8	1 folder
Redevelopment/School Assignment Proposal for the Naval Training Center.		
<b>File 22: New Teacher Project, 2003-2006</b>	15.24 - 15.25; 21.9	2 folders
The New Teacher Project was a program to support retaining teachers in urban schools. Includes publications regarding teacher retention and correspondence with information about the New Teacher Project.		
<b>File 23: Physical Education Program, 2000</b>	15.23	1 folder

Includes Physical Education Proposal draft on physical education instruction in schools.

<b>File 24: Point Loma Cluster Study, 1999-2001</b>	22.6 - 22.9	4 folders
Point Loma cluster study public opinion poll results, and Point Loma reconfiguration records.		
<b>File 25: Preschool Program, 2001-2005</b>	22.10 - 22.13	4 folders
Early Link State Preschool Program informational records and correspondence, proposals for universal preschool program, and informational materials on early childhood education.		
<b>File 26: San Diego Community College District, 2004-2005</b>	24.18 - 24.19	2 folders
Middle/Early College High School partnership between San Diego City Schools and San Diego Mesa College.		
<b>File 27: San Diego Reads, 1998-2001</b>	23.28 - 24.8	13 folders
Campaign solicitation letters to help fund the San Diego Reads program which focused on increasing student literacy through purchasing books for school classrooms and libraries, bringing volunteer tutors to schools, and encouraging parents to read with their students. Includes informational binder about the partnership with the San Diego Union Tribune, promotional materials, and media coverage to raise awareness about the program.		
<b>File 28: School Reform, 1993-2007</b>	25.19 - 27.17	122 folders
The majority of these files consist of articles and reports by various authors written about San Diego City Schools, the Blueprint for Student Success, and urban school reform. Also includes case studies and correspondence regarding reports and research.		
<b>File 29: School Site Councils, 2001</b>	12.27	1 folder
History and glossary information about School Site Councils.		
<b>File 30: Special Education Programs, 1997-2001</b>	27.18 - 28.25	32 folders
Includes plans for conducting the special education program and serving students with disabilities, correspondence and reports regarding compliance with special education standards. Includes Office of Civil Rights investigation information into San Diego Unified School District compliance, corrective action requirements, and status reports.		
<b>File 31: Union San Diego Education Association (Peer Coach), 1998-2003, 2005</b>	33.1 - 33.16	16 folders
Records pertaining to the SDUSD and SDEA dispute over implementation of the peer coach and staff development program. Included are correspondence, newspaper articles, and reports concerning contract negotiations, selection and certification of peer coaches, hiring of Curriculum Resource Teachers, and the possibility of compromise between the two groups.		
<b>File 32: Visual and Performing Arts Program (VAPA), 1999-2004</b>	29.18 - 29.24	7 folders

San Diego Arts Education Partnership meetings and reports, VAPA reports, correspondence, and meetings regarding visual and performing arts in schools.

## **Series V: Audio/Visual Material, 1995-2006**

This series consists of VHS tapes, cassette tapes, DVDs, and photographs documenting various aspects of San Diego City Schools. Highlights include video of the Principals Conference and select Board of Education Meetings.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
<p><b>1. Board of Education Meetings, 1999, 2000, 2005</b></p> <p>Audio and video recording of certain Board of Education Meetings. Topics highlighted are the Blueprint for Student Success, the Educational Leadership Development Academy, 4-year plan for school improvement, and charter school discussions.</p>	68	8 Tapes
<p><b>2. Educational Leadership Development Academy (ELDA), 2002 July</b></p> <p>ELDA informational videos.</p>	68	3 VHS Tapes
<p><b>3. Genre Studies, 2000 July-August</b></p> <p>Genre Studies instruction for grades 6 through 10.</p>	68	15 VHS Tapes
<p><b>4. Instruction, 1999-2002</b></p> <p>Videos and cassette tape of information about various instructional programs. Programs include Active Physics, literature, and writer's workshop.</p>	68-69	11 Tapes
<p><b>5. Leadership, 2000, 2005</b></p> <p>Includes video of Bersin's remarks at the 2005 Leadership Conference.</p>	69	2 VHS Tapes
<p><b>6. Principals Conference, 1999-2002</b></p> <p>Video of Principals Conference proceedings including opening and closing remarks, and Learning Community video.</p>	69-70	49 VHS Tapes
<p><b>7. Reading, 1999-2002</b></p> <p>Instructional videos on reading.</p>	70-71	14 VHS Tapes
<p><b>8. San Diego Review, 2004 September 27-28</b></p> <p>Video of certain presentations given at the San Diego Review conference held at the University of San Diego.</p>	71	3 VHS Tapes
<p><b>9. Miscellaneous, 2000-2006, undated</b></p> <p>Varied videos including individuals speaking at schools and a San Diego City Schools Year in Review, 2000.</p>	71	14 VHS Tapes
<p><b>10. Photographs, 1995-2005</b></p> <p>Photographs of Alan Bersin, San Diego City Schools award recipients, Cluster Study photographs, and Old Town play photographs.</p>	72	4 Folders

## Record Group B: Office of the Secretary of Education, 1987, 1997-2008

The Office of the Secretary of Education records consist of California-wide education records that Bersin collected during his tenure as Secretary of Education. Records cover topics such as standards, testing, curriculum, facilities, funding, charter schools, and implementation of the national No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Transition materials related to Bersin's time as Superintendent of San Diego City Schools, as well as letters from the public regarding Bersin's successes and failures, are also included.

The Office of the Secretary of Education records are arranged into two series:

[Series I. Administrative Records](#)

[Series II. Transition](#)

Each series is organized into topical file units which remain in original order. File units consist of groups of folders organized together. In most cases, the file unit title has been derived from the file creator. A box and folder range is given to identify file unit locations within the collection. The total number of folders within that file unit are also listed.

A full folder listing in original order can be made available upon request.

### Series I: Administrative Records, 1987, 1998-2008

Records in this series document Alan Bersin's time as the Secretary of Education for the State of California. These include state legislation impacting California schools, records on the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, discussion of how California would comply with NCLB, budgetary information pertaining to California schools, teacher credentialing, and documents pertaining to low-performing schools.

	<b>Box.Folder</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
	<b>Range</b>	
<b>File 1: Correspondence and News Clippings, 2005-2006</b>	55.7-55.9	3 folders
Correspondence and news clippings covering California education issues and the Office of the Secretary of Education.		
<b>File 2: Career and Technical Education (CTE), 2007</b>	55.1	1 folder
News articles regarding vocational programs for students.		
<b>File 3: Governor Schwarzenegger, 2006</b>	55.11	1 folder
Issues of importance for Governor Schwarzenegger regarding education.		
<b>File 4: Public Education and State Administration, 2005-2006</b>	55.12- 55.14	3 folders
Articles and publications pertaining to the California education system.		
<b>File 5: Governor Schwarzenegger's Signing of Bills, 2005</b>	55.15- 55.17	3 folders
Notification letters from Governor Schwarzenegger of bills being signed, or returned without a signature. Includes brief explanation of each bill and the Governor's reasoning for signature or lack thereof.		
<b>File 6: Legislation, 2005-2006</b>	55.18- 55.27	10 folders
Legislation information for bills concerning California education proposed by senators and assembly members.		
<b>File 7: State Budget, Communication, etc., 2005-2008</b>	55.28- 58.13	91 folders

Documents pertaining to the state of California education budget. Materials include bond proposals, negotiations, *Budget Highlights*, and *Budget Summaries* from the Governor's office. Also includes correspondence and press articles regarding budget, initiatives for failing schools, publications regarding school funding, and Governor's Advisory Committee on Education Excellence meeting materials.

CD on student success through animation located in Box 71 with audio/visual materials.

**File 8: Accountability, 2004-2007** 58.14- 25  
59.10 folders

Includes informational materials on the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, implementation of NCLB in California, and Harmonization records. Harmonization was an effort to coordinate California's Academic Performance Index with NCLB. Also included are records pertaining to holding schools accountable for state and federal standards, and intervention efforts with failing schools.

Information on the Binational Sports Council Soccer Games held between California and Baja California is also included.

**File 9: California Department of Education, 1987, 2002-2007** 59.11- 55  
61.13 folders

Documents cover issues affecting statewide education including standards, testing, curriculum, facilities, funding, and charter schools. Litigation materials over the California High School Exit Exam are included as well as documents pertaining to teacher credentials and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

CD of "ACT High School Profile Report: Graduating Class of 2006 Measuring College Readiness" located in Box 71 with audio/visual materials.

**File 10: Teacher Education, 2004-2006** 61.14- 12  
61.25 folders

Materials regarding teacher preparation, teacher quality, and teacher recruitment.

**File 11: California Interscholastic Federation, 2003-2006** 61.26- 6 folders  
61.31

The bulk of these materials regard implementing skateboarding as a sport. Also includes information on the 2006 Scholar-Athlete of the Year awards.

**File 12: California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), 2002, 2005-2006** 61.32- 15  
61.46 folders

EdFund documents and correspondence regarding student aid.

**File 13: Career Technical Education, 2004-2007** 61.47-62.6 29  
folders

Material regarding the vocational education program known as "Career Technical Education."

**File 14: Charter Schools, Collective Bargaining, 2005-2008** 62.7-62.10 4 folders

Includes information on Proposition 39 regarding California Charter Schools, the Compton Community College District, and collective bargaining.




<b>File 15: English Language Learning/English Language Arts (ELL/ELA), 2005-2006</b>	62.11-62.16	6 folders
Framework documents for English language development.		
<b>File 16: High School Reform, 2005-2006</b>	62.17-62.23	7 folders
Correspondence, publications, and workshop materials regarding high school reform.		
<b>File 17: Los Angeles Unified School District, 2006</b>	62.24-63.3	4 folders
LAUSD legislation regarding district reform, and newspaper articles regarding LAUSD.		
<b>File 18: Commission on State Mandates, 2006</b>	63.4	1 folder
Reform recommendations for funding state mandated programs.		
<b>File 19: Naturalization, 2000</b>	63.5	1 folder
Naturalization study guide.		
<b>File 20: After School Programs in California, 2005-2007</b>	63.6-63.10	5 folders
Legislative propositions regarding after school programs and framework for improving low-performing schools.		
<b>File 21: Quality Education Investment Act, 2006</b>	63.11-63.12	2 folders
Materials for Proposition 98, the Quality Education Investment Act.		
<b>File 22: Teacher's Unions, Low-Performing School Improvement, 1998-2001, 2005-2007</b>	63.13-64.14	31 folders
Includes proposals and discussions for improving California's low-performing schools, correspondence and proposal drafts by Ken Futernick (Professor of Education at California State University, Sacramento), and NCLB information. Also includes Teachers Union documents and documentation on a Pension Plan Project.		

## **Series II: Transition, 1997-2006**

This series consists of documentation regarding Bersin's transition from Superintendent of San Diego City Schools to the California Secretary of Education. Records include letters of support and congratulations as well as transition plans for various departments in San Diego City Schools. Also includes various memoranda, publications, newspaper articles, court case information, and reports covering Bersin's time as Superintendent of San Diego City Schools.

	<b>Box.Folder</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
	<b>Range</b>	
<b>File 1: Bersin's Selection as Secretary of Education, 1999-2006</b>	64.15-65.10	19 folders
Messages of congratulations for Bersin's appointment as California Secretary of Education as well as letters of support and criticism compiled during Bersin's time as Superintendent of San Diego City Schools.		
<b>File 2: Transition, 1997-2005</b>	65.11-67.9	82 folders
Records include transitions plans for various departments in San Diego City Schools which highlight accomplishments and look forward to the future.		



Also includes various memoranda, publications, newspaper articles, court case information, and reports covering Bersin's time as Superintendent of San Diego City Schools.