



**Sunflower School Accountability Report
Card
El Centro Elementary School District
November 1998**

The ethnic distribution at Sunflower School is the following: 73% Hispanic, 22% White, 2% Black and 3% Asian.

A Message From The Principal And Staff

This report card provides parents and community with ongoing information about Sunflower Elementary School. This report card covers everything from student achievement and student discipline to school facilities and safety. We hope you find it an important and useful document. We invite any comments and/or suggestions that might help us in better serving our students. You may call us at 337-4890 if you have any questions about this report.

Mr. Chuck Fisher, Principal

Sunflower Elementary School's Mission

Sunflower Elementary School is committed to the belief that all students can learn. Our task as teachers and support staff is to provide our students a school climate that fosters high self-esteem and promotes increased academic achievement. We are proud of the accomplishments of our students and will continue to support and assist them as much as possible.

1. School Staffing/Student Population

Sunflower School students are served by a faculty of 29 certificated and 17 classified staff. This includes instructional assistants, clerks, custodians and other support personnel.

2. Student Attendance

Last year, our school had a total enrollment of 661 students who generated 120,060 student attendance days. We estimate that a very small percentage (less than 2%) of the student attendance days were generated by students who did not attend full minimum instructional days because of unexcused absences. Therefore, we encourage all of you to send your children to school daily. We have a number of students who are consistently late to school. Students frequently tardy miss out on their education. Our morning bell rings at 8:05. Classes start at 8:10 a.m. Please make every effort to get your children to school on time. Yearly attendance certificates are given by the principal.

To further encourage attendance at our school, parents of habitually late or absent children will be contacted by school personnel. Chronic problems will be referred to the SARB Board for appropriate action.

3. Student Achievement

Student achievement is measured by the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT), and APRENDA Spanish Test. For the school years 1995-96 and 1996-97 the scores reported are for reading Comprehension and Math Applications. For the 1997-98 school year the scores reported are for total Reading and total Math. Sunflower School students in 1st - 6th grades took the SAT test last spring. Scores in the 50th percentile indicate average achievement.

SAT Percentiles Scores

Sch. Yr.	SAT-8	SAT-9
	<u>1996-1997</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>
	Reading/Math	Reading/Math
Grade 1	54 / 54	65 / 59
2	50 / 67	58 / 54
3	41 / 43	32 / 40
4	37 / 52	33 / 32
5	41 / 49	35 / 31
6	47 / 58	50 / 61

APRENDA Percentiles Scores

Sch. Yr.	<u>1996-1997</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>
	Reading/Math	Reading/Math
Grade 1	63 / 65	62 / 46
2	47 / 47	72 / 71
3	63 / 39	55 / 40
4	54 / 39	77 / 45
5	23 / 39	23 / 8
6	65 / 39	58 / 27

We have purchased math materials in order to provide our students more hands-on instruction. We have also recently upgraded our 20 station computer lab used to enhance instruction in the areas of reading and math.

4. Expenditures

Last year, the El Centro Elementary School District spent \$33,558,622 or \$5,495 per student. These expenditures included general and special education, and State and Federally funded projects in the following amounts.

Employee Salaries, and Benefits: per student or 78% of the total budget	\$4,286
Books and Supplies: per student or 6% of the total budget	\$330
Services and Operating Service: per student or 6% of the total budget	\$330
Capital Outlay (Equipment): per student or 6% of the total budget	\$330
Other Outgo: per student or 4% of the total budget	\$219

Lottery funds were used to upgrade the instructional program and are included above. Also included were amounts spent in School Improvement, Economic Impact Aid, Gifted & Talented, Bilingual, Special Education and Mentor Programs.

Last year Sunflower School received \$200,682 in State and Federal funds for special programs. \$59,995 or 30% of the allocation, went to employee salaries and benefits. These monies paid for 5 instructional assistants. \$140,687 or 70% of the monies was used to supplement the instructional program. The items purchased were instructional materials, math manipulatives, software, library books, ESL materials and staff development. Categorical expenditures were approved by the Sunflower School Site Council.

5. Class Size

The El Centro Elementary School District implemented the State Class Size Reduction Program of 20 student per teacher in grade 1 for the 96-97 school year, in grades 1 and 2 for the 1997-98 school year, and in K-3 in the 1998-99 school year. Sunflower School class sizes last year ranged from 31 students in kindergarten, 32 in third grade, and 35 students in fourth through sixth grades.

6. Teacher Assignments

Sunflower School teachers were assigned to teach within their credentialed subject areas. Our school has experienced no problem with the proper assignment of teachers, because California law permits teachers in the elementary grades to instruct students across all subject-matter areas. Sunflower School also employs other certificated specialist who are properly credentialed to teach or provide service in their specialty area.

7. Textbooks and Instructional Materials

The El Centro Elementary School District sets a high priority on providing sufficient textbooks and instructional materials to support each school's instructional program. A districtwide committee, representing each of the schools, chooses textbooks and instructional materials from the State Board of Education approved list.

These programs are adopted districtwide in each subject area to provide continuity and consistency throughout the district. Sunflower School is piloting the Inquiry Science in the El Centro Elementary Program. This science program includes hands on manipulative and inquiry questions.

The El Centro Elementary School District follows the State Department of Education Instructional Materials adoption cycle to ensure that

instructional materials are relevant and up to date. Sunflower School has a library which provides a variety of library books, reference books, and other instructional materials. Besides computers in every class, there is also a computer lab with various software programs available for student use.

8. Counseling and Support Services

Students at Sunflower School receive an adequate level of non-instructional support services from a highly qualified staff which includes: a school psychologist, a speech/language specialist, a library assistant, computer assistant, Primary Intervention assistant, and an instructional resource clerk. Some services are available daily, and others at least one day a week.

9. Substitute Teachers

Sunflower School has experienced no difficulty in obtaining qualified substitute teachers to cover classes for teachers who are absent except on a few occasions. On these occasions, the lack of a large substitute teacher pool has made it difficult to provide enough substitutes for schools in the district on days of heavy teacher absence.

10. School Facilities and Safety

Our intent is to provide a safe and orderly environment as well as an attractive and well maintained campus. Sunflower School staff, parents, and students take great pride in keeping the physical environment clean and safe for children. To safeguard the well-being of students and staff, safety drills, including monthly fire drills and regularly scheduled earthquake/disaster drills, were conducted.

To ensure that playground rules were followed and safety maintained, the playgrounds were supervised by teachers and the principal before, during recess, and after school. Playground and noon duty assistants assist in the supervision on the playground during lunch.

All staff members, including custodians and a part-time groundskeeper worked towards establishing a well maintained campus. Security is bolstered by a schoolwide alarm system, and vandalism and theft have been kept to a minimum.

11. Teacher Evaluation

Teachers at Sunflower School are evaluated on a regular basis by the principal. Permanent teachers are evaluated at least every other year and probationary teachers are evaluated every year. The evaluation procedure includes assessment in each of the following areas: Pupil Progress, Instructional Techniques and Strategies, Adherence to District Curriculum and Programs, Learning Environment, Pupil Control and Behavior Management, Interpersonal Relationships, attendance and Punctuality, Professional Growth, and Other Duties.

12. Discipline and Climate for Learning

The principal, staff, parents and students at Sunflower School are committed to a disciplined, stimulating and supportive learning environment. Our schoolwide discipline plan, which reflects high standards for student behavior, is implemented in a consistent and positive manner; rules are posted in every classroom. Other schoolwide programs which recognize and promote high expectations for student behavior and achievement include: honoring student of the month, and honor roll students, attendance and citizenship trophies for classrooms, monthly sweepstakes, and end-of-the-year awards for academics, attendance, and school service efforts.

The staff and principal worked closely with parents to alleviate serious behavior problems and to encourage success at school. For the past 2 years suspensions and expulsions are as follows:

1996-1997	23 Suspensions	1 Expulsions
1997-1998	35 Suspensions	7 Expulsions

13. Training and Curriculum Improvement

The El Centro Elementary School District devotes high priority to staff professional growth and curriculum improvement. During the 1996-97 school year, 6 staff development days were scheduled to inservice certificated staff on strategies to work with English learners. During 1997-98, a total of 5 inservice days were scheduled.

These district wide inservice days focused on language arts and two days focused on the needs at individual schools. For the 1998-99 school year, teachers were given the opportunity to attend two optional district wide staff development prior to the beginning of school. Focus areas were science, reading and classroom management. Individual schools had the opportunity to schedule up to two days of optional staff development. At

Sunflower School all teaching staff have attended at least four inservices during the past three years.

Staff members who have attended workshops share ideas and materials at regularly scheduled staff meetings. Workshops attended have emphasized improved methodologies in the areas of language arts and classroom organization. This school year, our training will continue to focus on areas identified in our school plan: integration of math and science activities, instructional strategies and technology.

Sunflower School staff has set as goals for 1997-98 school year: To improve Writing Proficiency scores, increase Stanford Achievement and Aprenda test scores, as well as improve reading/literacy performance at all grade levels. Professional Development was provided to staff in the area of SDAIE Training, Math Matters, Literature, and Accelerated Reading. Sunflower School will continue to give high priority to the area of professional development for all staff members.

14. Quality of Instruction and Leadership

Sunflower School wrote a school instructional plan which was evaluated and authorized for 5 years. Each curricular area was refined to match State Frameworks and Program Quality Criteria. The staff reviews pupil progress annually to determine which areas, if any, need to be improved. The current instructional plan reflects the goals for improvement developed at these times. The School Site Council serves as a valuable part of our leadership, making decisions vital to our instructional improvement.

Our school also works hard to meet the needs of special student populations. These needs were met through a variety of programs such as Special Education, Bilingual Education, Title I and Migrant programs.

15. Instructional Minutes

During the 1997-98 school year, Sunflower School offered a total of 36,000 instructional minutes per year in Kindergarten as required by the State of California. In grades 1-3, 52,200 instructional minutes per year were offered as compared to 50,400 instructional minutes required by the State of California. In grades 4-6, 56,700 instructional minutes were offered as compared to 54,000

instructional minutes required by the State of California.

Sunflower School offered a total of 180 instructional days during the 1997-98 school year that met or exceeded the State of California minimum requirement for instructional minutes.

The following average number of instructional minutes per year were offered in each of the following subject areas:

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
English Language and Literature	10,800	16,200	21,600
Mathematics	5,400	7,200	10,600
Science	5,400	5,400	10,800
Social Science	3,600	5,400	5,400
Foreign Language	3,600	3,600	5,400
The Arts	3,600	3,600	5,400

	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>6th</u>
English Language and Literature	10,800	16,200	17,700
Mathematics	10,800	9,540	12,600
Science	10,800	7,740	9,900
Social Science	9,540	9,000	9,900
Foreign Language	2,700	10,800	5,400
The Arts	5,400	2,700	3,000

16. Comparative Salary and Budget Information

State law requires that comparative salary and budget information, which is taken from documents available to the general public, be displayed in each School Accountability Report Card. The information reflects 1996-1997 school year salary and budget information for the El Centro Elementary School District. Daily rates of pay were computed based on the employee's required work year.

The number of required work days varied by position. Hourly rates were based on a required work day of eight hours for administrators and the contractual agreement of approximately six hours for teachers. In addition to the regular salary schedule, off salary schedule bonuses have been paid to teachers and administrators of approximately 1.97% of their regular salary from lottery funds. Budget percentages reflected the percentage of the total district budget that was

spent for teachers and administrative salaries in 1996-1997.

This has been our second annual report that you have received from Sunflower School. One of the most important goals in the El Centro Elementary School District is to have open communication among our staff and parents. I hope that this report has contributed to that goal. We look forward to sending you a report like this each year.

Dr. Michael Klentschy
Superintendent

SALARY CATEGORY (1996-97)	EL CENTRO SCHOOL DIST. DISTRICT AVERAGE			COMPARISON STATE AVERAGE		COMPARISON STATE AVERAGE	
	Annual Salary	Daily Rate	Hourly Rate	Annual Salary	Daily Rate	Annual Salary	
Teacher	Beginning	\$26,844	\$145.89	\$24.32	\$28,974	\$158	\$23,609 - \$32,614
	Mid-Range	\$43,245	\$235.03	\$39.17	\$47,464	\$259	\$39,943 - \$57,157
	Highest	\$55,489	\$301.57	\$50.26	\$55,623	\$304	\$50,016 - \$62,744
Principals	\$68,509	\$334.19	\$41.77	\$71,543	\$344	\$56,203 - \$82,468	
Superintendent	\$89,585	\$407.20	\$50.90	\$101,2711	\$456	\$80,671 - \$124,190	

BUDGET PERCENTAGES (1996-97)			
For Teacher's Salaries	43.97%	44.99%	37.51% - 51.68%
For Administrative Salaries	5.49%	5.34%	3.93% - 6.95%

El Centro Elementary School District Board Members

Janie Signorotti
President

Dianne Newton
Clerk

Ron Hull
Trustee

Steve Walker
Trustee

Jon Edney
Trustee