



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.

Fruitvale Junior High School

Award based on 2019 CAASPP ELA and Math

Based upon 3-year average

ELA: 29 points above Distance from Standard

Math: 14.1 points above Distance from Standard

Fruitvale School District

Kern County

Principal: Erick Rouanzoin

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School Profile

Fruitvale Junior High serves 705 students in grades 7th and 8th within a suburban area of Kern County. The school's mission states "...graduates will be exceptionally well-prepared for success in high school and beyond". To help all students achieve this vision, the Fruitvale school community has committed to the goals listed in the contributing factors below.

School Demographics

The ethnicity of the student population is as follows: 44.5% are White and 41.5% are Hispanic or Latino. The additional student groups from this population include: 48% Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, 8.7% Students with Disabilities, 3 % English Learners, and 2.7% Homeless Youth.

Self-Identified Contributing Factors

Fruitvale Community is committed to these goals:

- Specific standards of academic achievement.
- A safe and orderly adolescent-centered environment.
- A comprehensive core curriculum.
- The integration of technology as a learning tool throughout the curriculum.
- High expectations for all learners.
- A wide range of co-curricular and extra-curricular experiences.
- Teaching students' responsibility and respect for individual differences.
- Encouraging & motivating students to not only do their best, but to take risks.
- School improvement based on continual review of student multiple assessment data and parent/staff survey results.
- A professional development program which focuses on improving classroom instruction.
- An extensive support system for students and their families.

The school implements the following to reach the stated goals:

- The 2019-2020 [master schedule](#) moved to six periods of daily instruction with 72 minute block periods in both English and mathematics.
- Professional development is supported through early release every Wednesday. There are questions aligned with the school's focus. The information is shared at the department meetings.
- Staff collaboration happens during a common prep period.
- Instructional coaches support the deconstruction of standards, data reflection, development of assessments, and tasks to support instructional improvement which provides individualized rigor.
- *Instructional rounds* occur a minimum of four times a year with a focus on the 'bull's eye', a coined name for the school's target.
- First instruction is emphasized. Teachers begin every class with a focused direction (the standard to be mastered). Two 'bull's eye' graphics are used to communicate to students the 'big bullseye' and the 'result to be reached', while the 'daily darts' represent the subskills to be mastered on the route to the target.
- There are regularly scheduled data reviews to drive instruction and intervention groups:
 - CAASPP data review [form](#).
 - STAR Data Dive [form](#).

- Student assessments are done on a regular basis school wide through Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) and Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading (STAR). The IAB's schedule includes a follow up for teachers to review results.
- To enhance listening, speaking and writing, the 7th and 8th grade teachers use listening and [Cornell note worksheets](#) in every subject. Teachers work as a team across departments and share listening and writing strategies along with the effect of the strategy.
- The electives focus on encouraging college and career pathways. Project Lead the Way courses and over 17 elective choices connect to high school pathways and beyond are offered to students. The elective choices are also showcased to 6th grade parents and students prior to attending Fruitvale Junior High School. An agriculture elective course, where students operate a garden from start to finish, is an example of the robust electives offered for college and career readiness.
- Social Emotional Learning:
 - [Advisory periods](#) are unique in that teachers advise the same students for both their 7th and 8th grade year. All teachers have one advisory class and all students will have one advisory teacher for the two years. Teachers can volunteer to be on the advisory period team and help to develop the advisory core values and non-negotiables. Lessons are created for advisory periods to build positive relationships. Every advisory mentor/teacher becomes an advocate and example for their advisory students and supports teaching students how to advocate for themselves.