



Fern Drive
Julie Lucas, Principal

School Mission/Vision/Demographics

Fern Drive Elementary School, nestled in the heart of Fullerton, California, is a vibrant and diverse learning community that serves approximately 374 students in grades TK–6. As part of the Fullerton School District, Fern Drive is committed to fostering the academic, social, and emotional growth of every child.

The school's mission is deeply rooted in preparing students to become the leaders of tomorrow. With a strong emphasis on developing a growth mindset, empathy, and a passion for lifelong learning, Fern Drive cultivates an environment where students feel empowered to explore, take risks, and thrive. The vision is clear: to nurture well-rounded individuals who are not only academically prepared but also socially conscious and emotionally resilient.

Fern Drive's student body reflects the rich cultural diversity of the Fullerton community. Nearly half of the students identify as Hispanic (51%), followed by White (24%), Asian (14%), and multiracial (10%) students. A smaller percentage identify as American Indian (2%). With 55% of students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch, the school is also keenly aware of the needs of its socioeconomically diverse population and works diligently to ensure equitable access to learning opportunities and resources for all.

Under the leadership of Principal Julie Lucas, Fern Drive Elementary continues to build a strong sense of community, where academic excellence and social-emotional learning go hand in hand. The school is more than a place for education—it's a place where students are seen, supported, and inspired to become the best versions of themselves.





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School Data

Fern Drive Elementary's 2025-26 i-Ready data demonstrates steady academic growth in both reading and math. Reading proficiency rose from 33% to 53%, and math from 20% to 42% between fall and spring. While these gains are encouraging, achievement gaps persist for English Learners, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students. For example, our students with disabilities and our English learners made the lowest gains in math while our 6th grade students made the least amount of gains in reading.

The strongest gains were our English Learners and LTELs in reading and in math, our LTELs once again made the strongest gains. 66% of all students met their individual growth goals in reading and 54% of all students met their growth goal in math, underscoring the need for continued, targeted interventions and strong tier I instruction.

To accelerate academic progress and close learning gaps, Fern Drive utilizes a range of instructional tools, including i-Ready Reading and Math, IXL, Reflex, Simple Solutions, and Seesaw. These platforms support differentiated instruction tailored to individual student needs.

Student engagement is further supported through before- and after-school enrichment programs such as Robotics, Student Council, and Speech & Debate. Special events—including our monthly Read with A Loved One, Trunk or Treat, Falcon Dash, Spring Festival, monthly Gotcha Store, trimester Steam Lunches and Student Council lunch activities, weekly school-wide flag assembly celebrating our Pippin' awards and our attendance incentive programs—help build a positive school culture and support student motivation.

In alignment with our commitment to the whole child, Fern Drive employs 2 Mental Health Associates (MHA) who provide targeted social-emotional support through programs like Lunch Bunch, individual counseling, classroom SEL lessons and small group interventions. Together, these academic and SEL strategies reflect the school's ongoing focus on equity, achievement, and creating a safe, inclusive learning environment for all students.

Fiscal Information

Budget Information	
LCFF Supplemental	\$109,448
LCFF Base	\$50,827
Title I	\$98,308

SPSA Goal	Total Expenditures
Goal 1	\$234,721
Goal 2	\$9,019
Goal 3	\$13,562
Goal 4	\$1,281



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Goal 1: Student Achievement

Fern Drive Elementary's 2026–27 Goal 1 focuses on increasing student achievement in ELA and math by improving overall proficiency and closing performance gaps for all student groups. The school aims to increase SBAC Distance from Standard by at least 3 points, improve i-Ready performance by 10%, and strengthen English Learner progress on the ELPAC, while also targeting early literacy by reducing the number of second-grade students scoring “not mastered”. In response to current data indicating ELA performance in the Orange range and math in Yellow, Fern Drive is implementing targeted, data-driven strategies including biweekly PLC collaboration supported by release time, focused professional development, and a strong RtI framework. Intervention supports such as a math RTI teacher, instructional aides, and research-based programs including OG/IMSE, Read Naturally, and Sonday are used to address student needs, with K–3 teachers emphasizing foundational literacy through OG strategies. These efforts are further supported by instructional technology, enrichment opportunities, updated materials, and strong home-school partnerships, reflecting Fern Drive's commitment to equity, growth, and student success.

Goal 2: Digital and Informational Literacy

Fern Drive Elementary's Goal 2 focuses on ensuring all students develop strong technology and digital literacy skills through access to high-quality tools and engaging STEAM experiences. The school provides weekly, standards-based instruction in a dedicated STEAM Lab led by a Focus Teacher, while also supporting student growth in communication and leadership through a Speech and Debate program. To strengthen instructional practices, teachers participate in ongoing professional development, including technology-focused conferences, and are supported by a Technology I staff member who ensures reliable access to digital resources. The school prioritizes the maintenance and replacement of devices such as iPads, laptops, and instructional technology to guarantee equitable access for all students. Through this strategic integration of technology, professional learning, and hands-on STEAM instruction, Fern Drive enhances student engagement and prepares learners with the 21st-century skills needed for future success.



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Goal 3: Safe and Secure Environment

Fern Drive Elementary's Goal 3 centers on maintaining a safe, welcoming, and inclusive school environment that supports students' academic, social, and emotional well-being. The school continues to prioritize a strong PBIS framework—earning Platinum recognition—and reinforces schoolwide expectations of being respectful, responsible, and safe through assemblies, SEL instruction using Second Step, and restorative practices. Students are recognized through programs such as Pippin' Awards, monthly character awards, and positive office referrals, while additional supports like Lunch Bunch groups address social-emotional and behavioral needs. To further strengthen school climate, Fern Drive focuses on improving attendance through incentives, family engagement, and Saturday School opportunities, while maintaining a comprehensive Safe School Plan that includes regular emergency drills, updated safety procedures, and increased campus supervision. These coordinated efforts reflect a strong commitment to student safety, positive relationships, and a connected home-school community.

Goal 4: Parent and Community Engagement

Fern Drive Elementary's Goal 4 emphasizes strong parent and community engagement as a vital component of student success, fostering a welcoming, "family-like" environment built on meaningful home-school partnerships. The school prioritizes clear, consistent communication through multiple platforms, including the weekly "News From the Nest" newsletter, Seesaw, and other digital tools, as well as systems like the Wednesday Green Folder to ensure families stay informed and connected. Opportunities for engagement are expanded through events such as Coffee with the Principal, PTA and Foundation activities, and family-centered celebrations that strengthen relationships and school pride. With a dedicated, tenured staff and a focus on inclusive practices, Fern Drive continues to enhance communication, increase participation, and remove barriers for all families, ensuring a strong, collaborative community that supports student learning, belonging, and long-term success.

Targeted Title I/Educational Partners

For the 2026-27 school year, Fern Drive Elementary will strategically use Title I Targeted funds to support academic achievement and close the achievement gap for identified students. These funds will be used to hire a part-time teacher who will provide math intervention and support for targeted students. Remaining funds will be allocated to hire a part-time instructional assistant who will work directly with these students through a push-in model, focusing on supporting our English learners within the general education classroom. Any additional funds will be used to purchase instructional resources and materials to further support these students' academic growth. This will be Fern Drive's second year qualifying for Title I Targeted funding, and we anticipate that these added supports and resources will have a significant positive impact on student learning and success.