

2004-2005 School Accountability Report Card



JOSEPH KERR MIDDLE SCHOOL

8865 Elk Grove Blvd
Elk Grove, CA 95624
916-686-7728

Board of Education
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Hours of Operation

Our office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Parents are always welcome to visit the office to address any questions or concerns they may have about the school or their children. The office staff can assist parents with registering and enrolling their children and can give information about programs at the school.

School Highlights and Awards

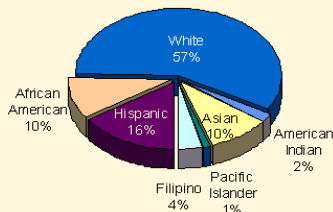
- California Distinguished School, 2001
- District Academic Olympics Champions, 1990, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2004
- Region 3 Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Write Off Winners, 7th grade division

Student Demographics

	School	District
Enrollment	1,524	58,671
English Learners	122	10,367
Languages Spoken	23	81
Students of Poverty	428	22,855
GATE	197	3,008

SOURCE: 2004 CBEDS, California Dept. of Education, 2003-2004, EGUUSD

Population by Ethnicity



SOURCE: 2004 CBEDS, California Dept. of Education

Introduction from the Board

Thank you for your interest and commitment to your child's education, and your continuing partnership in teaching and learning. In order to best serve our community, we have created this condensed version of the full School Accountability Report Card (SARC) with the mission of presenting information about each of our schools in a clear, parent friendly format. If you are interested in viewing the full SARC report for your child's school, you will find it at the district website: www.egusd.net.

A Message From the Principal

A School with a Mission, Joseph Kerr Middle School.
A Community of Lifelong Learners!

Joseph Kerr Middle School truly provides a unique and wonderful educational experience for children, from the safety of the campus, to the warmth of the learning environment, to the rigor and breadth of the instructional programs. All aspects of the school contribute to providing students with the skills they need to be successful learners.

Our district's mission is to provide a learning community that challenges ALL students to realize their greatest potential.

By the end of the 2005-2006 school year, 100% of students will be, at a minimum, "proficient" as measured by the California Standards Test (CST).

Our success in implementing our district's mission can be evidenced through our school's special strengths, including:

- Our high API ranking of 769
- Our Hispanic student performance increase of 9 points
- In the 2003-2004 academic year, 48% of our students performed at Proficient or Advanced levels in math
- In the 2003-2004 academic year, 45% of our students performed at Proficient or Advanced levels in English

Parent support and involvement continue to be important aspects of the success of Joseph Kerr Middle School. This support is given, recognized, and appreciated in many different ways. Some parents help plan the programs and policies, while others serve as classroom and library volunteers, assist with school activities, or chaperone on field trips. Parents also support student success by providing space, time and encouragement for daily homework, and by sending a clear message that education and regular school attendance are important to the family. Parent volunteers are coordinated by our parent liaison.

The safety of our students is this school's first priority and the discipline policy is strictly enforced. We emphasize cooperation and responsible, respectful behavior. All adults visiting campus are required to check in through the school office. The atmosphere of the school makes our students feel comfortable and secure.

Patricia Kennedy-Dwairi, Principal
Joseph Kerr Middle School

Parental Involvement

There are a number of ways to become involved with your child's education. We have a Back to School Night and a Spring Open House during the year. You are always welcome to volunteer in your child's classroom, assist the Activities Director with special events, chaperone field trips, or join the School Site Council. For more information on parent involvement opportunities, you may contact Dawn Costella at 686-7728.

Teacher Evaluations and Professional Learning

Our district makes a practice of hiring only highly qualified teachers. New teachers are employed on a probationary status for the first two years, and are formally evaluated two times per year. All teachers are evaluated on an ongoing basis using the California Standards for the Teaching Profession.

Teacher Credentials	
	School
Total Number of Teachers	73
Total Full Credentials	72

SOURCE: 2003 CBEDS, California Dept. of Education

Teacher Misassignments

In the 2003-2004 school year, over 99 percent of the district's teachers held full teaching credentials. In addition to being fully credentialed, if a class is 20 percent or more English Learners (EL), the teacher should hold a supplementary authorization to instruct students in learning English or they are considered misassigned. Our district is working to remedy these misassignments by providing training opportunities for teachers to earn these authorizations and providing ongoing professional development in strategies to help EL students.

	2003-2004
Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners	14

In subjects with a shortage, a fully credentialed teacher is sometimes asked to teach outside of their subject matter competency area until an appropriately credentialed teacher can be hired. In these cases, teachers are counted as misassigned.

	2003-2004
Misassignments Due to Subject Matter Competency	2

Vacancies are defined as a position to which a permanent teacher has not been assigned by the beginning of the course. Most vacancies in our district are in subject areas where qualified teachers are in shortage.

	2003-2004
Teacher Vacancies	0

SOURCE: 2003-2004, EGUSD

Availability of Qualified Substitute Teachers

Elk Grove Unified School District has an excellent reputation and many people want to teach here. As a growing district, we work hard to provide an ample pool of qualified substitute teachers. We only hire substitutes that comply with state qualifications.

Curriculum and Professional Development

Joseph Kerr Middle School teachers receive ongoing training in the implementation of our adopted state standards-based curriculum. Each year, our teachers complete hundreds of hours of professional learning. This includes professional learning in differentiated instruction to allow all students to access the adopted curriculum and progress towards the state standards. Helping teachers learn how to support English Learners has been a priority at our school. In addition, our teachers receive training in using technology to analyze student achievement data. Our school has received ongoing training in the effective implementation of the Holt English Language Arts program.

Quality and Currency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Our teachers know how important it is for students to have access to high quality, standards-aligned instructional materials. Our textbooks are selected for alignment to the state standards and are thoroughly reviewed by content area experts before adoption. We use the Holt, Rinehart and Winston series in our English program and Prentice Hall in our mathematics program. Both of these adoptions are based on the rigorous state standards.

Availability of Standards-Aligned Textbooks and Instructional Materials

At Joseph Kerr Middle School we ensure that all students, including English Learners, have access to the textbooks and instructional materials they need to complete schoolwork in class and at home. Textbooks and instructional materials are provided in the core academic areas of reading/language arts, mathematics, science, history-social science, and world language.

Class Size

In Elk Grove schools, our research shows that small class sizes lead to higher student engagement and academic achievement. It has been a top priority in our district to reduce class sizes over the last several years. We currently have reduced classes to 20 to 1 in Kindergarten through 3rd grade and have a plan to further reduce class sizes in grades 4 through 6 by the 2006-2007 school year. At the secondary level, certain core classes, such as Algebra 1 and 9th grade English, have reduced class sizes.

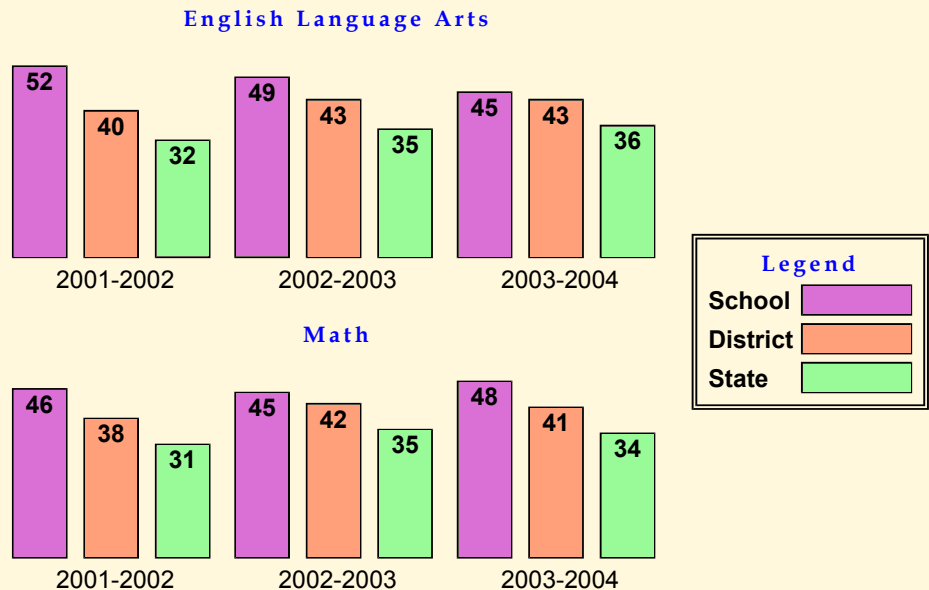
School Average	
English	27.5
Mathematics	30.4
Science	32.9
Social Science	32.9

SOURCE: 2003 CBEDS, California Dept. of Education

California Standards Tests (CST)

The California Standards Tests (CST) show how well students are doing in relation to the state content standards. Student scores are reported as performance levels. The five performance levels are Advanced, Proficient, Basic, Below Basic, and Far Below Basic. Students scoring at the Proficient or Advanced level meet state standards in that content area.

Data reported are the percent of students scoring at the Proficient or Advanced levels.



SOURCE: Spring 2004, California Dept. of Education

Academic Performance Index (API)

The Academic Performance Index is a score on a scale of 200 to 1000 that annually measures the academic performance and progress of individual schools in California. The state has set 800 as the API score that schools should strive to meet. Each year a school's API is required to increase a minimum of 5% until they meet the 800 target overall and for significant subgroups. Schools across the state are ranked into ten categories, from one (lowest) to ten (highest), which is referred to as their statewide rank. Schools also receive a Similar Schools rank that compares each school to 100 other schools with similar demographic characteristics. Each set of 100 schools is ranked by API score from one (lowest) to ten (highest) to indicate how well the school performed compared to schools most like it.

Growth Score	769
Statewide Rank	8
Similar Schools Ranks	5

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that all students perform at or above the proficient level on the state's standards-based assessments by 2014. In order to achieve this goal and meet annual performance objectives, districts and schools must improve each year according to set requirements. A "Yes" in the following table displaying Overall AYP Status indicated that AYP was met for all students and all subgroups.

Schools receiving Title I funding enter federal Program Improvement (PI) if they do not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years. All of the district's twelve Title I Schools met AYP and there are no Program Improvement schools in our district.

Met AYP	Yes
Program Improvement	NA
Exited Program Improvement	NA

SOURCE: 2003-2004, California Dept. of Education

Quality of School Instruction and Leadership

Ms. Kennedy-Dwairi has been the principal of Joseph Kerr Middle School for the past year, and has over 14 years of experience in education. It is essential to her to involve staff and parents, including the School Site Council, in important school decisions. Staff meetings and department chair meetings take place every two weeks in which staff review school data, assess student strengths and needs, discuss school priorities, and receive ongoing professional development.

Safety, Cleanliness, and Adequacy of School Facilities

Our beautiful campus was built in 1965 and retrofitted in 1993 and 2000. We have 57 classrooms; a large multipurpose room, which also houses our stage; a computer lab with 71 computers; and a library with over 18,000 volumes. We are proud of our campus and strive to keep our school in good repair so it is clean, safe, functional, and provides an orderly environment for teaching and learning. Regular inspections are conducted at our school site by the Lead Custodian. Updating of our blacktop area is planned this year in order to maintain the quality of our facilities at the highest level.

Comprehensive Safety Plan

Your child's safety is important to us at Joseph Kerr Middle School. We believe that nothing should get in the way of the academic achievement of our students, which is why it is important that our students feel safe. Our district is committed to providing a safe, secure environment for learning. Our staff reviewed and updated our School Safety Plan in August and March 2004. An "Emergency Handbook", outlining a plan of action for emergencies such as earthquakes, fires, floods, and chemical spills, is kept in the office of our school. Random periodic school safety inspections are conducted by the County of Sacramento. The district's Police Services Department works closely with our school site to provide a safe, secure environment for all students.

Climate for Learning

The safety of students is our school's first priority. All students deserve to learn in an environment that is free from distraction and in which they feel safe and protected. The most important events at our school happen in the classroom. To maintain an environment appropriate for learning, and to allow administrators and teachers to monitor the classroom, our discipline policy is strictly enforced.

Specialized Programs

At Joseph Kerr Middle School, we have highly qualified staff to assist students with special learning needs. We provide a range of support for special education students as well as regular education students who need additional support to meet the standards. Bilingual teaching associates help our English Learners access the core curriculum. Gifted and Talented students participate in accelerated instruction. Students who need extra tutoring or homework help can participate in our before or after school program.

Average Salaries

Data reported are the district average salary for teachers, principals, and superintendents, compared to the state average salaries for districts of the same type and size, as defined by Education Code Section 41409.

Teachers	EGUSD 50,000+ ADA	State Average 20,000+ ADA
Beginning	\$38,062	\$36,856
Midrange	\$56,411	\$58,263
Highest	\$76,700	\$72,665
Principals		
Elementary	\$101,271	\$94,774
Middle	\$107,038	\$98,934
High	\$108,366	\$106,858
District Superintendent	\$185,774	\$177,295
Share of budget used for		
Teachers' salaries	46%	42%
Administrative salaries	5%	5%

SOURCE: FY 2002-2003, California Dept. of Education

District Administration

Steven M. Ladd, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Constantine Baranoff
Associate Superintendent,
Facilities
Xavier De La Torre, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent,
Human Resources
Michael E. Hanson
Associate Superintendent, 9-12
Education & Education Services
Richard Odegaard
Associate Superintendent,
Finance & School Support
Linda Strom
Associate Superintendent,
Student Services
L. Steven Winlock, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent,
Elementary & Middle Schools

Average Daily Attendance

	Percent
School	96.26%
District	95.55%

SOURCE: 2003-2004, EGUSD

Discipline

	School	District
Suspensions	582	10,676
Expulsions	9	268

SOURCE: 2003-2004, EGUSD

Elk Grove Unified School District

This school is administered by the Elk Grove Unified School District, which covers over 320 square miles in southern Sacramento County.

Total Students (Oct 2004)	58,671
Elementary Schools	35
Middle Schools	7
High Schools	7
Alternative Schools	4
Charter Schools	1
Adult Education Schools	1
Special Education Schools	1