2025 - 2026 School Accountability Report Card - Executive Summary

Helen Carr Castello Elementary

9850 Fire Poppy Dr
Elk Grove, CA 95757
916-686-1725

Board of Education

Beth Albiani
Jennifer Ballerini
Delia Baulwin
Susan Davis
Heidi Moore
Michael Vargas
Sean J. Yang

Hours of Operation

Our office is open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. We operate on a traditional school schedule. Parents can find pertinent and current information on our school's website at: https://castello.egusd.net

School Highlights and Awards

- Visual & Performing Arts/Science Focus
- Positive Behavior Intervention Program (PBIS)
- Award of Excellence in Food Safety
- Before & After School Enrichment Programs
- Character Education Program
- National Elementary Honor Society

Student Demographics

Demographic	School	District
Enrollment	790	64,590
English Learners	140	10,611
Languages Spoken	32	129
Students of Poverty	397	37,879
GATE	56	6,100

SOURCE: 2024 - 2025, EGUSD

Population by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Percentage
African American	7.47%
American Indian	0.13%
Asian	36.46%
Filipino	4.18%
Hispanic	24.18%
Pacific Islander	0.13%
Two or More Races	14.43%
White	13.04%

SOURCE: 2024 - 2025, EGUSD

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: http://www.egusd.net/academics/assessments/school-accountability-report-cards/

A Message From the Principal

Helen Carr Castello Elementary
A school with a mission to EXPLORE, DREAM, and DISCOVER!

At Helen Carr Castello Elementary School, we are committed to building a culture of academic excellence and enrichment; maintaining a climate that is welcoming, safe, and nurturing; and celebrating cultural and educational diversity!

Helen Carr Castello Elementary truly provides a unique and wonderful educational experience for children: a safe campus, a warm learning environment, exciting and creative educational opportunities, and rigor and breadth of instruction.

Our district's mission is to provide a learning community that challenges ALL students to realize their greatest potential. We focus on supporting our students in reaching our district's goals. Our success in implementing the district's mission can be evidenced through our school's special strengths. These include an outstanding team of teachers, a visual and performing arts and science focus. Our before and after school enrichment programs include art, drama, band, STEAM, mathletes, leadership, digital news crew, and basketball. We continue as a Watch D.O.G.S. school and participate in the National Elementary Honor Society. We have a rigorous and differentiated curriculum supporting all student needs in the regular school day and in after school classes.

As a school, we prioritize maintaining a safe and orderly campus. Additionally, we emphasize student unity, cooperation, and respectful behavior. We truly believe in the support and acceptance of each child's uniqueness.

We are proud of the programs that we build for students. In the past few years, we have enhanced our visual and performing arts, character education, summer school, and enrichment programs. Our student leadership program continues to thrive. Our success is a tribute to the partnership that exists between the staff, the community, and the students.

Thank you and please feel free to contact and/or visit the school.

Mr. Megan Drown-Jones, Principal
Helen Carr Castello Elementary

Parental Involvement

Our partnership with parents sustains our school's sense of community. Parents are encouraged to support their children's schooling by attending school functions such as Back to School Night, student performances, parent conferences, and Open House. Parents are invited join our PTA which hosts numerous events for our school as well as participate on our School Site Council or English Learner committee. All volunteers need to be fingerprinted. For more information, please contact Principal Megan Drown-Jones at 916-686-1725.

Teacher Credentials and Misassignments

In the 2024-2025 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.
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.
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.

Teacher Credentials (School Year 2022-2023)

Total Number of Teachers	38.5
Total Full Credentials	35.5

SOURCE: 2022 - 2023, California Dept. of Education

Note: The data in this table is based on Full Time Equivalent (FTE) status. One FTE equals one staff member working full time; one FTE could also represent two staff members who each work 50 percent of full time. Additionally, an assignment is defined as a position that an educator is assigned based on setting, subject, and grade level. An authorization is defined as the services that an educator is authorized to provide to students.

Teachers Without Credentials and Misassignments (considered "ineffective" under ESSA) (School Year 2022-2023)

Authorization/Assignment	Number
Permits and Waivers	0
Misassignments	0
Vacant Positions	0
Total Teachers Without Credentials and Misassignments	0

SOURCE: 2022 - 2023, California Dept. of Education

Class Assignments (School Year 2022-2023)

Indicator	Percent
Misassignments for English Learners (a percentage of all the classes with English learners taught by teachers that are misassigned)	0%
No credential, permit or authorization to teach (a percentage of all the classes taught by teachers with no record of an authorization to teach)	0%

SOURCE: 2022 - 2023, California Dept. of Education

Note: For more information refer to the Updated Teacher Equity Definitions web page at https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ee/teacherequitydefinitions.asp.

Credentialed Teachers Assigned Out-of-Field (considered "out-of-field" under ESSA) (School Year 2022-2023)

Indicator	Number
Credentialed Teachers Authorized on a Permit or Waiver	0
Local Assignment Options	0
Total Out-of-Field Teachers	0

SOURCE: 2022 - 2023, California Dept. of Education

School Facility Conditions and Planned Improvement

This school has 36 classrooms, a multipurpose room, a library, a science lab, and an administration building. The campus was built in 2005.

The district's maintenance and grounds departments work together with the school site custodial team to ensure that school buildings, classrooms, and grounds are maintained at exceptional levels to provide a safe and functional environment for all students. The district utilizes the latest electronic work order system enabling site administration and custodians to communicate any maintenance needs. Emergency repair needs are immediately resolved by either the school custodian or district maintenance staff. The school's custodians work as a team and with the principal to develop a daily cleaning process and schedule. Each morning the custodian inspects the school prior to arrival and restrooms are inspected throughout the day to ensure that they are adequately stocked.

Our PTA installed electrical outlets and drip lines to water the garden.

School Facility Good Repair Status

Date of facilities inspection : 10/2/2025

	Repair Status			Repair Needed
Items Inspected	Good	Fair	Poor	
Systems: Gas Leaks, Mechanical/HVAC, Sewer	X			No
Interior: Interior Surfaces	X			No
Cleanliness: Overall Cleanliness, Pest/ Vermin Infestation	X			No
Electrical: Electrical	X			No
Restrooms/Fountains: Restrooms, Sinks/ Fountains	X			No
Safety: Fire Safety, Hazardous Materials	X			No
Structural: Structural Damage, Roofs	X			No
External: Playground/School Grounds, Windows/ Doors/Gates/Fences	X			No

	Exemplary	Good	Fair
Overall Summary	X		

SOURCE: 2025 - 2026, EGUSD

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. For the 2025 - 2026 school year, class sizes are 24 to 1 in Transitional Kindergarten through 3rd grade, and 28 to 1 in 4th through 6th grades.

Grade Level	School Average
Kindergarten	20
Grade 1	21
Grade 2	23
Grade 3	25
Grade 4	29
Grade 5	28
Grade 6	29

SOURCE: 2024 - 2025, California Dept. of Education

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress Results for All Students (School Year 2024 - 2025)

Subject	Percent of Students Meeting or Exceeding the State Standards					
	School		District		State	
	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025
English Language Arts/Literacy (grades 3-8 and 11)	62%	65%	51%	54%	47%	48%
Mathematics (grades 3-8 and 11)	53%	57%	41%	43%	35%	37%

Note: Where it was the most viable option, in 2020-21, LEAs were required to administer the statewide summative assessment in ELA and mathematics and where a statewide summative assessment was not the most viable option for the LEA, LEAs were permitted to report results from a different assessment that meets the criteria established by the California State Board of Education on March 16, 2021. The 2020-21 data cells for the school, district, state have N/A values because these data are not comparable to 2021-22 data.

Professional Development

For the 2025- 2026 school year, Helen Carr Castello Elementary has a professional development emphasis on the Common Core State Standards, progress monitoring of student assessments, the District's Instructional Framework, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), and developing digital learning skills.

New teachers who have been teaching fewer than two years are supported by the district's beginning teacher induction program. They meet regularly with an experienced mentor to discuss their successes, challenges and new ideas for their classrooms.

Finally, the district offers a variety of classes for staff both after school and at weekend seminars. The site and District provide additional training in understanding the Instructional Framework, understanding the power of language acquisition, communicating with families and reviewing our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) program. Instructional aides, school secretaries, office clerks, and custodians will also participate in these classes and may also take classes that relate to their work such as learning new computer skills and learning to work more efficiently and in ergonomically correct ways.

School Safety Plan

At Helen Carr Castello we believe that nothing should get in the way of learning. The safety of our students is this school's first priority. Our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) plan dictates behavioral expectations and positive incentives. We believe that these positive assets make a difference in our students' well-being.

An Emergency Handbook outlining a plan of action for earthquakes, fires, floods, and chemical spills is kept in the office. Emergency drills are conducted regularly. Staff assists with before and after school supervision. The campus gates are locked during school hours. All visitors must register through the front office. Our Safety Plan was updated in September of 2025. The District's Police Services Department works closely with our school to provide a safe, secure environment for all students.

Specialized Programs

At Helen Carr Castello Elementary, we have highly qualified staff members to assist students with specialized learning needs. Our Learning Center provides small group instruction as well as push in support for our special education students. We support our struggling and "at risk" students through our WIN (What I Need) groups, mentors, afternoon school tutoring and small group instruction with an Academic Intervention Teacher (AIT). Gifted and Talented/Accelerated students participate in differentiated and accelerated instruction each day for 30 minutes during WIN Time. We have a National Elementary Honor Society chapter at our school site, and this program provides additional opportunities for our top scholars.

Average Salaries

Data reported are the district's average salaries 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	$55,510	$60,863
Midrange	$78,887	$93,575
Highest	$113,813	$125,548
Principals		
Elementary	$152,948	$157,645
Middle	$154,885	$165,341
High	$168,790	$182,580
District Superintendent		
	$441,092	$357,064
Share of budget used for:		
Teachers' Salaries	30.3%	30.4%
Administrative Salaries	3.6%	4.9%

SOURCE: 2023 - 2024, California Dept. of Education

* Average Daily Attendance

District Administration

David Reilly
Superintendent

Travis Collier, Ed.D.
Executive Director
of School Support

Amreek Singh
Executive Director
of School Support

Mark Cerutti
Deputy Superintendent,
Education Services and Schools

Kristen Coates, Ed. D.
Deputy Superintendent,
Business Services and Facilities
Administration

Jenifer Avey
Assistant Superintendent,
Elementary Education

Amari Watkins
Chief Financial Officer

Lisa Levasseur
Executive Director
of School Support

Todd Barber
Chief Technology Officer

Corrie Buckmaster
Chief Human Resources Officer

Chad Sweitzer
Assistant Superintendent,
Secondary Education

Discipline

	School	District
Suspensions	0.4%	3.7%
Expulsions	0.0%	0.0%

SOURCE: 2024 - 2025, California Dept. of Education

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 2024)	64,590
Elementary Schools	43
Middle Schools	9
High Schools	9
Alternative Schools	4
Charter Schools	1
Adult Education Schools	1
Special Education Schools	1