

Ezequiel A. Balderas School

Ezequiel A. Balderas Elementary School, located at 4625 E. Florence Avenue, is in the southeastern section of Fresno. The campus completed in August, 1991, was the first school built specifically to accommodate a four-track, year-round schedule.

The multilingual and culturally diverse Balderas student population offers the unique opportunity to both value and develop respect, pride, and an appreciation for the linguistic and cultural diversity of the school and community. The Balderas program actively promotes the study of the development of bilingualism and foreign languages.

The school was named after Ezequiel Balderas, an outreach consultant with Fresno Unified School District. "Zeke" died in 1989 at the age of 38 of complications of leukemia. He believed that no matter how poor a student was or how uneducated the parents happened to be, that every student should have a good education. During his 18 years with the school district, he recruited student teachers from Fresno State to volunteer in classes, coordinated numerous parent participation programs, organized cultural activities and arranged fund raisers. He believed education should be a team effort, that parents and the community should be involved too.