



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

Kern County Innovative & Impactful Schools (I<sup>2</sup>S) 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.

## Morningside Elementary

**Lowest Suspension Rate - 0%**

**Lowest Chronic Absenteeism Rate - 0.7%**

**Based upon 3-year average from 2017-2020 CA School Dashboard**

Delano Union School District

Kern County

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### School Profile

Morningside Elementary School serves 554 students in grades TK-5th grade. The neighborhood school is located in the community of Delano. The school is surrounded by single family dwellings and a city park. The school was built in 2000 and includes 32 classrooms, a multi-purpose facility, a library/resource building, and an administration building.

### School Demographics

The ethnicity of the student population of Morningside Elementary is as follows: 75% Hispanic/Latino, 19% Filipino, and 3% Asian. The additional student groups from this population include: 10% Students with Disabilities, 27% English Learners, and 67% Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students.

## Self-Identified Contributing Factors

- Positive School Climate:
  - Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) program conducted a yearly School Climate Survey with their 3rd- 5th grade students. The results indicated the students with negative behaviors were receiving more attention than students with positive behaviors.
  - Morningside responded with incentives and activities to promote and reward positive behaviors.
  - After school programs and Saturday school are used as an alternative to suspensions.
  - A 3Be's assembly is held 3 times per year where students are provided with examples on how to "Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Safe".
  
- Strong communication between staff and administration helps to mitigate issues before they become serious.
  - Classroom behavior is observed and dealt with in-house as much as possible.
    - Students feel they are in a safe environment where teachers are trusted so much that students discuss feelings and/or incidents to the teachers.
    - Teachers intervene with students before escalation occurs, which includes cool down areas within classrooms, and connection to administration in real time, allowing for a quick response.
    - Although incidents of unacceptable behavior are reported to administration, teachers use the disciplinary flowchart and inform parents.
  
- Administration's response includes:
  - Principals have private conversations when inappropriate behaviors are first noticed. This is done with the least possible classroom distractions.
  - When necessary, a student may be sent to the office for a short time out.
  
- Good relationship between school and parents includes:
  - Constant communication:
    - Follow up contact is made to the family by administration and staff through phone calls, email, or class dojo.
    - Parents are welcome on campus to talk to administration and staff.
  
  - Strong parental support:
    - Parental support is sought and received.
    - School personnel are aware of students' home life and situations that may impact behavior issues on campus. In view of these personal issues, a behavior plan is developed to correct behavior.
    - Referrals for parent education and counseling services are available.

- Morningside has a system in place for early outreach to students as soon as they show signs of poor attendance.
  - Early intervention may include personalized outreach, individual attendance plans, and/or mentoring to students with moderate levels of chronic absences.
  - Additional intensive, interagency wrap-around services are provided for students with the highest level of absence.
  - Students with serious attendance problems are provided intervention(s) specific to their needs which can include:
    - family counseling
    - social worker for service connection
    - student counseling
    - basic needs
  
- Morningside's goal is to have students feel welcome as they arrive at school creating a culture of school family.
  - The students are greeted by a staff member as they arrive at the entrance of the school, which results in:
    - Students getting to know teachers other than their current teacher.
    - Students interact with custodial staff, kitchen staff, and aides who are stable components in the students' lives.
    - Staff have interactions with all students to build relationships and rapport knowing the interactions with students are important to foster not only active learning, but also school connection.
  
- SAIL (Support Analyze Initiate Launch) to Success model was developed by Morningside, piloted in 2016-2017, to set high expectations and align the goals established for the proceeding academic year.
  - The SAIL to Success model allows for consistent learning, analyzing data including attendance, and refining of practice to meet the needs of a diverse group of students creating a culture for learning.
  - Through the analysis process, a practice resulting from staff development, now informs and guides all academic and support efforts at Morningside, from the delivery of instruction to the planning of extracurricular student activities.
  - Reflection combined with action is the foundation of the SAIL to Success model, and it has enabled staff to establish and maintain a learning environment of high expectations for all students.

Morningside makes a concerted effort to help students stay engaged and motivated academically, socially, and emotionally. Students at Morningside School may face many of the challenges that can be associated with being English Learners and socioeconomically disadvantaged, but they do not allow those challenges to stand in the way of achieving their goals.

- Parents and staff collaborating to support students makes it easy to have a high attendance rate.
  - When a child is marked absent, a quick turnaround is made to check in with the parent to find out what the issue may be.
  - Parents are encouraged to make all dentist and medical appointments after school hours or during vacation days. This is not just a beginning of the year request, but made throughout the year.
  - Parents are diligent in sending their students to school as they value education.
  - Any ongoing issues for a particular student preventing regular attendance such as clothes, travel, and health are dealt with by providing parents the resources necessary. Clothes are kept and given out by office staff, bus transportation is provided when necessary, and referrals are made to community services.
  
- Students enjoy coming to school not only to learn because of the numerous activities and incentives offered:
  - There are artistic endeavors like mariachi and dance.
  - Seasonal annual events like fun days and field days are enjoyed by all, supporting attendance on a daily basis, and not just on "event" days.
  - Parent volunteers are an integral part of special events and part of a strong school family.
  - The school sponsors a variety of activities celebrating student success. Special activities are planned to acknowledge student accomplishments.
  - Each student meets with site administration to create and discuss goals.