

Joe Walker Middle School

School Accountability Report Card

Reported Using Data from the 2017-18 School Year

Published During 2018-19

By February 1 of each year, every school in California is required by state law to publish a School Accountability Report Card (SARC). The SARC contains information about the condition and performance of each California public school. Under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) all local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to prepare a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), which describes how they intend to meet annual school-specific goals for all pupils, with specific activities to address state and local priorities. Additionally, data reported in an LCAP is to be consistent with data reported in the SARC.

- For more information about SARC requirements, see the California Department of Education (CDE) SARC Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sa/>.
- For more information about the LCFF or LCAP, see the CDE LCFF Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/lc/>.
- For additional information about the school, parents/guardians and community members should contact the school principal or the district office.

DataQuest

DataQuest is an online data tool located on the CDE DataQuest Web page at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/> that contains additional information about this school and comparisons of the school to the district and the county. Specifically, DataQuest is a dynamic system that provides reports for accountability (e.g., test data, enrollment, high school graduates, dropouts, course enrollments, staffing, and data regarding English learners).

Internet Access

Internet access is available at public libraries and other locations that are publicly accessible (e.g., the California State Library). Access to the Internet at libraries and public locations is generally provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Other use restrictions may include the hours of operation, the length of time that a workstation may be used (depending on availability), the types of software programs available on a workstation, and the ability to print documents.

About This School

Contact Information (School Year 2018-19)

School Contact Information	
School Name	Joe Walker Middle School
Street	5632 W Avenue L-8
City, State, Zip	Lancaster, CA 93536
Phone Number	(661) 943-3258
Principal	Steve Wood
E-mail Address	s.wood@westside.k12.ca.us
Web Site	http://www.westside.k12.ca.us/schools
CDS Code	19-65102-6071690

District Contact Information	
District Name	Westside Union Elementary School District
Phone Number	(661) 722-0716
Superintendent	Regina Rossall
E-mail Address	r.rossall@westside.k12.ca.us
Web Site	www.westside.k12.ca.us

School Description and Mission Statement (School Year 2018-19)

School Description

Joe Walker Middle School is located in the southwest portion of the Antelope Valley at the intersection of 57th Street West and Avenue L-8. Our enrollment is 1059 students in grades six through eight. Students from Valley View Elementary, Quartz Hill Elementary and Sundown Elementary feed into Joe Walker Middle School.

The school includes 3 main buildings composed of 11 classrooms each, a shop/homemaking building, gymnasium, multipurpose cafeteria with band room and stage, and boys and girls locker rooms. There are also 13 permanent re-locatable classrooms. Included on campus are specialized rooms to accommodate library, computer lab, and Hi Tech Lab. The school also includes a concrete play area with equipment, grass athletic fields, quarter mile all weather track and outdoor picnic tables.

Mission Statement

Joe Walker Middle School provides a safe and positive environment which promotes academic success in Science, Technology, Engineering, And Learning Through Humanities. Through the collaborative efforts of school staff, students, parents, and community partners, STEALTH education creates critical thinkers, increases twenty-first century literacy, inspires creativity and develops the next generation of innovators to improve the world in which we live. At Joe Walker Middle School, student achievement is measured by a balanced assessment system using formal assessments as well as project based learning.

Vision Statement

At the 1972 dedication of Joe Walker Middle School, then-member of the Westside Union School District School Board, James Skalicky stated, "We all want the best education possible for our children; an education that creates enthusiasm and pride in one's accomplishments; one that stimulates the inner self for a desire of understanding people, cultures, society, and education itself." To fulfill this vision, Joe Walker Middle School creates a culture of success by partnering with community organizations to promote instructional relevance in our educational program. In order to best prepare our students for success with twenty-first century skills, we provide a balanced curriculum that educates the whole child combining science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with the arts and humanities. Every child will receive a STEALTH education at Joe Walker Middle School.

Student Enrollment by Grade Level (School Year 2017-18)

Grade Level	Number of Students
Grade 6	65
Grade 7	468
Grade 8	425
Total Enrollment	958

Student Enrollment by Group (School Year 2017-18)

Student Group	Percent of Total Enrollment
Black or African American	10.1
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.1
Asian	1.8
Filipino	1.8
Hispanic or Latino	42.4
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.1
White	38.2
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	48.0
English Learners	2.9
Students with Disabilities	10.9
Foster Youth	0.9

A. Conditions of Learning

State Priority: Basic

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the State priority: Basic (Priority 1):

- Degree to which teachers are appropriately assigned and fully credentialed in the subject area and for the pupils they are teaching;
- Pupils have access to standards-aligned instructional materials; and
- School facilities are maintained in good repair.

Teacher Credentials

Teachers	School			District
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2018-19
With Full Credential	36	38	39	343
Without Full Credential	1	3	1	66
Teaching Outside Subject Area of Competence (with full credential)	0	0	0	0

Teacher Misassignments and Vacant Teacher Positions

Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners	0	0	0
Total Teacher Misassignments *	0	0	0
Vacant Teacher Positions	0		0

Note: "Misassignments" refers to the number of positions filled by teachers who lack legal authorization to teach that grade level, subject area, student group, etc.

* Total Teacher Misassignments includes the number of Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners.

Quality, Currency, Availability of Textbooks and Instructional Materials (School Year 2018-19)

Year and month in which data were collected: October 2018

Westside Union School District provides all students with textbooks and other instructional materials to support the district’s adopted curricular programs. Funding is provided by the state for the acquisition of textbooks and instructional materials that are aligned with State Board adopted content standards in Reading/Language Arts/English Language Development, Mathematics, History/Social Science, and Science. The following are the instructional programs currently adopted by our district:

Subject	Textbooks and Instructional Materials/ Year of Adoption	From Most Recent Adoption?	Percent of Students Lacking Own Assigned Copy
Reading/Language Arts	TK Houghton Mifflin Splash (2012) K-5 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Journeys CA (2017) 6-8 McGraw-Hill Education, Study Sync CA (2017)	Yes	0
Mathematics	TK Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Expressions (2016) K-5 McGraw Hill, My Math (2015) 6-8 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Go Math (2015)	Yes	0
Science	K-8 Accelerate Learning, STEMscopes, California	No	0
History-Social Science	K-5 Harcourt School Publishers, Reflections California Series (2006) 6-8 McDougal Littell California Middle School Social Studies Series (2006)	Yes	0

School Facility Conditions and Planned Improvements (Most Recent Year)

Joe Walker Middle School continues to strive to provide a safe, secure, comfortable and clean environment for learning. We are committed to the health and safety of our students. We have a closed campus. Students are signed out through the office during school hours which requires identification. The halls and playgrounds are monitored by classified staff and certificated staff. We have a school intercom, which can be used as an emergency alert. Honeywell Instant Alert is provided district wide to notify parents of emergencies. In addition, campus supervisors/administrators have two-way radios for direct communication.

A major modernization was done to this school in 2007, which upgraded electrical, plumbing, HVAC, flooring, roofing, and a new hardcourt area.

School Facility Good Repair Status (Most Recent Year)

Using the **most recently collected** FIT data (or equivalent), provide the following:

- Determination of repair status for systems listed
- Description of any needed maintenance to ensure good repair
- The year and month in which the data were collected
- The overall rating

School Facility Good Repair Status (Most Recent Year)		
Year and month of the most recent FIT report: October 2018		
System Inspected	Repair Status	Repair Needed and Action Taken or Planned
Systems: Gas Leaks, Mechanical/HVAC, Sewer	Good	
Interior: Interior Surfaces	Fair	
Cleanliness: Overall Cleanliness, Pest/Vermin Infestation	Good	
Electrical: Electrical	Good	
Restrooms/Fountains: Restrooms, Sinks/Fountains	Good	
Safety: Fire Safety, Hazardous Materials	Good	
Structural: Structural Damage, Roofs	Good	
External: Playground/School Grounds, Windows/ Doors/Gates/Fences	Good	

Overall Facility Rating (Most Recent Year)

Year and month of the most recent FIT report: October 2018	
Overall Rating	Good

B. Pupil Outcomes

State Priority: Pupil Achievement

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the State priority: Pupil Achievement (Priority 4):

- **Statewide assessments** (i.e., California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress [CAASPP] System, which includes the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for students in the general education population and the California Alternate Assessments [CAAs] for English language arts/literacy [ELA] and mathematics given in grades three through eight and grade eleven. Only eligible students may participate in the administration of the CAAs. CAAs items are aligned with alternate achievement standards, which are linked with the Common Core State Standards [CCSS] for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities); and
- The percentage of students who have successfully completed courses that satisfy the requirements for entrance to the University of California and the California State University, or career technical education sequences or programs of study.

CAASPP Test Results in English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and Mathematics for All Students Grades Three through Eight and Grade Eleven

Subject	Percent of Students Meeting or Exceeding the State Standards (grades 3-8 and 11)					
	School		District		State	
	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18
English Language Arts/Literacy (grades 3-8 and 11)	56.0	50.0	47.0	48.0	48.0	50.0
Mathematics (grades 3-8 and 11)	32.0	28.0	32.0	34.0	37.0	38.0

Note: Percentages are not calculated when the number of students tested is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

Note: ELA and mathematics test results include the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment and the CAA. The "Percent Met or Exceeded" is calculated by taking the total number of students who met or exceeded the standard on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment plus the total number of students who met the standard (i.e., achieved Level 3–Alternate) on the CAAs divided by the total number of students who participated in both assessments.

CAASPP Test Results in ELA by Student Group Grades Three through Eight and Grade Eleven (School Year 2017-18)

Student Group	Total Enrollment	Number Tested	Percent Tested	Percent Met or Exceeded
All Students	970	958	98.76	50.21
Male	501	494	98.60	42.31
Female	469	464	98.93	58.62
Black or African American	106	105	99.06	17.14
American Indian or Alaska Native	--	--	--	--
Asian	17	17	100.00	70.59
Filipino	16	16	100.00	75.00
Hispanic or Latino	419	413	98.57	48.91
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	--	--	--	--
White	354	350	98.87	56.57
Two or More Races	51	50	98.04	70.00
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	460	451	98.04	36.81
English Learners	73	73	100.00	21.92
Students with Disabilities	110	109	99.09	10.09
Students Receiving Migrant Education Services	--	--	--	--
Foster Youth	15	15	100.00	20.00

Note: ELA test results include the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment and the CAA. The “Percent Met or Exceeded” is calculated by taking the total number of students who met or exceeded the standard on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment plus the total number of students who met the standard (i.e., achieved Level 3–Alternate) on the CAAs divided by the total number of students who participated in both assessments.

Note: Double dashes (--) appear in the table when the number of students is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

Note: The number of students tested includes all students who participated in the test whether they received a score or not; however, the number of students tested is not the number that was used to calculate the achievement level percentages. The achievement level percentages are calculated using only students who received scores.

**CAASPP Test Results in Mathematics by Student Group
Grades Three through Eight and Grade Eleven (School Year 2017-18)**

Student Group	Total Enrollment	Number Tested	Percent Tested	Percent Met or Exceeded
All Students	972	959	98.66	27.63
Male	502	495	98.61	24.85
Female	470	464	98.72	30.6
Black or African American	107	105	98.13	6.67
American Indian or Alaska Native	--	--	--	--
Asian	17	17	100	64.71
Filipino	16	16	100	50
Hispanic or Latino	420	415	98.81	23.61
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	--	--	--	--
White	354	349	98.59	35.82
Two or More Races	51	50	98.04	28
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	461	453	98.26	17
English Learners	73	73	100	10.96
Students with Disabilities	110	109	99.09	3.67
Students Receiving Migrant Education Services	--	--	--	--
Foster Youth	15	15	100	6.67

Note: Mathematics test results include the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment and the CAA. The “Percent Met or Exceeded” is calculated by taking the total number of students who met or exceeded the standard on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment plus the total number of students who met the standard (i.e., achieved Level 3–Alternate) on the CAAs divided by the total number of students who participated in both assessments.

Note: Double dashes (--) appear in the table when the number of students is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

Note: The number of students tested includes all students who participated in the test whether they received a score or not; however, the number of students tested is not the number that was used to calculate the achievement level percentages. The achievement level percentages are calculated using only students who received scores.

**CAASPP Test Results in Science for All Students
Grades Five, Eight, and Ten**

Subject	Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding the State Standard					
	School		District		State	
	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18
Science (grades 5, 8, and 10)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: Cells with N/A values do not require data.

Note: The 2016–17 and 2017–18 data are not available. The CDE is developing a new science assessment based on the Next Generation Science Standards for California Public Schools (CA NGSS). The CAST was pilot-tested in spring 2017 and field-tested in spring 2018. The CAST will be administered operationally during the 2018–19 school year. The CAA for Science was pilot-tested for two years (i.e., 2016–17 and 2017–18) and the CAA for Science will be field-tested in 2018–19.

Note: Science test results include the CAST and the CAA for Science. The “Percent Met or Exceeded” is calculated by taking the total number of students who met or exceeded the standard on the CAST plus the total number of students who met the standard (i.e., achieved Level 3–Alternate) on the CAA for Science divided by the total number of students who participated on both assessments.

State Priority: Other Pupil Outcomes

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the State priority: Other Pupil Outcomes (Priority 8):

- Pupil outcomes in the subject areas of physical education.

California Physical Fitness Test Results (School Year 2017-18)

Grade Level	Percent of Students Meeting Fitness Standards		
	Four of Six Standards	Five of Six Standards	Six of Six Standards
7	14.3	19.9	43.4

Note: Percentages are not calculated when the number of students tested is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

C. Engagement

State Priority: Parental Involvement

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the State priority: Parental Involvement (Priority 3):

- Efforts the school district makes to seek parent input in making decisions for the school district and each school site.

Opportunities for Parental Involvement (School Year 2018-19)

Many opportunities exist for parent involvement in Westside Union School District and at Joe Walker. At the district level parents are encouraged to participate on the District Advisory Committee. Joe Walker has various opportunities for parents to become involved. Joe Walker maintains a School Site Council and PTA, which conduct monthly meetings. Parents are encouraged to run for office and attend monthly meetings for these governing bodies. Additionally, Joe Walker provides quarterly English Language Advisory Committee meetings, bi-annual Foster Youth Outreach meetings, and bi-annual School Based Mental Health informational meetings. Parents are also welcome to volunteer to support our programs under the direct instruction of a classroom teacher. For further information please contact Shirley Hill at 943-3258.

State Priority: School Climate

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the State priority: School Climate (Priority 6):

- Pupil suspension rates;
- Pupil expulsion rates; and
- Other local measures on the sense of safety.

Suspensions and Expulsions

Rate	School			District			State		
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Suspensions	8.4	4.1	4.3	4.0	2.6	2.6	3.7	3.7	3.5
Expulsions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1

School Safety Plan (School Year 2018-19)

In compliance with Senate Bill 187 and Education Code 35294.6 each Westside School has developed a comprehensive safety plan. The elements of this plan include disaster preparedness and procedures. The Emergency Preparedness Plan is reviewed with the staff and students yearly. Routine emergency preparedness drills are conducted monthly to ensure the safety and well being of students and staff in the event that there is a need for such an evacuation.

Average Class Size and Class Size Distribution (Secondary)

Subject	2015-16				2016-17				2017-18			
	Avg. Class Size	Number of Classrooms			Avg. Class Size	Number of Classrooms			Avg. Class Size	Number of Classrooms		
		1-22	23-32	33+		1-22	23-32	33+		1-22	23-32	33+
English	29.0	3	15	12	26.0	7	13	13	28.0	5	12	15
Mathematics	28.0	4	18	10	26.0	6	18	9	28.0	5	22	6
Science	27.0	6	14	13	26.0	7	19	7	26.0	7	17	10
Social Science	28.0	4	17	10	26.0	6	19	8	27.0	6	18	9

Note: Number of classes indicates how many classrooms fall into each size category (a range of total students per classroom). At the secondary school level, this information is reported by subject area rather than grade level.

Academic Counselors and Other Support Staff (School Year 2017-18)

Title	Number of FTE Assigned to School	Average Number of Students per Academic Counselor
Academic Counselor	1	931
Counselor (Social/Behavioral or Career Development)		N/A
Library Media Teacher (Librarian)		N/A
Library Media Services Staff (Paraprofessional)	.744	N/A
Psychologist	1	N/A
Social Worker		N/A
Nurse	.50	N/A
Speech/Language/Hearing Specialist	.20	N/A
Resource Specialist (non-teaching)		N/A
Other		N/A

Note: Cells with N/A values do not require data.

*One Full Time Equivalent (FTE) equals one staff member working full time; one FTE could also represent two staff members who each work 50 percent of full time.

Expenditures per Pupil and School Site Teacher Salaries (Fiscal Year 2016-17)

Level	Expenditures Per Pupil			Average Teacher Salary
	Total	Supplemental/ Restricted	Basic/ Unrestricted	
School Site	\$9,353	\$2,293	\$7,060	\$86,308
District	N/A	N/A	\$7,060	\$78,098
Percent Difference: School Site and District	N/A	N/A	0.0	10.0
State	N/A	N/A	\$7,125	\$80,910
Percent Difference: School Site and State	N/A	N/A	7.1	9.6

Note: Cells with N/A values do not require data.

The California Department of Education issued guidance to LEAs on August 1, 2018, regarding how to calculate school-level per-pupil expenditures that will be reported on 2018-19 report cards.

Types of Services Funded (Fiscal Year 2017-18)

A range of academic and social emotional supports exist for Westside students, many of which are unique to individual school sites, tailored to meet the needs of the members of each school community. Many of these supports are provided by counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, specialists in Speech/Language/Hearing, adaptive physical education teachers, and a district behavior specialist.

Student Study and Child Study Teams assist students experiencing academic and/or social emotional challenges, those with special needs, and with assessing eligibility for placement in special classes and recommending specialized services as needed. Special services and classes are offered for students with learning disabilities as well as other students with exceptional needs.

Counseling support has been increased over the past three years. Many of the programs and services provided by counselors are unique to each school site. Programs include specific groups for strong-willed students, grief groups, students who are exhibiting signs and behaviors due to trauma, academic organization groups (addressing academic organization of assignments, goals, and expectations), community leaders to work on outreach and support, and clubs such as Student Ambassadors or Kindness. Counselors develop groups based on student data (such as referrals for threatening or self-harm behaviors and academic intervention letters) and the needs of the school site, and they embed the skills used school wide in Leadership Development Through Physical Education, AVID, and Boys Town. School counselors are assisted by a cadre of Campus Climate Assistants, highly trained paraprofessionals who provide social emotional support and structure for students during more unstructured parts of the school day like recess and lunch. Counselors and Educational Service staff members partner and collaborate regularly with community agencies to facilitate alignment and coordination of resources and supports for students and their families.

The district continues to partner with the Department of Mental Health to coordinate with local mental health agencies to provide School Based Mental Health services at all school sites for eligible students.

A behavior specialist provides student and staff support for students needing intensive behavior support and/or intervention.

Bilingual paraprofessional support staff provide assistance in the classroom for English Learners. Bilingual assistants receive ongoing professional development in the areas of: strategies to support students learning English within the classroom; review of district wide academic programs supporting English Learners; specialized language practice used for translation during parent/teacher conferences; protocols for English Learner identification; and criteria for student reclassification.

Several programs, designed to build students' emotional intelligence and capacity and to promote positive and proactive social decision making, reduce bullying, and build an inclusive culture have been implemented districtwide. Two of these are BoysTown (implemented in grades Kindergarten through 8) and Leadership Development through Physical Education for students in grades 4, 5, and 6.

A variety of online mathematics (i.e. Big Brains and ALEKS) and reading intervention (i.e. FastForWord) programs are accessible for students. In addition to being used during the school day, students can also access these programs from home.

Extended learning opportunities like before/after school tutoring and/or lunch time Learning Lab support are offered at all sites. Learning Labs provide support with homework and opportunities for collaborative learning sessions. Tutoring may provide review of foundational skills, frontloading of key skills and concepts, and/or homework assistance. Five days of intersession support is provided for middle school students during each spring and summer intersession. An Extended School Year program is available for those students with disabilities who qualify. A traditional district wide summer school program is on hold for the summer of 2018 due to significant maintenance and repairs at school sites. In lieu of the summer school program for elementary students, optional interactive Summer Learning Kits were purchased for parents and caregivers to use with their students over the summer intersession. The Kits contained games, tools, and materials to sharpen and support reading, writing, and math skills. Additionally, the district offered it's third summer KinderCamp during the summer. The three-day experience is designed to provide an opportunity for incoming Kindergarteners and their parents to learn about Kindergarten expectations in a day camp-type environment.

Teacher and Administrative Salaries (Fiscal Year 2016-17)

Category	District Amount	State Average for Districts In Same Category
Beginning Teacher Salary	\$43,670	\$50,084
Mid-Range Teacher Salary	\$79,482	\$80,256
Highest Teacher Salary	\$102,882	\$100,154
Average Principal Salary (Elementary)	\$121,629	\$125,899
Average Principal Salary (Middle)	\$125,877	\$130,255
Average Principal Salary (High)	\$0	\$128,660
Superintendent Salary	\$228,112	\$222,447
Percent of Budget for Teacher Salaries	36.0	37.0
Percent of Budget for Administrative Salaries	5.0	5.0

For detailed information on salaries, see the CDE Certificated Salaries & Benefits Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/cs/>.

Professional Development (Most Recent Three Years)

Westside Union School District offers on-going professional learning and training opportunities for teachers, administrators, and para-educators.

The goal of professional learning is to provide staff members the support that they need to meet the diverse educational needs of Westside students. To that end, professional learning opportunities target four major areas of instructional focus for the 2016-2017 school year:

- critical reading and writing in and across all content areas
- inquiry grounded in evidence from text and other sources
- rigor and real-world application in all content areas
- integration of technology by teachers and students through lesson presentations and student products

Added to this list during the 2017-2018 school year, and serving as the key area of professional development and support for the 2018-2019 school year is:

- use of assessment data, particularly common formative assessment data, to guide and inform instruction.

Teachers, classified instructional classroom support staff, and site administrators are provided four days of professional development each year. These days are calendared work days. For all groups, two of the days are dedicated to issues and needs related specifically to our English Learners, foster youth, or other at-risk students. For teachers and site administrators, two of the four days are devoted to building their capacity to use data, particularly formative assessment data, to inform instruction. For classified instructional staff, two days were devoted a to a variety of topics including trauma-informed support for at-risk youth; BoysTown; Leadership Development through Physical Education; and meeting the academic needs of students with exceptional needs.

Teachers are also encouraged to engage in optional professional learning opportunities that relate to their specific teaching assignment. Teachers are compensated at a contractual hourly rate for their participation in these sessions. During the 2016-2017 school year Westside teachers participated in 1300 such opportunities; 1500 during the 2017-2018.

Similar opportunities are provided for our site administrators. Most regularly attend applicable ACSA Academies. All site and district level administrators completed ACSA's Equity Academy during the 2016-2017 school year. 80% of the district's site administrators are participating in an ACSA academy during the 2018-2019 school year.

Deepening staff members' understanding of the state standards in English Language Arts and mathematics and the Next Generation Science Standards and best practices associated with the effective implementation of these standards has been a major emphasis for the past three years. All K- 6 teachers (general education and special education) and administrators received training in the Westside Writing program. (Six Westside Writing teacher trainers have been certified and Thinking Maps Trainer of Training in order to incorporate Thinking Maps into the district writing program.) All 6th – 8th grade teachers received training through the Los Angeles County Office of Education in the Next Generation Science Standards. These professional learning opportunities have improved the quality of the district's instructional program by improving its alignment with the new state standards.

New English Language Arts/English Language Development materials were adopted spring 2016. All Kindergarten–6th grade teachers, Special Day Class (SDC), and middle school mathematics teachers received training in the newly adopted materials during the 2016-2017 school year.

Districtwide implementation of AVID has proven to be a highly effective in helping staff and students address the district's areas of instructional focus at both the elementary and secondary level. AVID's kindergarten through higher education system brings research-based curriculum and strategies to students each day that develop critical thinking, literacy, and math skills across all content areas. There are AVID-trained teachers at each of the district's twelve sites. AVID training and support is robust and ongoing. Teachers and administrators participate regularly in professional development opportunities provided by Educational Services staff members, LACOE, and AVID. Day-to-day professional development is supported by the AVID school site team. Each AVID school site team participates in four AVID Collaborative Rounds (4 days for each site), which focuses on the cycle of continuous growth and improvement. Time is dedicated to implementation walks, the development of site goals, analysis of data/findings, and documentation of next steps. Team collaboration and support will continue in the same manner for the 2018-2019 school year.

All middle school and elementary sites have a cadre of teachers who have received training in Project Lead the Way (middle) or Launch! (elementary) training. Project Lead the Way is a hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) curriculum that nurtures and develops students' problem-solving and critical thinking skills through the investigation of real-world problems. There are three phases to Project Lead the Way professional development: Readiness, Core, and On-going training. Westside teachers are provided the opportunity to participate in the phase most appropriate for them.

Work in building assessment literacy of teachers continued during the 2017-2018 school year. Elementary teachers (both general education and special education) participated in two days of assessment literacy training led by the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and her staff. This work built upon the work done with LACOE's BEAL (Building Educator Assessment Literacy), Stanford's Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity (SCALE), and Leadership and Learning's Data Teams work started in 2016-2017. During the 2018-2019 school year Data Teams from four the district's school sites meet regularly with a consultant from the International Center for Leadership and Learning to build their capacity to use formative assessment to guide and inform daily instruction.

Districtwide implementation of BoysTown's Well-Managed Schools continues. The Well-Managed Schools program introduces participants to the Boys Town Education Model®, a school-based intervention program that provides all students with the positive behavior support they need to succeed. The Model is a proactive, people-centered solution to classroom challenges that empowers students and staff to create and sustain a positive school culture. Initial training is supported with in-class coaching. Additionally, SDC teams (teachers and paraprofessionals) from classrooms with students faced with severe behavioral challenges several certificated and classified staff members participate in a more intensive 5-day Specialized Classroom Management training. Site administrators have completed the Administrative Intervention® training.

The district has developed a robust system for new teacher support including 1:1 support, Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), and direct classroom support. Full-time release support for general education and special education interns was implemented during the 2016-2017 school year with great success. The program was further modified during the 2017-2018 school year to include full-time release support providers for participants in the New Teacher Induction Program. New teachers are assigned a mentor/coach dependent upon their credential status. Every new teacher is supported weekly at their site by their mentor/coach with the focus of support being aligned to their goal and individual support plan. Full time administrators/coaches also support the pre-interns and interns based upon the requirements of their university's memorandum of understanding and the requirements of the CTC. The pre-intern and intern teachers participate in biweekly professional development based upon the district initiatives as well as their unique developmental needs. Teachers holding a Preliminary credential are supported by teachers on special assignment who serve as full time Support Providers. Those holding a Preliminary credential attend a series of six professional development opportunities specially designed and aligned with the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTPs). For veteran teachers needing additional support, the Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) program is designed to improve the education of students by providing opportunities for additional training for all teachers.

Professional learning opportunities are provided through a variety of formats including: conference/institute attendance, in-district training delivered by consultants and or district staff members with release time for teachers, staff meetings, and individual and small group coaching. Curriculum Resource Teachers, under the direction of the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, provide much of the individual and small group coaching support. This is especially true in the area of integration of classroom technology tools to support teaching and learning. During the 2017-2018 school year the district began developing and supporting a cadre of teacher leaders to serve as instructional coaches at the school sites. These site-level teacher instructional leaders will support their colleagues in utilizing instructional strategies that promote equitable access of the district's curricular programs for low income, foster, and English Learner youth.

Instructional administrators meet monthly to share best practices related to areas of instructional focus and leadership for meaningful change in educational systems. All instructional administrators are encouraged to (and supported in) participating in professional learning opportunities to deepen their instructional leadership talents and skills, including the professional academies sponsored by ACSA, the Association of California School Administrators. During the 2016-2017 school year all principals, vice principals, Cabinet members, and certificated directors and coordinators participated in ACSA's Equity Leader's Academy, designed to build leadership capacity around cultural proficiency.