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.

Franklin Elementary School

Award based on 2019 CAASPP ELA and Math
Based on 3-year average
ELA: 32.2 points above Distance from
Standard Math: 5.2 points above Distance from
Standard Bakersfield City School District
(BCSD)
Kern County
Name of Principal: Ms. Tafoya
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School Profile

Franklin Elementary is an urban school located in downtown Bakersfield with its entrance on a main commuter road and the backside in a residential community. It hosts 532 students within the grade spans of TK-6th grades. The well-established school site celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 2014. In addition to classroom teachers, the school also hosts a librarian, family and community engagement liaison, speech therapist, campus supervisor, behavior intervention specialist, academic coach, and area administrator from the Bakersfield City School District.

School Demographics

The ethnicity of the student population includes: 64% Hispanic or Latino, 18% White, 10% African American and 7% not stated. The additional student groups from this population include: 78.3% Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, 10% English Learner and 0.4% Foster Youth.

Self-Identified Contributing Factors

- Focus on coherence:
  - A cluster school meeting is held at a school site with the principals of the cluster of schools and area administrator (AA) that leads the school cluster. The subject is

focused on a book talk, presentation, and discussion which is then taken to the school site teachers by the principal to deepen coherence.

- o Feeder schools within BCSD, have the same oversight AA. This is an integral part of the coherence delivery model. The delivery model includes meetings where all the cluster schools' educational staff, support staff, and SEL staff meet with the AA.
- o The AA connects staff to resources and specialists within BCSD.
- o The principal makes sure implementation of the decisions made within the cluster meetings happen and integrity of the framework is taught, as identified in PLCs and learning walks.
- o Teacher and administration sustainability helps maintain culture. There has been little turnover of teachers and principal over the past 16 years.

- ● Learning Walks:
  - o The principal and AA walk the school on Mondays with department directors for curriculum, instruction and special education.
  - o Twice a month the AA walks with the directors to collaborate and observe classrooms.
  - o Walks with just the principal and AA occur twice monthly. One hour is a learning walk where themes are calibrated and seen by all grade levels and other school sites for feedback.
  - o The AA and principal walk with service providers to see how students can be served.
  - o Walks are done with the math coach, principal, and AA. They walk through with the standards in hand for math or ELA.
  - o An electronic [Walk Through form](#) is shared with teachers who were visited.
  - o The Walk Through form helps with feedback and teachers know what the team is specifically watching for within the walk.
  - o The principal utilizes Cognitive Coaching strategies with teaching staff after walk through.
  - o The principal identifies strengths of a teacher and then uses the teacher as a professional learning opportunity for other teachers who need support. This in-house networking builds capacity of the teaching staff.
  - o From the walks, the principal and coach are able to identify utilized strategies. They split the campus for observations every day between the coach and the principal.
  - o The principal schedules time weekly to visit classes between 9-10 am.

- ● Effective Professional Learning Community [(PLC) cycle](#) :
  - o A curricular planning cycle unit guide is generated by the district. The unit guide for math has resources within BCSD. Collaboration includes "you do it together" and then "you do it alone".

- o Collaboration is scheduled within the PLC for teachers to plan the questions for student-to-teacher discourse and student-to-student discourse.
- o Assessments are reviewed in PLCs and reteach lessons are created to help with differentiation for students.
- o [Comprehensive Continuum](#) is used for all grade levels during the PLC cycle. The PLC cycle includes articulation of grade levels. This ensures equitable classrooms from class to class and grade level to grade level. Grade level expectations are set and understood through the PLC for teachers and students to follow from each grade level.

- Assessment cycle: Includes running records and benchmark assessments which follow an [Assessment Calendar](#) set by BCSD:
  - o Assessments are given to help teachers understand the independent level of the student and their ability to utilize test taking strategies.
  - o [Common Formative Assesments](#) are reviewed at PLC meetings.

- Other effective strategies:
  - o [Math Action Plan](#)
  - o Interactive m[ath journals](#)
  - o Anchor charts used in ELA and math
  - o [Balanced Literacy](#)
  - o Use of '[gradual release of responsibility](#)' model
  - o Teachers pull up next to the student and listen to them read
  - o [Number Talks](#) and hand signals used during math
  - o Writing is assessed based on a teacher created [rubric](#)
  - o Peer editing is used with students having the ability to self-grade and peer grade
  - o [Guided Reading](#)
  - o The school uses *Achieve 3000,* an online program with informational text, which is tailored to the student's ability level
  - o [Thinking Maps](#) in grades TK-6th
  - o Interactive notebooks in math, history, science, and ELA
  - o [Student discourse](#) planning rubric

- High attendance strategies:
  - o The buddy system includes pairing up students with teachers and adults which fit their personality. The adult stamps the calendar at each check in.
  - o Schoolzilla is used to identify student absences and initiates a call to the student's guardians each day the student is absent.
  - o Hoonuit is used to track chronic absenteeism.
  - o Attendance challenge every month includes short term goals and perfect attendance rewards.