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# SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD



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An Annual Report to the Community 1997-98 School Year

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## Westmorland Union Elementary School District

### A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT...

*The Governing Board of Westmorland Union Elementary School District is dedicated to providing a challenging curriculum to all students. The administration and staff support the belief that all students can learn. As the District strives to educate and prepare all students to achieve today and in the future, the following goals are being addressed.*

*\* Increase academic achievement for all students through quality instruction, well-defined standards, incorporation of lifeskills into the school culture, and development of critical thinking skills*

*\* Provide students a healthy, safe, and secure learning environment*

*\* Meet diverse student/parent needs, thereby strengthening home-school partnerships*

*The school accountability report card provides information for parents and the community, including school-wide resources, areas of success and opportunities for improvement.*

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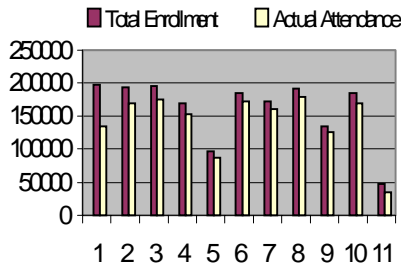
### 1. School Description

Westmorland Union Elementary School is a one school district with a population of 448 Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The school employs 40 certificated and 29 classified employees. During the 1997/98 school year, ethnic population was approximately 85% Hispanic, 12% White, and 3% Black.

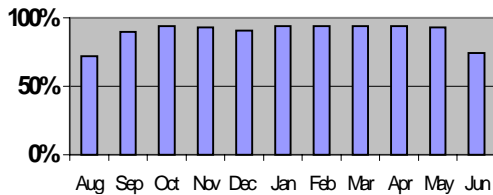
### 2. Student Attendance

Westmorland School promotes attendance with quarterly recognition awards for perfect attendance. Absences are verified through parent notes and/or parent phone calls. The district loses \$22 dollars a day for each unexcused absence. The attendance rate (students present and those who were excused due to medical reasons) averaged 92% for the 1997/98 school year. Total revenue loss was \$29,854. due to the 8% rate of unexcused absences. Parents are encouraged to send their children to school consistently and are reminded of excused absence criteria

#### Student Funding



#### Average Attendance

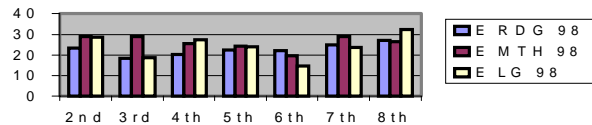


### 3. Student Achievement

The new Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program was established with the passage of Senate Bill 376 last fall. It requires the testing of all students in California public schools in grade 2-11 with Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition, Form T. Westmorland School students in grades 2-8 were tested in reading, writing, mathematics, and spelling.

The law requires that all students be tested, even those with special needs, unless they have an Individualized Education Plan that specifically exempts them from this requirement. In addition to taking the test in English, students with limited English proficiency who have been enrolled in a California public school less than 12 months also must take an achievement test in their primary language. Westmorland students were tested using the SABE second edition test. Individual student results were reported to parents within 20 working days after receipt of them. The Stanford 9 results are used with other data about student achievement in our district to help make decisions about ways to improve student learning. The test results reported below indicate national percentile scores which show how a student scored in comparison to all other students in the nation from a certain

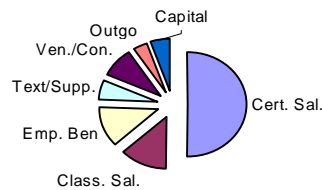
1998 STAR Scores



### 4. Expenditures & Services

The general fund budget for the Westmorland Union Elementary School District totaled \$2,523,689 last year, broken down as follows:

<b>Certificated Salaries</b>	1,262,101	50%
<b>Classified Salaries</b>	326,179	13%
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	316,608	13%
<b>Textbook/Supplies</b>	158,617	6%
<b>Vendor Contracts</b> (insurance, legal svcs, etc.)	229,253	9%
<b>Other Outgo</b> (appropriations for contingencies, etc.)	97,065	4%
<b>Capital Outlay</b>	133,866	5%



The District's remaining six funds are restricted for major capital outlay projects only: Deferred maintenance fund, special resource fund (bus), capital projects fund, developer fee fund, bus purchase reserve fund, special projects reserve fund, and debt service fund for 1997/1994 general obligation funds.

## 5. Class Size

Class Size Reduction Programs have been implemented in all classroom grades K-3. This limits the classroom enrollment to 20 or less students. The District supplemented its current staff development program with training opportunities and support to teachers on issues related to class size reduction. Average class sizes for 1997/98 were:

GRADE	STUDENTS ENROLLED	AVERAGE SIZE PER CLASSROOM
Kindergarten	53	18
First	54	18
Second	60	20
Third	40	20
Fourth	50	25
Fifth	56	23
Sixth	49	25
Seventh	38	19
Eighth	44	22

## 6. Teacher Assignments

Westmorland Union Elementary School District makes every effort to fill all positions with fully-credentialed teachers who are assigned within their areas of authorization. As a single-school K-8 district, recruiting efforts are focused on multiple-subject (bilingual preferred) candidates. During the 1997/98 school year, the district employed 24 full time teachers and one counselor. All K-6 teachers were assigned to multiple subject positions, with teachers in grades 7-8 assigned to areas of specialization. As of spring of 1998, 5 teachers have BCLAD/BCC authorizations and 3 have CLAD/LDS credentials. The District designated one teacher per K-4 classroom as primary language instructor. Five teachers worked with an emergency credential during the 1997/98 school year. The District assigned two teachers to the area of special education in resource specialist programs.

## 7. Textbooks/Materials

Westmorland School ensures that there are sufficient textbooks to support the school's instructional program and to meet the demand of our student population. Subject areas conduct adoptions on a seven-year cycle. The District adopted a new math and language arts program for the 1997/98 school year.

New computers along with an abundance of computer material have been provided to aid students in the areas of writing, basic skills, and computer knowledge. Resources for ESL students were expanded to include a language development program at each grade level. A resource room provides materials in all subject areas for teacher use in classrooms.

## 8. Counseling & Support Services

Students at Westmorland School are provided with the following credential support services via scheduled visits as student need demands:

Psychologist, Speech & Hearing Therapist, Nurse

A full time counselor is available to provide a wide variety of services. Services range from individual and group counseling to career fairs and drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs.

The school also provides support with the following full time and part time non-instructional services:

Library Clerk      Attendance Clerk  
Playground Supervisors      Four Custodians

Acceleration Resource Teachers are hired by the District to enhance the regular instructional program and must work under the direction of the classroom teacher at all times. This position requires a valid California teaching credential.

The following extracurricular opportunities are available for students: Club Live, KIDS Live, Safety Patrol, Hall Monitors, Drill Team, UCSD Early Outreach Program for Eighth Graders, Migrant Big Brother/Big Sister Program, Yearbook Staff, Softball, Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, LawWorks, Mentoring Program and Title I Tutoring Program

## 9. Qualified Substitutes

The 1997/98 school year included 183 workdays for teachers. A total of 54 sick days and 37 Personal Necessity days were used during this period. Westmorland Union Elementary School District works closely with Imperial County Office of Education to maintain a current list of qualified substitute teachers. All staff training days are placed on the calendar well in advance, which allows sufficient time to secure qualified substitutes teachers. On infrequent occasions, due to illness, the District has reassigned an Acceleration Resource Teacher to substitute for one day when all substitutes were committed elsewhere. At no time has the regular instructional program been interrupted due to lack of qualified substitutes.

## 10. School Facilities & Safety

The District is dedicated to maintaining a clean, tobacco/drug free and safe environment for all students. A custodial staff of two full time and four part time people keep the rooms and school grounds clean and in good repair. The multi-purpose building serves as cafeteria as well as auditorium with a seating capacity of 572. The District completed renovation of thirteen older classrooms to improve security (phones/speaker alarm system to classrooms) and wiring for technology as well as energy efficiency and carpeting.

### 11. *Teacher Evaluation/ Professional Improvement*

Either the Superintendent or Principal conducts teacher evaluations. The District evaluates and assesses the competency of teachers as it reasonably relates to the progress of pupils toward the standards of expected achievement at each grade level in each area of study, the instructional strategies and techniques used by the employee, the employee's adherence to curricular objectives, the establishment and maintenance of a suitable learning environment within the scope of the employee's assignment, job description, adjunct duties or job responsibilities. Written formal evaluations are given to the evaluatee and are discussed with the evaluator. Each probationary teacher was evaluated formally at least twice during the 1997/98 school year, in addition to ongoing, informal observations. All permanent teachers are formally evaluated at least every other year, with ongoing informal

### 12. *Discipline & Climate for Learning*

Westmorland School District places a strong priority on respect, integrity, and truthfulness for all students and staff, consistent with the Integrated Thematic Instruction Model. The entire staff emphasizes that put-downs are not acceptable at our school by modeling through interaction with colleagues. All students and parents are required to sign an agreement to comply with District Rules of Conduct. Monthly Student of the Month Luncheons were held to honor students who had shown outstanding citizenship skills. Quarterly Awards Assemblies were held to honor perfect attendance and academic excellence. The Governing Board adopted Minimum Proficiency Standards for seventh and eighth grade students. The standards address academics, attendance, behavior, and standardized test scores. Students not meeting these standards are required to attend Saturday School and/or Proficiency Summer School. Each teacher has a mailbox whereby parents are able to call and receive an update on assigned homework for a give day. During 1997/98, seventeen cases were referred for suspension, no students were expelled.

### 13. *Training and Curriculum Improvement*

Westmorland Union Elementary School District incorporates eight days of staff development days into each school year for all certificated staff. Focus of training is determined by observed need, input from the Instructional Leadership Team and compliance issues related to categorical program requirements. During the 1997/98 school year, Westmorland teachers took part in 7 staff development days offered during the school year. An additional day was offered to teachers on an optional basis at the end of the academic year.

The focus of these training's included Crisis and Disaster Plans, Language Arts Textbook Series Training by Harcourt Brace, Literacy, Mathematics Textbook Series Training by Quest 2000, CPR Training, Gang Awareness & Resiliency, Safety in the Work Place, and Stress Management. Content Standards were developed for grades K, 3, 6, and 8 in Language Arts and Mathematics. The District plans to implement these standards and to develop assessments for both areas.

### 14. *Quality of Instruction & Leadership*

Through the Integrated Thematic Instruction Model, the District emphasizes making all instruction focus on relatedness, rather than subjects taught in isolation. Career days are held annually to bring the reality of readiness for the work force to students. Academic support is provided through Acceleration Resource Teachers to students with special needs, i.e., reading or academic deficiency, and limited English proficiency. The District has a Miller Unruh Reading Specialist position to address Kindergarten and first grade students with reading difficulties. Additional support is provided through an afterschool and/or Saturday School programs those focuses on reading and the writing proc-

### 15. *Instructional Minutes/Total Number of Minutes, Days per Year*

The total number of daily instructional minutes for the 1997/98 school year were as follows:

Grade	WUESD Instructional Minutes	State Law Required Daily Instruction
Kindergarten	240	180
1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup>	290	230
4 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	315	240
7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	320	240

The total number of instructional minutes for the 1997/98 school year was:

Grade	WUESD Yearly Instructional Minutes	State Law Required Yearly Instructional
Kindergarten	43,200	36,000
1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup>	51,150	50,400
4 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	55,440	54,000
7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	56,200	54,000