



SUNSET LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Sue Faassen, Principal

Learning for a Lifetime

School Accountability Report Card 1997-98

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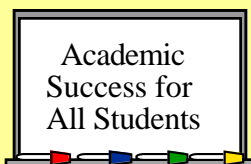
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A Message from the Principal

It is the mission of Sunset Lane Elementary School to maintain high academic standards, ensure ongoing student progress and instill a love of learning for a lifetime. The School Accountability Report Card is a summary report of a variety of areas in our educational program. If you would like additional information on any of these areas, please feel free to call the principal at Sunset Lane Elementary School.

School Description

Sunset Lane Elementary School is located in the northern section of Fullerton, one of 18 schools in the Fullerton School District. Approximately 717 students attend Sunset Lane Elementary School. The ethnic breakdown of the student body is 32.6% White, 54.4% Asian, 10.3% Hispanic and 2.6% other. Sunset Lane Elementary School's staff includes 28 classroom teachers and three certificated support personnel. The staff also includes the principal.

In addition to ethnic diversity, the student body at Sunset Lane Elementary School has 208 students whose English proficiency is limited. These students speak more than seven different languages, with Korean and Spanish representing the largest language groups.

Teachers' Assignments

The State Department of Education requires all teachers to have a completed Bachelors degree plus 30 additional units of credit to be certificated to teach in California public schools. Teaching assignments are made by the school principal. All Sunset Lane Elementary School's teachers were appropriately credentialed as indicated by the chart below. Specialized credentials include: special education, bilingual, cross-cultural language acquisition, and library media.

	1997-98	1996-97	1995-96
Credentialed Teachers	28	27	24
Emergency Credentials	0	0	0
Without Credentials	0	0	0
Outside Subject Area	0	0	0
Masters Degree or higher	9	7	6
Specialized Credentials	3	n/a	n/a

District Expenditures

In 1996-97, the district spent an average of \$4350 per student. In 1996-97, the district received \$1.2 million in lottery funds which represented 2% of General Fund income for that year. Program expenditure data are for 1996-97. School Based Coordinated Program (SBCP) is a combination of state allocated funds to support academic achievement for students. SBCP funds offer Sunset Lane Elementary School the flexibility to serve all students.

<u>Program</u>	<u>Number of Pupils</u>	<u>Funds</u>
School Based Coordinated Program	717	\$132,231

Student Achievement

The Stanford 8 Achievement Test (SAT 8) was administered to students in grades 2-6 in the spring of 1997. The SAT 8 was administered to grades 3 and 6 in the spring of 1996. No district wide elementary school test results are available for spring 1995. Results of these tests are used to evaluate the instructional program and to assist in planning program improvements for our students. Sunset Lane students continue to rank significantly above the national average on standardized achievement tests. Reading comprehension continues to be our area of focus, with math being our area of strength. Standardized tests provide one measure of assessing student performance while the school uses a wide variety of additional measures, including ongoing diagnostic assessment in grades kindergarten through six. The following charts present:

- 1996-97 test results by grade level
- 1995-96 test results for grades 3 and 6
- Scores reported in average percentile ranks

50th percentile rank is the average score achieved by students in the same grade across the country

1996-1997			
	Reading	Language	Mathematics
2	43	57	60
3	50	49	66
4	56	60	70
5	38	56	70
6	67	71	84

1995-96			
	Reading Comprehension	Language Mech	Mathematics
3	55	54	70
	Total Reading	Language Mech	Mathematics
6	70	75	87

Please note that scores reported for the 1996-97 school year exclude students exempted by parent request, non-English speaking students, some special education students, and students tested only in Spanish.

Scores reported for the 1995-96 school year exclude the scores of students judged by school staff to be unable to complete a valid test due to limited English language capability, serious learning or physical disabilities or other interfering factors.

Class Size

At Sunset Lane Elementary School the ratio of students per teacher varies by the grade level taught. The state Class Size Reduction (CSR) program (20:1 ratio) was first implemented in grade one in the fall of 1996 and grade two in 1997. Kindergarten differs in that the full class has two teachers for one-half of each day, as required by CSR Option 2. The charts below display the average class size by grade level for the last three years and the percent of time in CSR.

1997-98		
	Average	% in CSR
K	28	50
K (am)	17	100
K (pm)	10	100
1	20	100
2	20	100
3	31	
4	30	
4/5	27	
5	30	
6	30	

1996-97		
	Average	% in CSR
K	28	
1	17	100
2	31	
3	30	
3/4	30	
4	27	
4/5	30	
5	32	
6	28	

1995-96	
	Average
K	28
1	31
1/2	31
2	31
2/3	29
3	30
4	32
5	32
6	27

Instructional Minutes and Minimum Days

There were a total of 12 minimum days at Sunset Lane Elementary School during the 1997-98 school year. Nine of these days were used for parent-teacher conferences. The accompanying chart displays the number of instructional minutes offered in this school year by grade level compared with the total number of instructional minutes required by law.

Grade Level	Instructional Minutes	Required Minutes
K	36,000	36,000
1-3	51,300	50,400
4-6	54,900	54,000

Instructional Materials

Sunset Lane Elementary School and the Fullerton School District set a high priority upon ensuring that there are sufficient textbooks and materials to support each school's basic instructional program.

- Teachers, parents, and administrators are involved in textbook adoptions.
- Subject area textbook adoptions occur on a seven-year cycle determined by the California Department of Education.
- A District Educational Media Center and District Library are available to all staff.
- Sunset Lane Elementary School's Media Center provides teacher and student access to:
 - Supplemental curriculum materials
 - Library books and research materials
 - Computers
 - Internet access

Substitute Teachers

- The school district maintains a list of qualified substitute teachers.
- Two hundred forty teachers are on the district substitute list.
- During 1996-97 school year, substitute teachers were always available for Sunset Lane Elementary School.

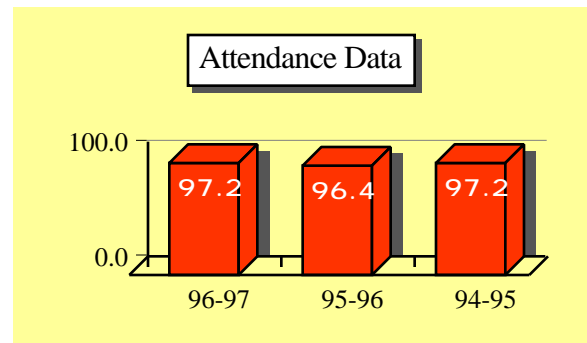
Student Support Services

A variety of support services are available at Sunset Lane Elementary School.

- Resource Specialist
- Speech and Language Specialist
- School Psychologist - two days a week
- Media Assistants - two part time
- Student Intervention Team to discuss students with academic and behavioral difficulties.

Student Attendance

School attendance patterns are important identifiers of students who are at risk of dropping out of school in the junior high or high school years. Sunset Lane Elementary School carefully monitors student attendance to identify those students exhibiting excessive absences. The chart below displays Sunset Lane Elementary School's total student attendance rate for the past three years.



Sunset Lane Elementary School also attempts to assist students with excessively high unexcused absentee rates. Emphasis is put on the importance of being at school and on time. Students who continue to have excessive unexcused absences are referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). The chart below displays the number of students for the past three years with high unexcused absentee rates. Since the primary source of state income to schools is based upon attendance, the higher the unexcused absence rate, the less income the school district receives.

Unexcused Absences	Number of Students		
	1996-97	1995-96	1994-95
10-15	12	6	12
16-20	3	0	2
21 or more	1	1	0

During the 1996-97 school year, Sunset Lane Elementary School added 77 students (10.9%) and dropped 77 students (10.9%).

Climate For Learning

Sunset Lane Elementary School's educational environment has a strong academic focus. Students are rewarded for their efforts through:

- Strong academic focus
- High standards for student behavior
- Students rewarded for their efforts with weekly Principal Awards and trimester Seahawk Awards

Students can participate in:

- Student Council (grades 4-6)
- D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) grade 6
- Conflict Management (grades 3-6)
- Math Field Day and Math Olympiad (grades 4-6)

Our schoolwide discipline plan ensures a safe, orderly environment for all students and employees. Expectations for student behavior, as well as rewards and consequences, are clearly communicated to parents and students.

	1996-97	1995-96	1994-95
Suspensions	10	2	3
Expulsions	2	0	1

Quality of Instructional Leadership

Sunset Lane Elementary School has a comprehensive school plan which addresses the strengths and weaknesses of the overall school program. In addition, every four years, a Program Quality Review is conducted at each school site.

Teacher Evaluation, Professional Improvement, Training and Curriculum Improvement

- Administrators evaluate teachers annually based on State Education Code requirements, provisions of the certificated contract agreement, and district policy.
- This year district and site level curriculum work focused on:
 - Standards/Assessment/Accountability via the School Plan
 - Selection and purchase of English/Language Arts (including Spanish and English language development) adoption materials
 - Implementation of the Reading Initiative
 - Collection of multiple student assessment data by class/grade
 - Analysis of standardized test results (one Staff Development Day)
 - Implementation of the English/Language Arts and Math Core Curriculum
- Teachers at Sunset Lane Elementary School attended workshops and training in:
 - GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design)
 - Phonics and Guided Reading
 - Newly developed district assessments
 - Newly developed and implemented Speaking Rubric for our Program Quality Review (one Staff Development Day)

Professional growth training and inservices took place during restructured Wednesdays, after school, during the two non-student days, and with some teacher release time. The following chart shows the annual number of school days dedicated to staff development for the most recent three years.

1997-98	1996-97	1995-96
2	4	2

Safety, Cleanliness and Adequacy of School Facilities

Safety of students and staff is a primary concern of the Fullerton School District. All schools in the district are in compliance with all laws, rules and regulations pertaining to hazardous materials and state earthquake standards. A disaster preparedness plan is in place for emergencies. A day custodian and an evening custodian are assigned to the school to ensure that classrooms and restrooms are cleaned. A scheduled maintenance program is administered by the Fullerton School District to ensure that all classrooms and facilities are maintained to a degree of adequacy that provides for good learning.

Salary and Budget Information

Salary data are reported for the 1996-97 school year, the most recent year statewide averages are available. The district spent 41.9% of the total district budget on teachers' salaries as compared to the statewide average of 45%. 5.78% of the total district budget was spent on administrators' salaries as compared to the statewide average of 5.34%.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Average District Salary</u>	<u>Average State Salary</u>
Principal	\$67,255	\$71,543
Superintendent	\$101,640	\$101,271
Teacher - Beginning	\$28,182	\$28,974
Teacher - Mid-Range	\$42,697	\$47,464
Teacher - Highest	\$57,212	\$55,623