



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.

A.M. Thomas Middle School

Most Reduction in Suspension Rate - Reduction of 10.6%
Based upon 3-year average from 2017-2020
CA School Dashboard

Lost Hills Union School District
Kern County
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School Profile

A.M. Thomas Middle School is a community school in the rural area on the west side of Kern County. The school has a long standing place in the community with its roots being traced back to 1940. A.M. Thomas Middle School serves 110 students in grades 6th-8th.

School Demographics

The ethnicity of the student population of A.M. Thomas Middle School is as follows: 99% Hispanic/Latino and 1% White. The additional student groups from this population include: 0.06% Students with Disabilities, 45% English Learners, and 96% Socioeconomically Disadvantaged.

Self-Identified Contributing Factors

- Community school model:
 - Since 2018, the district has adopted the community school model which works to integrate health and human services at a school site. Through this model they are leveraging community school coordinators and school social workers to identify specific student and family needs. The model works to forge partnerships with community organizations via the Children’s Cabinet of West Kern, and support from AmeriCorps, Kern County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, and College Community Services (CCS).
 - Health workers on school sites through CCS
 - [Prepare “U”](#) curriculum for 8th grade students is provided by Behavioral Health and Recovery Services.
 - [Second Step](#) curriculum for middle school occurs during morning and afternoon class meetings.
 - One on one counseling, mentoring, referrals to outside agencies, and home visits are provided through AmeriCorp.

- PBIS is done to fidelity:
 - The PBIS team, led by the school psychologist, participates in annual retreats for strategic planning around Tier I supports. Meetings continue every other week throughout the year to discuss Tier I and Tier II students.
 - Students in Tier II receive extra support through social emotional learning strategies through Student Support Services meetings.
 - Coherence of PBIS is ensured with the support of the [Koru Strategy](#) Group.
 - The Koru Strategy was founded by Harvard University and helps districts with investing in systems change.
 - Thomas Middle School utilizes various systems assessments to track the progress of PBIS. Included in these assessments are the Tiered Fidelity Inventory (TFI), Fidelity Inventory Analysis (FIA), and the Collaborative for Academic Social Emotional Learning (CASEL).

- Combining Special Education Plan (SEP) with school wide PBIS strategies for coherence:
 - The school district works deliberately to combine district-wide PBIS strategies with the SEP to ensure program alignment. For instance, the SEP outlines measures to recognize prosocial skills with students enrolled in IEP services; those same measures/practices are used to formulate school wide plans and goals with the PBIS team.