



KERN COUNTY INNOVATIVE & IMPACTFUL SCHOOLS
Academics | Engagement | College & Career Readiness

Kern County Innovative & Impactful Schools (I²S) is a county wide program implemented by Kern County Superintendent of Schools to acknowledge schools who are high-performing and improving student outcomes based on these three pillars of success.

Burroughs High School

Award based on CAASPP 2019 ELA
Based upon 3-year average
ELA: 63.5 points above Distance from Standard
Sierra Sands Unified
Kern County
Principal: Carrie Cope
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Date: Jan. 21, 2020
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School Profile

Burroughs High School is a rural high school on the east side of Kern County with a student enrollment of 1,523 students in 9th-12th grade. The school has a strong support services division which includes: 4 academic counselors, a behavior specialist, a Department of Defense counselor, a military counselor, plus adult supervisors by way of four noon duty supervisors and two Sheriff Resource Officers. With strong district support, English Language Arts teachers have the autonomy to attend workshops outside of the district as a department, which affords the staff the ability to access cutting edge ideas, as well as time to collaborate with each other in regards to how the strategies and practices could be implemented.

School Demographics

The ethnicity of the student population is as follows: 57.5% White, 25.2% Hispanic/Latino, and 5.5% African American. The additional student groups from this population include: 57.6% Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students, 3.8% English Learners, and 12% Students with Disabilities.

Self-Identifying Contributing Factors

- The school encourages networking and collaboration with outside agencies:
 - The school is a member of the [National Dashboard](#) and [CalTech](#).
 - Substitutes are available to allow teachers to network and collaborate.
- The English department has time for inner collaboration and research during contract hours:
 - Late start Wednesdays give one hour of time for teachers in each department to review student data and evaluate lessons for equity from classroom to classroom within the departments.
 - Pacing calendar and lessons are teacher generated as an English department.
 - The English department classrooms are within close proximity for easy collaboration.
 - Teachers break into grade level teams and focus on key passages with question stems embedded in lessons similar to CAASPP.
 - Once a month research is done within the California Department of Education digital library.
 - PLCs within the English department include special education and English language development teachers, which helps ensure scaffolding of the lessons for multiple student groups.
 - Google Classroom with resources is available for the English department.
- Writing is emphasized through different programs:
 - Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) is used in English and history class.
 - Students are utilizing Chromebooks to write and submit assignments through Turnitin.com.
 - Students practice a variety of writing styles.
 - [Turnitin.com](#) submission is an English department requirement. This program calls out similarity of papers from peers and scholarly publications and gives standardized feedback.
 - [Restate, Answer, Cite, & Explain \(RACE\)](#) is a strategy used on a regular basis in each classroom.
- Ongoing assessments help teachers stay on track with student progress:
 - Teachers analyze 8th grade CAASPP scores.
 - A writing benchmark is given each quarter modeled after CAASPP SBAC and [Interim Assessment Block\(s\) \(IAB\)](#).
 - During students' junior year [Interim Comprehensive Assessments](#) (ICA) are given:

- One month prior to CAASPP, ICA's are given to students within their English classes followed by teachers reviewing results and creating mini lessons for areas of growth.
- Teachers review the individual student results and provide ideas on how to improve.
- Quarterly, all teachers review students' grades during PLC time.
- [Plan-Do-Study-Act \(PDSA\)](#) is used following grade review.
- College and Career Readiness is a key element to students' success:
 - [California CGI](#) is an online platform for grades 6th-12th students.
 - Career Tech includes metal shop, engineering class, woodshop, auto shop, culinary arts, and criminal justice.
 - A strong fine arts program is offered including ceramics, music, and other art mediums.
 - Teachers are trained in the methodology and use of annotation tools within Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) and are used daily with students.
 - Common academic language regarding English terms are used throughout grade levels and departments.
- At-risk students have different programs to help with academic interventions:
 - Math English Technology (MET) is offered during the science period. Students who are below standard, attend MET instead of science during their freshman and sophomore year.
 - Freshmen and sophomores are academically tracked by college prep and advanced placement while juniors and seniors are offered three-tiered tracking.
 - [My Perspective](#) is used for literacy remediation.