

Katherine Edwards Middle School

School Accountability Report Card

Reported Using Data from the 2013-14 School Year

Published During 2014-15

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. Under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) all local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to prepare a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), which describes how they intend to meet annual school-specific goals for all pupils, with specific activities to address state and local priorities. Additionally, data reported in an LCAP is to be consistent with data reported in the SARC.

- For more information about SARC requirements, see the California Department of Education (CDE) SARC Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sa/>.
- View this SARC online at the school and/or LEA Web sites.
- For more information about the LCFF or LCAP, see the CDE LCFF Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/lc/>.
- For additional information about the school, parents and community members should contact the school principal or the district office.

About This School

Contact Information (Most Recent Year)

School Contact Information	
School Name	Katherine Edwards Middle School
Street	6812 South Norwalk Blvd.
City, State, Zip	Whittier, CA, 90606
Phone Number	562.789.3115
Principal	Andrew J. Alvidrez
E-mail Address	aalvidrez@whittiercity.net
Web Site	www.whittiercity.net
CDS Code	19651106023659

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

School Description and Mission Statement (Most Recent Year)

Katherine Edwards Middle School serves approximately 789 students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. The majority of students live within walking distance of the school, but many students are also bussed in from North Whittier and commute from uptown Whittier. Four elementary schools feed into Edwards at the conclusion of 5th grade: West Whittier, Phelan, and Sorensen; and Andrews after 6th grade. About 50% of Edwards graduates move on to Pioneer High School and 50% go to Whittier High School. Ninety-three percent of the students are Hispanic 4% White, and 3% other ethnicities. Approximately 12% of the total student body are classified as English Language Learners. About 69% of the students receive Free and Reduced lunch. Edwards parents have a vast array of occupations, with 70% of the parents holding a high school diploma, and of these parents, 30% of those have attended some college and/or received a college degree.

We have a highly qualified staff that offers a rich standards - based curriculum . Our master schedule consists of an 8- period day. Students are offered a variety of electives, such as beginning and advanced band, chorus, guitar, AVID, STEM and art. Additionally, students that require additional support in either math or language arts to meet grade level proficiency are scheduled into an intervention class during the school day.

An Honors strand is provided at each grade level for our students excelling in Math and Language Arts. Our school recognizes the importance of literacy, therefore, all of our students participate in Reading Counts. Students are required to earn a certain amount of reading points each trimester. After completing a book at their reading level, the student takes comprehension tests electronically to earn points and to ensure that they are developing their comprehension. Peace Builders is the school wide character building program. Students are taught lessons in tolerance, in conflict resolution, social skills and individual accountability to take responsibility for their actions in helping maintain a safe environment for all students.

MISSION STATEMENT: Katherine Edwards Middle School prides itself as an efficient and culturally rich educational community, committed to high academic achievement. An array of attributes, including, but not limited to, highly qualified, dedicated educators, a safe and nurturing environment, constant parent-teacher communication and technology, enhance and extend learning for every student.

Student Enrollment by Grade Level (School Year 2013-14)

Grade Level	Number of Students
Grade 6	202
Grade 7	252
Grade 8	276
Total Enrollment	715

Student Enrollment by Group (School Year 2013-14)

Group	Percent of Total Enrollment
Black or African American	0.4
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.1
Asian	0.4
Filipino	0.3
Hispanic or Latino	94.4
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0
White	2.4
Two or More Races	0.4
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	74.3
English Learners	8.9
Students with Disabilities	10.8

A. Conditions of Learning

State Priority: Basic

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the Basic State Priority (Priority 1):

- Degree to which teachers are appropriately assigned and fully credentialed in the subject area and for the pupils they are teaching;
- Pupils have access to standards-aligned instructional materials; and
- School facilities are maintained in good repair.

Teacher Credentials

Teachers	School			District
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2014-15
With Full Credential	36	37	33	264
Without Full Credential	0	0	0	1
Teaching Outside Subject Area of Competence (with full credential)	0	0	0	0

Teacher Misassignments and Vacant Teacher Positions

Indicator	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners	0	0	0
Total Teacher Misassignments *	0	0	0
Vacant Teacher Positions	1	0	0

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

* Total Teacher Misassignments includes the number of Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners.

Core Academic Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers (School Year 2013-14)

Location of Classes	Percent of Classes In Core Academic Subjects	
	Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers	Not Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers
This School	99.26	0.74
All Schools in District	99.80	0.20
High-Poverty Schools in District	99.80	0.20
Low-Poverty Schools in District	0.00	0.00

Note: 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 39 percent or less in the free and reduced price meals program.

Quality, Currency, Availability of Textbooks and Instructional Materials (School Year 2014-15)

Year and month in which data were collected: September 2014

Whittier City School District's policy and practices are designed to ensure that each student has access to standards based instructional materials. The state wide adoption of the Common Core Standards has prompted our district to update our materials to ensure students have access to Common Core standards based curriculum. Our last adopted curriculum and materials for Language Arts, Math, Social Science and Science are aligned with the 1997 standards and approved by the State Board of Education. However, the approval of new Common Core State standards led to our decision to purchase "bridge" instructional material that align with the Common Core State Standards. Currently, all teachers in grades K-8 have math curriculum that supports the teaching of the new math standards; Elementary grades are currently using Eureka Math curriculum, which includes student workbooks for all students and Teacher's Editions, while Middle School is using College Preparatory Math (CPM). The CPM curriculum includes student workbooks and Teacher's Edition. In addition to math curriculum, all Elementary grade teachers and Middle School English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies teachers have received Units of Study writing curriculum designed to support the teaching of the new writing types outlined in the Common Core State Standards. All teachers have received funds to purchase additional materials to align to the Common Core English Language Arts.

A process is in place for schools to order materials at the beginning of each school year for all students. In addition, there is a process to order additional materials throughout the 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.

Our 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 district and categorical funds to provide supplemental materials for the classrooms including classroom library books, as well as materials for intervention and ELD.

Finally, WCSD has an established and thorough process for examining new adoption materials as they become available. As the District moves towards the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), the District will use that process to examine, explore, pilot and adopt new curriculum materials aligned with the CCSS, with input and feedback from teachers, administrators and parents.

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 2004	Yes	0
Mathematics	Holt Rinehart and Winston (2008) Adoption Year 2008	Yes	0
Science	CPO (2007) Adoption Year 2007	Yes	0
History-Social Science	Holt Rinehart and Winston (2006) Adoption Year 2007	Yes	0

School Facility Conditions and Planned Improvements (Most Recent Year)

Katherine Edwards is located on 22 acres in the unincorporated west end of the City of Whittier. The buildings house 40 regular classrooms, 2 half size classrooms, 1 multipurpose room with a stage, a kitchen, a large library, 1 band room, 1 computer lab, 1 mini-gym, boys and girls locker rooms, the school offices, a student center and a staff room. Students are grouped with the 8th graders on the west end, the 6th graders on the east end, and the 7th graders in-between. All rooms are connected wirelessly to the internet and printers. A projection system including an electric screen, LCD projector, and speakers has been installed in the multipurpose room for student and parent presentations. A PA system is used for student announcements. All classrooms are equipped with phones that access the school directory and outside dialing.

Edwards Middle School offers a safe and secure campus. In 2014, the front office was relocated to the front of the school to provide a single point of entry for control of entrance to the campus. In addition, a new marquee was installed in the fall of 2014.

Part of the custodial staff's daily responsibilities is to check for areas that are hazardous, are in need of repairs or need to be replaced. Jobs that cannot be completed by the custodial staff are reported to the site secretary. Additionally, all staff can submit a request for repairs directly to the site secretary. She then completes an electronic work order that is submitted to our maintenance department. A member of the district maintenance crew is then dispatched to complete the work order.

School Facility Good Repair Status (Most Recent Year)

School Facility Good Repair Status (Most Recent Year)				
Year and month in which data were collected: January 2015				
System Inspected	Repair Status			Repair Needed and Action Taken or Planned
	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 Facility Rating (Most Recent Year)

Overall Rating	Exemplary	Good	Fair	Poor
	[]	[X]	[]	[]

B. Pupil Outcomes

State Priority: Pupil Achievement

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the Pupil Achievement State Priority (Priority 4):

- Statewide assessments (i.e., California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress and its successor the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program);
- The Academic Performance Index; and
- The percentage of pupils who have successfully completed courses that satisfy the requirements for entrance to the University of California and the California State University, or career technical education sequences or programs of study.

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress / Standardized Testing and Reporting Results for All Students in Science (Three-Year Comparison)

Subject	Percent of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced (meeting or exceeding the state standards)								
	School			District			State		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Science (grades 5, 8, and 10)	63	53	62	58	53	53	60	59	60

Note: Science assessments include California Standards Tests (CSTs), California Modified Assessment (CMA), and California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA). 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 Assessment of Student Performance and Progress Results by Student Group in Science (School Year 2013-14)

Group	Percent of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced
All Students in the LEA	53
All Student at the School	62
Male	64
Female	60
Black or African American	
American Indian or Alaska Native	
Asian	
Filipino	
Hispanic or Latino	63
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	
White	
Two or More Races	
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	58
English Learners	
Students with Disabilities	
Students Receiving Migrant Education Services	

Note: CAASPP includes science assessments (CSTs, CMA, and CAPA) in grades 5, 8, and 10. 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 for All Students (Three-Year Comparison)

Subject	Percent of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced (meeting or exceeding the state standards)								
	School			District			State		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
English-Language Arts	47	53	50	49	55	52	54	56	55
Mathematics	34	37	37	49	56	55	49	50	50
History-Social Science	41	45	44	41	44	45	48	49	49

Note: STAR Program was last administered in 2012-13. Percentages are not calculated 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.

Academic Performance Index Ranks (Three-Year Comparison)

API Rank	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Statewide	4	5	4
Similar Schools	6	7	6

Note: For 2014 and subsequent years, the statewide and similar schools ranks will no longer be produced.

Academic Performance Index Growth by Student Group (Three-Year Comparison)

Group	Actual API Change		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
All Students at the School	-8	26	-11
Black or African American			
American Indian or Alaska Native			
Asian			
Filipino			
Hispanic or Latino	-9	28	-12
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander			
White			
Two or More Races			
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	-17	37	-9
English Learners	-2	16	27
Students with Disabilities	-19	21	-26

Note: "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.

State Priority: Other Pupil Outcomes

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the Other Pupil Outcomes State Priority (Priority 8):

- Pupil outcomes in the subject areas of English, mathematics, and physical education.

California Physical Fitness Test Results (School Year 2013-14)

Grade Level	Percent of Students Meeting Fitness Standards		
	Four of Six Standards	Five of Six Standards	Six of Six Standards
7	18.4	25.0	31.6

Note: Percentages are not calculated 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.

C. Engagement

State Priority: Parental Involvement

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the Parental Involvement State Priority (Priority 3):

- Efforts the school district makes to seek parent input in making decisions for the school district and each schoolsite.

Opportunities for Parental Involvement (Most Recent Year)

Edwards School understands the importance of the parent's role and how it contributes to the success of their child's education. Therefore we plan for and provide a variety of opportunities for parents to be involved with their child's education.

Royal Start

Parents are provided an opportunity to meet with counselors to learn about their child's schedule, Powerschool, Parent Portal, access code and told about different options for intervention if child is below grade level. It is listed on the school calendar, flyers are mailed home and various Teleparent messages are sent prior to the dates.

Back To School Night

Parents are provided the opportunity to meet with each of their child's teacher for the coming year. Teachers are able to share important information with parents regarding curriculum standards, grading policies, attendance, ongoing communication and other important information. Notification: It is listed on the school calendar, flyers are mailed home and various Teleparent messages are sent prior to the dates.

SBAC/ CELDT information Night

Parents are invited to learn about the importance of the SBAC/District Benchmark and how it impacts their child's school schedule. Parents are given a thorough explanation of the proficiency bands and how it affects their child in middle school and for high school. CELDT information night is offered to the parents of English Language Learners that are enrolled in English Development classes. Parents are given a thorough explanation of their child's progress in English proficiency. The presentation is given in Spanish.

Elementary/Middle/High School Transition

During our portion of this event. Parents are invited from all of our feeder schools to learn about the opportunities that Edwards offers the students. Scheduling, electives, honors, intervention are all covered. Counselors are available to answer parent concerns/questions. The counselors take parents on a campus tour. Notification: It is listed on the school calendar, flyers are mailed home and various Teleparent messages are sent prior to the dates.

6th / 7th grade parent orientation

Parents are provided information regarding scheduling and intervention opportunities for incoming students. Grade level teachers present important information regarding grade level standards and core program. Notification: It is listed on the school calendar, flyers are mailed home and various Teleparent messages are sent prior to the dates.

English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) Meetings

Parents are informed regarding SBAC/District Benchmark results as available, School Improvement plans/actions, categorical budget /priorities, R-30 report, attendance and schoolwide programs (eg. Reading Counts, Peace Builders, etc.) Notification: It is listed on the school calendar, flyers are mailed home and various Teleparent messages are sent prior to the dates.

School Site Council

Parents are informed regarding SBAC/District Benchmark results when available, School Improvement plans/actions, categorical budget /priorities, R-30 report, attendance and schoolwide programs (eg. Reading Counts, Peace Builders, PBIS, etc.) Notification: It is listed on the school calendar, flyers are mailed home and various ALERT messages are sent prior to the dates.

Parent / Teacher / Student Conferences

Students are dismissed early for 5 days in the fall and 4 days in the Spring so that Parents can meet with their child's teachers and discuss their child's progress and expectations in each classroom.

PTSA - Parent Teacher Student Association -

Edwards has a PTA chapter that meets monthly. Fundraisers are held to support student services, such as field trips, assemblies, student recognition programs and to extend our library selection for students. Additionally, walkie talkies and emergency kits have been purchased by our PTSA to help support our school safety/disaster plan.

Open Houses (Schoolwide and GATE)

Parents are provided with an evening event to visit their child's classroom to see various projects / work samples that their child has completed related to the particular subject area. Honors and GATE students also work on group or individual projects for Open House.

Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Performances

Students in art, chorus, guitar and band are provided with several opportunities throughout the year to perform for their parents at evening events.

Outside District Opportunities

Parents are invited to attend professional conferences such as HOT and Regional CABE to extend their learning and understanding of educational opportunities for their child and State expectations.

Counselor Appointments

Parents can schedule appointments with the grade level counselor (s), as needed, to discuss their child's academic progress and / or social interaction and adjustment with their peers.

Technology Reach Out

Teleparent and Parent Portal are used to inform parents of school events, meetings and information regarding their child's academic progress.

State Priority: School Climate

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the School Climate State Priority (Priority 6):

- Pupil suspension rates;
- Pupil expulsion rates; and
- Other local measures on the sense of safety.

Suspensions and Expulsions

Rate	School			District			State		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Suspensions	8.1	6.9	5.7	5.3	3.2	2.6	5.7	5.1	4.4
Expulsions	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1

Note: The rate of suspensions and expulsions is calculated by dividing the total number of incidents by the total enrollment x 100.

School Safety Plan (Most Recent Year)

The safety plan is revised each summer and as needed during the school year to reflect staff changes. The safety plan is reviewed with the staff at the beginning of the school year. Staff input is sought after each drill to evaluate its effectiveness and changes to the plan are made as needed to reflect the recommendations. The school is prepared for the two basic types of major emergencies: building evacuation during a fire or earthquake and lock down. Each type is designated by a different alarm and procedures. Each room and office has a red emergency folder clearly visible as well as an emergency supply bucket for lock down situations. The emergency folder contains evacuation routes, field positions, staff assignments and student release procedures. It also contains emergency information on each student, emergency organization phone numbers, and a prioritized staff release list to ensure adequate coverage until parent notification and/or pick up can occur. One of the district kitchens is located on the Edwards campus, ensuring adequate food and water for several days. Emergency drills are held monthly and the staff is trained several times throughout the year. Additionally, there is an ongoing partnership with the local authorities to help ensure our students' safety.

D. Other SARC Information

The information in this section is required to be in the SARC but is not included in the state priorities for LCFF.

Adequate Yearly Progress Overall and by Criteria (School Year 2013-14)

AYP Criteria	School	District
Made AYP Overall		
Met Participation Rate: English-Language Arts		
Met Participation Rate: Mathematics		
Met Percent Proficient: English-Language Arts		
Met Percent Proficient: Mathematics		

Federal Intervention Program (School Year 2014-15)

Indicator	School	District
Program Improvement Status		In PI
First Year of Program Improvement		2004-2005
Year in Program Improvement*		Year 3
Number of Schools Currently in Program Improvement	---	8
Percent of Schools Currently in Program Improvement	---	80.0

Note: Cells with "----" do not require data.

* DW (determination waiver) indicates that the PI status of the school was carried over from the prior year in accordance with the flexibility granted through the federal waiver process.

Average Class Size and Class Size Distribution (Secondary)

Subject	2011-12				2012-13				2013-14			
	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	31.5	5	25	14	28	8	24	12	26	8	10	4
Mathematics	27.6	8	19	6	28	6	11	11	28	3	11	5
Science	30.7	0	14	6	35		4	13	34		5	11
Social Science	32.6	0	9	7	30	3	7	9	31	3	3	12

Note: 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.

Academic Counselors and Other Support Staff (School Year 2013-14)

Title	Number of FTE Assigned to School	Average Number of Students per Academic Counselor
Academic Counselor		
Counselor (Social/Behavioral or Career Development)	2.75	---
Library Media Teacher (Librarian)		---
Library Media Services Staff (Paraprofessional)	1.0	---
Psychologist	0.6	---
Social Worker		---
Nurse		---
Speech/Language/Hearing Specialist	1.0	---
Resource Specialist	2.5	---
Other		---

Note: Cells with "----" do not require data. 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.

Expenditures per Pupil and School Site Teacher Salaries (Fiscal Year 2012-13)

Level	Expenditures Per Pupil			Average Teacher Salary
	Total	Supplemental/ Restricted	Basic/ Unrestricted	
School Site	\$3,732.49	\$238.15	\$3494.34	\$71,829.71
District	---	---	\$3489.59	\$71,092.55
Percent Difference: School Site and District	---	---	0.1	4.0
State	---	---	\$4,690	\$70,788
Percent Difference: School Site and State	---	---	-36.9	2.3

Note: Cells with "----" do not require data.

Types of Services Funded (Fiscal Year 2013-14)

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 2012-13)

Category	District Amount	State Average for Districts In Same Category
Beginning Teacher Salary	\$35,336	\$41,507
Mid-Range Teacher Salary	\$65,548	\$67,890
Highest Teacher Salary	\$82,725	\$86,174
Average Principal Salary (Elementary)	\$103,309	\$109,131
Average Principal Salary (Middle)	\$107,772	\$111,937
Average Principal Salary (High)	\$0	\$109,837
Superintendent Salary	\$193,387	\$185,462
Percent of Budget for Teacher Salaries	38	42
Percent of Budget for Administrative Salaries	5	6

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

Professional Development

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. In order to effectively prepare our students for 21st Century college and career, classroom experiences will be designed to encourage student creativity, increase meaningful discourse and communication, and develop critical thinking skills, while providing opportunities for problem solving and collaboration. To reach these goals and close the achievement gap between high achievers and struggling students, the District's instructional priorities are to:

- Provide professional development to teachers on the new Common Core Standards and the instructional practices that support the implementation of the Instructional Shifts outlined in the CCSS;
- Enhance teachers' skill and knowledge in the integration of technology across the curriculum;
- Support teachers by providing access to timely and appropriate data on student performance;
- Provide training to develop teachers' knowledge and skill to analyze data;
- Provide opportunities for teachers to collaboratively work in grade level and/or department level teams to examine data, monitor student learning and plan 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 district and school learning goals. The focus for 2014-2015 is to introduce all elementary teachers to the Common Core Mathematics Standards and Standards for Mathematical Practices and develop an understanding of how to implement new practices for teaching mathematics. In addition, all elementary and middle school teachers will receive an in depth review of the Common Core standards for Writing as well as an introduction to the new Common Core aligned ELD Standards. Professional development will be provided to sustain and follow-up on the previous years' initiatives, which include a review of the Common Core English Language Arts Standards for teachers in grade K-8 and a review of the Common Core Math Standards for teachers in grades 6-8. Science and Social Studies teachers in grades 6-8 will learn how to develop cognitive demanding tasks that support the expectations of the Common Core Standards for Literacy and Writing. Professional Development is provided during the summer, teacher release time, after school and on Tuesday early release days

In addition to presenting on the Common Core Standards, District Instructional Coaches provide training and coaching support to enhance teachers' expertise in technology integration, lesson design, instructional planning and the tenets and practices of a PLC. To address the needs of our English Learners, teachers from each site have attended professional development in Systematic ELD to strengthen the implementation of a comprehensive approach to teaching English Language Development. This year, teams of teachers and principals from each school participated in an English Learner Shadowing to research how to effectively provide opportunities for English Learners to engage in academic discourse and content discussions throughout the school day. The District Science Coach works with teachers to implement the FOSS Science Units and to begin explore the Next Generation Science Standards.

Developing teacher leadership is a critical component of our approach to Professional Learning. Opportunities for teachers to assume leadership roles include serving as a Lead Teachers at the site and on the District Curriculum Improvement Teams (CITs) at the District level. CIT meet to analyze and revise the District's Essential Agreements, Benchmark Assessments and Pacing Guides as well as make recommendations for improvements. Our focus on ensuring academic success for all students is supported by on-going training for all teachers and support staff on how and when to administer universal screening assessments designed to identify at risk students. Additional training is offered on how to effectively use the data gathered to implement researched based intervention materials designed to meet specific needs of struggling students.

Finally, all coaches, principals and lead teachers will receive training on leading a team of teachers using the Lesson Study cycle protocol used to deepen our knowledge of effective instructional practices as well as strengthen facilitation and observational skills to lead discussions on evidence based student learning.