

Isaac Fesler Junior High School

Principal: Heather Paige

Grant: California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) — Updated Implementation Plan 2025–2026

Goals and Priorities

Isaac Fesler Junior High School is seeking to continue and strengthen its investment in building a whole-child focused community school. We recognize that the key components of a community school include integrated student support, family and community engagement, collaborative leadership practices, and extended learning opportunities. With the continued support of a Community Schools Specialist, we are deepening our implementation across all five Capacity-Building Strategies: Shared Commitment, Centering Community-Based Learning, Collaborative Leadership, Sustaining Staff and Resources, and Strategic Community Partnerships.

School Overview, Needs and Assets

We serve a beautifully diverse community, including significant populations of students who have been historically underserved:

Student Population Demographics

- 97.9% Hispanic, 0.2% Native American
- 96.7% eligible for free or reduced lunch
- 38.6% English learners
- 9.6.2% students with IEPs
- 0.5% foster youth

Our mission is to provide an equitable and inclusive education that meets the needs of every child in our diverse learning community. To gain deeper insights into the needs of our students and community, we conducted and continue to update our comprehensive needs and assets assessment using multiple sources and platforms. These include our district's LCAP survey, our Panorama climate and culture survey, CA Dashboard indicators, NWEA MAP data, and in-depth needs and assets assessment workshops.

Summary of Assets

We have invested significantly in our school model to support our student population. The following systems of support are in place and have been strengthened through CCSPP implementation:

- Foundational MTSS systems where students are identified, a multi-skilled team collaborates to support, and tiered interventions are implemented

- Three full-time counselors supporting students experiencing challenging personal and academic situations
- Strong PBIS and restorative justice framework beginning to show reductions in suspension rates
- Parent and community partner forums (ELAC & SSC) supporting collaborative decision-making
- Professional Learning Communities ensuring data-driven dialogue in team meetings
- Community Schools Specialist coordinating integrated student supports and community engagement

Summary of Needs Assessment

Despite our assets and progress, we continue to have significant needs that we are working to address holistically:

- Suspension rates reached 15% in 2022–23 and 12% in 2023–24; rates remain significantly above state averages
- EL suspension rates are particularly elevated; targeted restorative and culturally responsive approaches are needed
- Chronic absenteeism and student disengagement persist post-pandemic; re-connection and attendance strategies needed
- Academic proficiency gaps for ELs and students with IEPs require targeted intervention monitoring

Core Commitments

As a leadership team, we are deeply committed to the Cornerstone Commitments identified in the CCSPP Framework. Our commitments continue to evolve as we deepen implementation:

- **Assets-Driven and Strength-Based Practice:** Our community's resilience and cultural wealth enrich our educational environment. We integrate family strengths and experiences into our teaching approach, creating an inclusive ecosystem where diverse capabilities and cultural knowledge enhance learning for all.
- **Racially Just and Restorative School Climate:** Our school prioritizes restorative practices and positive behavior support to foster student growth, build strong relationships, and create a welcoming community where students feel valued, understood, and empowered.
- **Culturally Proficient and Relevant Instruction:** Through professional development and data-driven practices, we build cultural competency, support English learners, and celebrate student identities throughout their academic journey.
- **Shared Decision Making:** Our governance model incorporates education partners' voices through site councils, leadership teams, and parent advisory groups. Our community schools steering committee uses collective expertise to set strategic priorities.

Measurable Goals and Activities

Using these grant funds, our school will continue investing in the following community school priorities:

- A Community Schools Specialist to coordinate the implementation of our site plans
- Ongoing professional development and training to ensure all staff members are aligned and committed to the core aspects of our community school practices
- Expanded extracurricular activities that reflect our students' interests and nurture their aspirations
- Expanded staffing to support the specialized learning needs of our student population, including English Learners and students with IEPs
- A comprehensive social-emotional growth program where students can share their emotional wellbeing and also build critical SEL skills over time
- Hire and/or extend the work year of community liaisons to support the significant needs of our school community
- Expand restorative justice programming to reduce suspensions from school
- Time for classified staff to be fully trained in inclusive and restorative practices
- Ensure family and student access to community services both within and beyond the school day

In support of our updated plan, we have established the following clear and measurable goals for 2025–2026 and beyond:

- Suspension rate reduced by at least 4 percentage points by end of 2026–27; restorative alternatives implemented school-wide
- 100% of students have access to Tier I SEL supports; MTSS expanded to include emotional wellbeing data inputs
- EL suspension rate approaches state average through targeted culturally responsive supports
- Chronic absenteeism rate reduced through targeted outreach and re-engagement strategies
- A site steering committee established by July 31, 2026, with diverse stakeholder representation
- Family engagement score on Panorama Parent Survey increases by 10% by end of 2026–27

2025–2026 Goal Analysis and Continuous Improvement Reflection

In 2025–2026, Fesler Junior High made meaningful progress in reducing suspension rates through expanded restorative practices and strengthened COST/MTSS team coordination. The CSS deepened relationships with families and supported school climate improvement efforts. Panorama and CHKS data guided reflection and decision-making. Priorities for 2026–27 include sustaining the downward suspension trend, expanding mental health access, and strengthening academic supports for ELs.

Coherence Policy and Initiative — LCAP Connections

Our community school goals are fully aligned with our district's LCAP, specifically under these goals and action steps:

LCAP Goal	Supporting Action Steps
LCAP Goal 1: We will engage families and communities to fulfill our mission.	• Sustain multilingual family engagement and communication programming • Build partnerships that connect families with resources and school governance • Foster culturally responsive relationships with all school community members
LCAP Goal 3: We will provide structures and facilities to support inclusive learning experiences.	• Expand restorative practices as the primary response to student behavioral needs • Develop targeted academic supports for ELs and students with IEPs • Implement COST/MTSS with emotional wellbeing and attendance data inputs
LCAP Goal 4: We will nurture the whole child.	• Expand mental health and wellness services through FSA and community partnerships • Integrate SEL into daily advisory and instructional structures • Create safe, welcoming environments where students feel connected and engaged

Strategic Community Partnerships

We continue to partner with the following organizations to support our community schools model and implement our shared vision:

- **Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley (FBSMV):** Focusing on the whole child, including academic success, character development, teen substance abuse education/prevention, and improving family engagement.
- **Family Service Agency (FSA):** Offering mental health services and extensive trilingual basic needs support and parent education for Santa Maria-Bonita's children and families.
- **Effective School Solutions (ESS):** Through a collaborative Wellness Coach program, supporting academic growth, positive and sustained behavioral outcomes, and social and emotional wellbeing for students.
- **Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA):** Offering tailored programs and services focused on the education, prevention, and treatment of substance abuse and co-occurring mental health conditions affecting youth and adults.
- **CommUnify / Familias Segura:** A family-centered violence prevention collaboration addressing the root causes of violence in Santa Maria, focusing on students aged 10–14 and providing wraparound services including trauma-informed therapy, mentoring, and intensive case management.