

Walter F. Dexter Middle School

School Accountability Report Card

Reported Using Data from the 2011-12 School Year

Published During 2012-13

Every school in California is required by state law to publish a School Accountability Report Card (SARC), by February 1 of each year. The SARC contains information about the condition and performance of each California public school.

- For more information about SARC requirements, see the California Department of Education (CDE) SARC webpage at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sa/>.
- For additional information about the school, parents and community members should contact the school principal or the district office.

I. Data and Access

EdData Partnership Web Site

EdData is a partnership of the CDE, EdSource, and the Fiscal Crisis Management and Assistance Team (FCMAT) that provides extensive financial, demographic, and performance information about California's public kindergarten through grade twelve school districts and schools.

DataQuest

DataQuest is an online data tool located on the CDE DataQuest webpage at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/> that contains additional information about this school and comparisons of the school to the district, the county, and the state. Specifically, DataQuest is a dynamic system that provides reports for accountability (e.g., state Academic Performance Index [API], federal Adequate Yearly Progress [AYP]), test data, enrollment, high school graduates, dropouts, course enrollments, staffing, and data regarding English learners.

Internet Access

Internet access is available at public libraries and other locations that are publicly accessible. Access to the Internet at libraries and public locations is generally provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Other use restrictions may include the hours of operation, the length of time that a workstation may be used (depending on availability), the types of software programs available on a workstation, and the ability to print documents.

II. About This School

Contact Information (School Year 2012-13)

School Contact Information	
School Name	Walter F. Dexter Middle School
Street	11532 East Floral Dr.
City, State, Zip	Whittier, CA, 90601
Phone Number	562.789.3090
Principal	Diana Medina-Kinnart
E-mail Address	dkinnart@whittiercity.net
CDS Code	19651106023725

District Contact Information	
District Name	Whittier City Elementary School District
Phone Number	562.789.3000
Web Site	http://www.whittiercity.net
Superintendent	Dr. Ron Carruth
E-mail Address	rcarruth@whittiercity.net

School Description and Mission Statement (School Year 2011-12)

This section provides information about the school, its programs and its goals.

Dexter's Mission Statement: To collectively focus on our commitment to student learning.

Dexter's Vision Statement:

Dexter Middle School is a Professional Learning Community where weekly department, and school wide collaboration, support the educational needs of all students. Instruction is data-driven and differentiated. Common Formative Assessments drive systematic interventions and enrichments. Successful academic achievement is rewarded through a consistent positive incentive program. Up-to-date technology is integrated into all curricular areas to maximize student engagement. Students have opportunities to grow and express themselves through diverse art and athletic programs.

Opportunities for Parental Involvement (School Year 2011-12)

This section provides information on how parents can become involved in school activities, including contact information pertaining to organized opportunities for parent involvement.

Parent involvement in the middle years is important to a child's success at school. Dexter offers several ways parents can participate including School Site Council, Parent -Teacher Association and the English Learner Advisory Committee; PTA, SSC and ELAC meet monthly. The School Site Council is comprised of the required participants of parents, teachers and other personnel.

Dexter's website is updated regularly and provides information for to parents on a 24 hour basis. The current calendar is available and links to many resources are provided.

Parent/Family Nights are hosted by the school which provide an opportunity for parents, students, and staff members to be actively involved. Examples of our family events are AVID Night, Parent Information Nights, and various evenings of student performances.

Currently, a series of Parent Information Nights have been scheduled to present information on a number of relevant topics to adolescent children and their parents. Dexter Administration and Counselor Team hosted one evening and Pacific Clinics, Advancing Behavioral Healthcare, hosted the second parent information night. Effective communication strategies for parents and teens was discussed. Upcoming topics will include bullying, STAR testing, and preparing for college.

Additionally, in our efforts to maintain open lines of communication with parents, monthly publications are made available to parents, entitled, The Middle Years and Reading Connections.

Other methods of daily communication with parents include full implementation of the automated telephone system, TeleParent, student planners and telephone calls regarding student progress, 'good news' calls, absences, and tardies. In addition, through a parent portal system, parents have continuous access to their child's grades, and assignments.

TeleParent allows for broadcast calls (information such as reminders for activities/events and/or emergencies), specific student information calls (positive, need to improve, grades, upcoming test, etc.) and attendance calls.

Student Enrollment by Grade Level (School Year 2011-12)

Grade Level	Number of Students
Grade 6	394
Grade 7	393
Grade 8	412
Total Enrollment	1,199

Student Enrollment by Group (School Year 2011-12)

Group	Percent of Total Enrollment	Group	Percent of Total Enrollment
Black or African American	0.2	White	5.8
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.2	Two or More Races	0.2
Asian	0.7	Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	71.6
Filipino	0.3	English Learners	29.4
Hispanic or Latino	89.7	Students with Disabilities	7.4
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1		

Average Class Size and Class Size Distribution (Secondary)

Subject	2009-10				2010-11				2011-12			
	Avg. Class Size	Number of Classrooms			Avg. Class Size	Number of Classrooms			Avg. Class Size	Number of Classrooms		
		1-22	23-32	33+		1-22	23-32	33+		1-22	23-32	33+
English	25.7	5	80	5	30.2	4	18	11	29.6	4	16	12
Mathematics	23	15	30	1	30	1	22	9	28.6	2	28	4
Science	26	3	37	1	33.4	2	3	16	35	0	5	18
Social Science	27	1	31	3	31.2	3	9	14	34.9	2	3	18

* Number of classes indicates how many classrooms fall into each size category (a range of total students per classroom). At the secondary school level, this information is reported by subject area rather than grade level.

III. School Climate

School Safety Plan (School Year 2011-12)

This section provides information about the school's comprehensive safety plan, including the dates on which the safety plan was last reviewed, updated, and discussed with faculty; as well as a brief description of the key elements of the plan.

Dexter School provides a safe and clean facility for its students. In order to ensure the safety of students, a number of special programs have been instituted. Dexter School has a well-organized disaster preparedness program which includes emergency supplies. The entire staff is a member of a safety team; each team has a backpack filled with supplies (including 2 way radios for constant communication).

Several 'drills' are held throughout the year to ensure that staff and students are prepared in the event of an emergency. Six regular fire drills, one earthquake and one intruder drill are conducted annually (ensuring that students know how to respond to potential emergency situations in the school setting).

A full-time health clerk, trained in first aid, assists youngsters in the event of minor injury as well as with routine health issues.

Additionally, a strong partnership exists between Dexter School and the Whittier City Police Department. The Police Department provides support to the school whenever law enforcement assistance is needed. Officers are frequently on our campus proactively addressing current issues with our students.

The facilities at Dexter School are in good condition. Several years ago, Dexter School received a 1.5 million dollar remodeling grant from the State of California. Presently there are 47 classrooms including a band room. Additionally, a library, computer lab, locker-rooms/weight room, and cafetorium constitute the school buildings. The school also has an excellent playground containing a blacktopped area, tennis courts and playing fields where recreational equipment is available.

A regular supervision plan is in use whenever students are out of class. A strict graffiti removal program ensures that should graffiti occur, it is removed within a few hours of being sighted. Any vandalism repairs are usually completed within 24 hours.

Suspensions and Expulsions

Rate*	School			District		
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Suspensions	4.68	14.41	16.6	6.1	8.4	8.9
Expulsions	0.39	0	0	0.23	0	0

* The rate of suspensions and expulsions is calculated by dividing the total number of incidents by the total enrollment (and multiplying by 100).

IV. School Facilities

School Facility Conditions and Planned Improvements (School Year 2012-13)

This section provides information from the most recent Facility Inspection Tool (FIT) data (or equivalent), including:

- Description of the safety, cleanliness, and adequacy of the school facility
- Description of any planned or recently completed facility improvements
- The year and month in which the data were collected
- Description of any needed maintenance to ensure good repair

Year and month in which data were collected: January 2012

Walter F. Dexter Middle School offers a safe and secure campus. The school was modernized in 2003, funded by Measure W. The school is fully air conditioned and provides up-to-date facilities and adequate space for students and staff. Dexter is comprised of a library, computer lab, large multipurpose room, locker rooms, activity room and 47 classrooms. The school also enjoys a spacious play area as well as grassy fields for running, sports and games. In the evenings and during the day, a team of 4 custodians ensures that classrooms, restrooms and campus grounds are kept clean and safe. A scheduled maintenance program is administered by the Whittier City School District to ensure that all classrooms and facilities are maintained appropriately.

School beautification has been a focus for parent and student groups in recent years. A team of parents and volunteers repainted all exterior doors in the school, giving Dexter a clean and consistent appearance. School grounds were cleaned and plants and shrubs in our many planters and gardens were trimmed.

School Facility Good Repair Status (School Year 2012-13)

This section provides information from the most recent Facility Inspection Tool (FIT) data (or equivalent), including:

- Determination of repair status for systems listed
- Description of any needed maintenance to ensure good repair
- The Overall Rating (bottom row)

System Inspected	Repair Status				Repair Needed and Action Taken or Planned
	Exemplary	Good	Fair	Poor	
Systems: Gas Leaks, Mechanical/HVAC, Sewer	[]	[X]	[]	[]	
Interior: Interior Surfaces	[]	[X]	[]	[]	
Cleanliness: Overall Cleanliness, Pest/ Vermin Infestation	[]	[X]	[]	[]	
Electrical: Electrical	[]	[X]	[]	[]	
Restrooms/Fountains: Restrooms, Sinks/ Fountains	[]	[X]	[]	[]	
Safety: Fire Safety, Hazardous Materials	[]	[X]	[]	[]	
Structural: Structural Damage, Roofs	[]	[X]	[]	[]	
External: Playground/School Grounds, Windows/ Doors/Gates/Fences	[]	[X]	[]	[]	
Overall Rating	[]	[X]	[]	[]	

V. Teachers

Teacher Credentials

Teachers	School			District
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2011-12
With Full Credential	52	50	48	245
Without Full Credential	0	0	0	5
Teaching Outside Subject Area of Competence	0	0	0	---

Teacher Misassignments and Vacant Teacher Positions

Indicator	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners	0	0	0
Total Teacher Misassignments	0	0	0
Vacant Teacher Positions	0	0	0

* "Misassignments" refers to the number of positions filled by teachers who lack legal authorization to teach that grade level, subject area, student group, etc.

Core Academic Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers (School Year 2011-12)

The Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB), requires that core academic subjects be taught by Highly Qualified Teachers, defined as having at least a bachelor's degree, an appropriate California teaching credential, and demonstrated core academic subject area competence. For more information, see the CDE *Improving Teacher and Principal Quality* webpage at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/nclb/sr/tq/>

Location of Classes	Percent of Classes In Core Academic Subjects	
	Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers	Not Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers
This School	100	0
All Schools in District	100	0
High-Poverty Schools in District	100	0
Low-Poverty Schools in District	0	0

* High-poverty schools are defined as those schools with student eligibility of approximately 40 percent or more in the free and reduced price meals program. Low-poverty schools are those with student eligibility of approximately 25 percent or less in the free and reduced price meals program.

VI. Support Staff

Academic Counselors and Other Support Staff (School Year 2011-12)

Title	Number of FTE Assigned to School	Average Number of Students per Academic Counselor
Academic Counselor		
Counselor (Social/Behavioral or Career Development)	2.0	---
Library Media Teacher (Librarian)		---
Library Media Services Staff (Paraprofessional)	0.5	---
Psychologist	0.8	---
Social Worker		---
Nurse		---
Speech/Language/Hearing Specialist	0.6	---
Resource Specialist	3.0	---
Other		---

* One Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) equals one staff member working full-time; one FTE could also represent two staff members who each work 50 percent of full-time.

VII. Curriculum and Instructional Materials

Quality, Currency, Availability of Textbooks and Instructional Materials (School Year 2012-13)

This section describes whether the textbooks and instructional materials used at the school are from the most recent adoption; whether there are sufficient textbooks and instruction materials for each student; and information about the school's use of any supplemental curriculum or non-adopted textbooks or instructional materials.

Year and month in which data were collected: September 2010

Whittier City School District policy and practices are designed to ensure that each student has access to instructional materials that are aligned with State core content and performance standards. The Language Arts, Math, Social Science and Science curriculum materials are aligned with and approved by the State Board of Education. Each student is assigned a set of core materials. There is a process in place for schools to order materials at the beginning of each school year to address the changing needs of their student population, and on an "as needed" basis. Each school site is responsible for notifying district staff when new students register for classes so appropriate materials can be ordered. Sorensen School complies with the Williams Law; every child has an appropriate textbook for all academic subjects requiring textbooks. Students are allowed to take their textbooks home for study after school when needed. The school uses categorical funds to provide supplemental materials for the classrooms including classroom library books, as well as materials for intervention and ELD.

WCSD has in place a thorough process for examining new adoption materials as they become available. However, we requested and received a waiver for purchasing new Reading-Language Arts and K-5 Mathematics textbooks because of the current budget situation. Assembly Bill X4 2 (Chapter 2, Statutes of 2009-10 Fourth Extraordinary Session) signed on July 28, 2009, suspended the process and procedures for adopting instructional materials, including framework revisions, until the 2013-14 school year.

Core Curriculum Area	Textbooks and Instructional Materials/ Year of Adoption	From Most Recent Adoption?	Percent of Students Lacking Own Assigned Copy
Reading/Language Arts	Holt Rinehart (2003) Adoption year 2003	Yes	0
Mathematics	Holt Rinehart and Winston (2008) Adoption Year 2008	Yes	0
Science	CPO (2007) Adoption Year	Yes	0
History-Social Science	Holt Rinehart and Winston (2006) Adoption Year 2007	Yes	0

VIII. School Finances

Expenditures Per Pupil and School Site Teacher Salaries (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Level	Expenditures Per Pupil			Average Teacher Salary
	Total	Supplemental/ Restricted	Basic/ Unrestricted	
School Site	\$3,667.47	\$264.93	\$3,402.54	\$70,130.36
District	---	---	\$3,414.46	\$68,304
Percent Difference: School Site and District	---	---	-0.3	2.7
State	---	---	\$5,455	\$69,404
Percent Difference: School Site and State	---	---	-37.6	1.0

* **Supplemental/Restricted** expenditures come from money whose use is controlled by law or by a donor. Money that is designated for specific purposes by the district or governing board is not considered restricted.

** **Basic/Unrestricted expenditures** are from money whose use, except for general guidelines, is not controlled by law or by a donor.

For detailed information on school expenditures for all districts in California, see the CDE Current Expense of Education & Per-pupil Spending webpage at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/ec/>. For information on teacher salaries for all districts in California, see the CDE Certificated Salaries & Benefits webpage at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/cs/>. To look up expenditures and salaries for a specific school district, see the Ed-Data Web site at: <http://www.ed-data.org>.

Types of Services Funded (Fiscal Year 2011-12)

This section provides specific information about the types of programs and services available at the school that support and assist students. For example, this narrative may include information about supplemental educational services related to the school's federal Program Improvement (PI) status.

Whittier City School District receives ADA for students for all educational services including salaries, instructional materials, maintenance, transportation and capital expenses. In addition schools receive Categorical funds from Title I, EIA-LEP, ELAP, and Special Education.

Title 1 and EIA funding provide supplemental support for reading and math programs during and after school. In addition, these funds are used to provide teachers with release time so they can collaborate on their instructional program. Support materials for math and reading intervention are purchased with categorical funds. Other services provided through categorical funds include an office clerk for intervention and attendance monitoring, parent liaison and library clerk for three hours per day; our EIA funds are also used to fund an additional hour each day of health clerk support, our EIA/LEP funds provide our teachers with instructional materials during English Language Development and are used to support our English Language Learners throughout the school day. These funds are also used for collaboration opportunities, the after school intervention program targeted for English Learners, and for professional development.

Teacher and Administrative Salaries (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Category	District Amount	State Average for Districts In Same Category
Beginning Teacher Salary	\$35,336	\$41,246
Mid-Range Teacher Salary	\$65,548	\$67,400
Highest Teacher Salary	\$82,725	\$85,481
Average Principal Salary (Elementary)	\$100,778	\$107,739
Average Principal Salary (Middle)	\$107,772	\$111,540
Average Principal Salary (High)		\$110,146
Superintendent Salary	\$172,733	\$180,572
Percent of Budget for Teacher Salaries	40%	42%
Percent of Budget for Administrative Salaries	5%	5%

* For detailed information on salaries, see the CDE Certificated Salaries & Benefits webpage at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/cs/>.

IX. Student Performance

The Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program consists of several key components, including:

- **California Standards Tests (CSTs)**, which include English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades two through eleven; science in grades five, eight, and nine through eleven; and history-social science in grades eight, and nine through eleven.
- **California Modified Assessment (CMA)**, an alternate assessment that is based on modified achievement standards in ELA for grades three through eleven; mathematics for grades three through seven, Algebra I, and Geometry; and science in grades five and eight, and Life Science in grade ten. The CMA is designed to assess those students whose disabilities preclude them from achieving grade-level proficiency on an assessment of the California content standards with or without accommodations.
- **California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA)**, includes ELA and mathematics in grades two through eleven, and science for grades five, eight, and ten. The CAPA is given to those students with significant cognitive disabilities whose disabilities prevent them from taking either the CSTs with accommodations or modifications or the CMA with accommodations.

The assessments under the STAR Program show how well students are doing in relation to the state content standards. On each of these assessments, student scores are reported as performance levels.

For detailed information regarding the STAR Program results for each grade and performance level, including the percent of students not tested, see the CDE STAR Results Web site at <http://star.cde.ca.gov>.

Standardized Testing and Reporting Results for All Students - Three-Year Comparison

Subject	Percent of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced								
	School			District			State		
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
English-Language Arts	51	51	55	47	49	55	52	54	56
Mathematics	28	41	50	44	49	55	48	50	51
Science	46	53	62	46	50	58	54	57	60
History-Social Science	42	44	45	39	41	44	44	48	49

* Scores are not shown when the number of students tested is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

Standardized Testing and Reporting Results by Student Group - Most Recent Year

Group	Percent of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced			
	English-Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	History-Social Science
All Students in the LEA	55	55	58	44
All Student at the School	55	50	62	45
Male	51	48	65	52
Female	60	53	60	39
Black or African American				
American Indian or Alaska Native				
Asian				
Filipino				
Hispanic or Latino	54	49	61	44
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander				
White	67	65	88	58
Two or More Races	67	52	67	42
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	50	46	56	40
English Learners	6	10	13	3
Students with Disabilities	34	27		11
Students Receiving Migrant Education Services				

* Scores are not shown when the number of students tested is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

California Physical Fitness Test Results (School Year 2011-12)

The California Physical Fitness Test (PFT) is administered to students in grades five, seven, and nine only. This table displays by grade level the percent of students meeting the fitness standards for the most recent testing period. For detailed information regarding this test, and comparisons of a school's test results to the district and state, see the CDE PFT webpage at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/pf/>.

Grade Level	Percent of Students Meeting Fitness Standards		
	Four of Six Standards	Five of Six Standards	Six of Six Standards
7	16	20.7	34.8

* Scores are not shown when the number of students tested is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

X. Accountability

Academic Performance Index

The Academic Performance Index (API) is an annual measure of state academic performance and progress of schools in California. API scores range from 200 to 1,000, with a statewide target of 800. For detailed information about the API, see the CDE API webpage at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/>.

Academic Performance Index Ranks - Three-Year Comparison

This table displays the school's statewide and similar schools' API ranks. The **statewide API rank** ranges from 1 to 10. A statewide rank of 1 means that the school has an API score in the lowest ten percent of all schools in the state, while a statewide rank of 10 means that the school has an API score in the highest ten percent of all schools in the state.

The **similar schools API rank** reflects how a school compares to 100 statistically matched "similar schools." A similar schools rank of 1 means that the school's academic performance is comparable to the lowest performing ten schools of the 100 similar schools, while a similar schools rank of 10 means that the school's academic performance is better than at least 90 of the 100 similar schools.

API Rank	2009	2010	2011
Statewide	4	4	5
Similar Schools	4	3	6

Academic Performance Index Growth by Student Group – Three-Year Comparison

Group	Actual API Change		
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
All Students at the School	13	26	27
Black or African American			
American Indian or Alaska Native			
Asian			
Filipino			
Hispanic or Latino	14	25	29
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander			
White			
Two or More Races			
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	13	34	23
English Learners	-7	45	-3
Students with Disabilities	11	12	39

* "N/D" means that no data were available to the CDE or LEA to report. "B" means the school did not have a valid API Base and there is no Growth or target information. "C" means the school had significant demographic changes and there is no Growth or target information.

Academic Performance Index Growth by Student Group - 2012 Growth API Comparison

This table displays, by student group, the number of students included in the API and the 2012 Growth API at the school, district, and state level.

Group	2012 Growth API					
	School		District		State	
	# of Students	Growth API	# of Students	Growth API	# of Students	Growth API
All Students at the School	1,128	787	4,765	797	4,664,264	788
Black or African American	1		26	803	313,201	710
American Indian or Alaska Native	2		11	836	31,606	742
Asian	7		26	893	404,670	905
Filipino	3		16	895	124,824	869
Hispanic or Latino	1,026	783	4,384	794	2,425,230	740
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1		5		26,563	775
White	63	848	194	840	1,221,860	853
Two or More Races	2		12	917	88,428	849
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	792	765	3,459	776	2,779,680	737
English Learners	291	702	1,437	748	1,530,297	716
Students with Disabilities	134	594	632	651	530,935	607

Adequate Yearly Progress

The federal ESEA requires that all schools and districts meet the following Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) criteria:

- Participation rate on the state's standards-based assessments in ELA and mathematics
- Percent proficient on the state's standards-based assessments in ELA and mathematics
- API as an additional indicator
- Graduation rate (for secondary schools)

Detailed information about AYP, including participation rates and percent proficient results by student group, can be found at the CDE Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) webpage at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/>.

Adequate Yearly Progress Overall and by Criteria (School Year 2011-12)

AYP Criteria	School	District
Made AYP Overall	No	No
Met Participation Rate: English-Language Arts	Yes	Yes
Met Participation Rate: Mathematics	Yes	Yes
Met Percent Proficient: English-Language Arts	No	No
Met Percent Proficient: Mathematics	No	No
Met API Criteria	Yes	Yes
Met Graduation Rate (if applicable)	N/A	N/A

Federal Intervention Program (School Year 2012-13)

Schools and districts receiving federal Title I funding enter Program Improvement (PI) if they do not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same content area (ELA or mathematics) or on the same indicator (API or graduation rate). After entering PI, schools and districts advance to the next level of intervention with each additional year that they do not make AYP. For detailed information about PI identification, see the CDE PI Status Determinations webpage: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/tidetermine.asp>.

Indicator	School	District
Program Improvement Status	In PI	In PI
First Year of Program Improvement	2001-2002	2004-2005
Year in Program Improvement	Year 5	Year 3
Number of Schools Currently in Program Improvement	---	11
Percent of Schools Currently in Program Improvement	---	91.7

XII. Instructional Planning and Scheduling

Professional Development

This section provides information on the number of days provided for professional development and continuous professional growth in the most recent three year period. Questions that may be answered include:

- What are the primary/major areas of focus for staff development and specifically how were they selected? For example, were student achievement data used to determine the need for professional development in reading instruction?
- What are the methods by which professional development is delivered (e.g., after school workshops, conference attendance, individual mentoring, etc.)?
- How are teachers supported during implementation (e.g., through in-class coaching, teacher-principal meetings, student performance, and data reporting, etc.)?

The fundamental goal of the Whittier City School District is to continually examine and improve our practices to ensure that all students have the best opportunities to achieve high academic standards. To reach this goal and close the achievement gap between high achievers and struggling students, the District's instructional priorities are to:

- Support teachers by providing access to timely and appropriate data on student performance;
- Provide training to develop teachers' knowledge and skill to analyze that data;
- Provide opportunities for teachers to collaboratively work in grade level and/or department level teams, scrutinizing data to monitor student learning and plan instructional practices;
- Identify areas of need and offer professional development to teachers on how to improve their instructional practices;
- Develop a comprehensive and effective "Response to Intervention" model that will support those students who are struggling academically and behaviorally;
- Provide professional development to teachers and schools leaders on how to develop, nurture and sustain effective "Professional Learning Communities"

Whittier City School District leaders understand the importance of ongoing, in-depth professional development directly connected to school learning goals. Professional Development is based on the analysis of district and site data and is provided during the summer, on Tuesday early release days and teacher release time and after school. All teachers have attended professional development on the key concepts of Professional Learning Communities to empower them in making critical instructional decisions for all students. In addition, teachers have learned how to create common formative assessments, analyze student performance data, and have acquired a wide range of knowledge and skill in the area of lesson design and standards based planning. District Instructional Coaches work with teams of teachers to enhance the level of expertise in PLCs, lesson design and standards based instruction. All teachers have been introduced to the new Common Core standards. In addition, all K-5 teachers attend professional development in three science units that are aligned with the California state science standards; they receive ongoing support from the district Science Coach. To address the needs of our English Learners, teachers from each site have attended professional development in Systematic ELD: A Focused Approach to strengthen the implementation of a comprehensive, balanced approach to teaching English Language Development. District Curriculum Improvement Teams (CITs) meet every summer to analyze the District's Essential Agreements, Benchmark Assessments and Pacing Guides to revise and make additional recommendations for improvements.