

Cooper School

This school site is named for Dr. William John Cooper who was one of the most distinguished administrators to serve the district as superintendent. He served in this capacity from 1921 to 1926, and then moved to San Diego as superintendent of that school district. He remained in San Diego only a short time, when he was appointed California State Superintendent of Public Instruction. In 1929, President Coolidge appointed Cooper to the United States Commissioner of Education, and he was re-appointed to this post by President Hoover. He resigned as U.S. Commissioner in 1933 to accept a position as professor of education at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., which he occupied until his untimely death in 1935. He was widely known nationally and internationally in educational circles.

Prior to being appointed to the Fresno Unified School District superintendent, Cooper served in a similar capacity in the schools of Piedmont and earlier as an administrator at schools in Stockton, Berkeley, and Oakland, and as an instructor at the University of California at Berkeley, Department of History. He received his collegiate and professional educational at the same institution and was a native of California. While in Fresno he instituted wide curriculum reforms and guided an extensive plant expansion in the local district.

This school site is located at 2277 West Bellaire Way and is currently serving as Cooper Academy Charter School. It is first listed in the Fresno Unified School District directory during the school year 1959-60.

