



Kern County Innovative & Impactful Schools I²S is a county wide program implemented by Kern County Superintendent of Schools and the Kern Pledge partners to acknowledge schools who are high-performing and have shown student academic success, by continuing to maintain a three year pattern of top 10% proficiency in math and ELA.

Innovative and sustained collaboration to achieve significant and lasting change.

Freedom Middle School Designated 2019 ELA and Math

3 Year Avg. Math -10.3 From Standard
ELA 26.4 Above Standard

Rosedale Union Elementary School District

Kern County

Principal: Matt King

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Figure 1A unique setting where learning is lasting

School Profile

Freedom Middle School is a suburban school in the Rosedale Community east of Bakersfield. It hosts a collaborative atmosphere from other schools within the family of Rosedale Union Elementary School District. The students are offered many opportunities through its “Wheel” of electives that include Art, Music – instrumental and vocal, Technology, Life Skills, and Agriculture.

School Demographics

FMS serves 691 7th and 8th grade students. Within the student body there are two main ethnic groups 52.8% white and 37.8% Hispanic or Latino. The subgroups within the population includes 1% English Learners, 9.8% Students with Disabilities, and 38.6% Socioeconomically Disadvantaged.

Contributing / Replicable Factors

- School wide focus of Higher Order thinking represented by Listening and Speaking at [DOK](#) levels 3-4 in all subjects, including P.E.
- Academic Standards are shared across subjects i.e. Math use in PE, ELA used in Social Studies and Art.
 - Cycle of Inquiry used to answer – “How can we do it better?”

- Department teams meet each day during common prep time. Full day given to each department once a quarter for data analysis of work samples, benchmarks, and CFUs.
- PLC time is used for collaborating lesson planning across the department. Leadership team, which includes teachers from each department, meet with administration to set PLC agenda focus. Agendas are sent to principal. Teachers look at pockets of students as well as whole group to see what needs to be retaught.
- Intervention model includes co-teaching- special-ed teacher and general ed. teacher ○ Academic groups can be taught within the same classroom. Students have the benefit of learning from different strategies of teachers. District assessments have shown an increase of 10-25% among special education students on academic assessments.
 - Check and Connect for academic and behavior intervention. Counselors meet with students to review behavior and academic goals. Groups for restorative practice and anger management help students maintain relationships.
 - Alternative to Suspensions are reviewed as students learn to adapt to different social groups.
- Students as Stakeholders in their own learning
 - Review results of quarter and CAASPP tests with students. Teachers show students the data and set goals to move to the next band. Teacher relates the data to the students' career and future education.
 - Student goal setting is used universally with steps to meet goals through the use of the students' goal setting form.
- Leadership Philosophy - [Leading from the Middle](#)
 - Administrative team is designed to support staff by identifying needs and meeting with Leadership Team through collaborative studies
 - Move slow through every change process to help staff, students, and community through the Why, what, and how. The buy-in is an investment in the culture that is created.
 - Principal is approachable to parents and students.
- PBIS- Installation stages.
 - Started slow with all staff (including custodian, to share the focus for the mantra and expectation/discipline matrix.
 - Negative referrals were reviewed – 800 were found last year....Answer – Positive Referrals! Parents become used to a negative call and the positive referral is a breath of fresh air for students, staff and parents. 140 went home this past year.
 - [Safe School Ambassadors](#) done with fidelity.
 - School leadership keeps engaging activities for team building throughout the year.