

SAN LORENZO VALLEY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

School Accountability Report Card

2001/2002

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The following information has been prepared so that the community can better understand the performance of its local schools. Questions regarding information contained in this report should be addressed to the principal. It is the policy of the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District that the community have as full an understanding of its schools as possible.

District Mission

The mission of the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District is to educate and graduate successful, compassionate individuals with the ability and desire to contribute proactively to the improvement of self and society through active involvement in an innovative educational system which respects, challenges, and engages their minds.

Number of Minimum Days

San Lorenzo Junior High has implemented nine late start days, one per month for staff to meet and receive training related to content, standards, 7-12 articulation and ongoing Power School implementation. San Lorenzo Junior High has one minimum day per year on the last day of school. There are 183 teaching days for the 2001/2002 school year.

Number of Instructional Minutes

State Law requires that students are offered a minimum number of instructional minutes per year by grade level.
 Grade 7 and 8 = 328 minutes per day
 State Average = 300 minutes per day

Student Attendance

There were 553 students enrolled at San Lorenzo Valley Junior High School as of October, 2001. There was an Average Daily Attendance of 520 reported for 2000/2001.

Dropout Rates

San Lorenzo Valley Junior High as had a zero dropout rate for the past three years.

Teacher Assignments

San Lorenzo Valley Junior High School has 31 credentialed teachers with no teachers assigned outside their credential authorizations.

Substitute Teachers

The district draws from a pool of qualified teachers in the county. Only on rare occasions, when a large number of teachers are absent, has the district been unable to provide substitutes. On these occasions, the site administrator or another teacher will act as a substitute teacher for the class.

Class Size by Grade Level

7 th Grade	8 th Grade	Special Day Class
292	248	13

Expenditures and Services Offered

According to the 2000/01 unaudited financial statements, the total cost of operating the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District was \$29,044,665 or \$7,268 per pupil in Average Daily Attendance (ADA). This included funds spent for general education and state and federal programs including Special Education, School Improvement, Gifted and Talented and library books and materials.

Teacher Evaluation and Professional Improvement

School principals evaluate all probationary and temporary teachers every year. Once a teacher receives tenure, after two years of satisfactory service, he/she is evaluated every other year. All administrators who evaluate teachers receive training in observation and evaluation procedures.

The District supports first and second year teachers by enrolling them in the Santa Cruz County New Teacher Project. The program gives new teachers assistance in teaching methods and professional development.

Teachers are encouraged to continue their professional development by taking college courses and other workshops related to their area of teaching. Teachers who take extra classes receive an increase in pay, after approval by the superintendent.

Classroom Discipline and Climate for Learning

SLV Junior High School maintains a consistent discipline code for all students. School rules are routinely enforced. Discipline is administered fairly, and students are aware of the school rules. Teachers maintain a positive learning environment which results in orderly classrooms conducive to learning. The administration provides support to staff members in maintaining a positive learning environment. Teachers use a variety of teaching modalities and incorporate hands-on, cooperative lessons into the curriculum. Students are encouraged and motivated through regular student recognition programs, high interest lessons, and relevant curriculum.

Training and Curriculum Improvement


Teachers receive training through attendance in conferences, workshops, and participation in activities on three Buy Out days during the year. Training activities are related to the school's site plan and are designed to improve instruction.

Curriculum improvement occurs through a review of district curriculum guides in each subject area and establishment of committees to review them every three years. The committee review process results in an updating of the curriculum guides to meet state standards and current practices.

Quality of Instruction and Leadership

The district has always endeavored to employ and retain a professional staff of the highest quality. All administrators are evaluated annually and are expected to prepare annual goals and objectives for themselves and their schools. The superintendent holds administrative staff accountable for the fulfillment of these goals. The junior high school's instructional program conforms to the standards and guidelines established by the California State Department of Education in their curriculum frameworks. The school district's core curriculum includes language arts, mathematics, science, social sciences, physical education and the fine and performing arts. Teachers routinely explore ways to improve instruction and increase student success. Broad-based staff and parent commitment is an integral part of the instructional process and the evaluation of all programs. School leadership is provided by an administrator who has a Master of Arts degree and several teaching credentials. The teaching staff participates in decisions affecting the school's program.

District Salary Information

	1999-2000 Averages*			
	Annual Salary		Daily Rate	
	SLV	State	SLV	State
Beginning Teacher Salary	\$26,913	\$31,014	\$147	\$169
Mid-range Teacher Salary	\$44,956	\$45,570	\$246	\$249
Highest Teacher Salary	\$52,442	\$57,704	\$287	\$315
Average Principal's Salary	\$74,464	\$75,654	\$346	\$352
Superintendent's Salary	\$103,951	\$106,363	\$400	\$409
% of Budget for Teacher Salaries	District = 41.9%		State = 42.0%	
% of Budget for Adm. Salaries	District = 5.6%		State = 5.7%	

* State salaries are only available for the 1999-2000 school year, thus comparison is made with 1999-2000 SLVUSD salaries

Student Assessment

In 1998, the California State Department of Education selected the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT 9) to be administered to all students in grades 2 - 11. Scores on the SAT 9 were reported as a percentile ranking, which means that on a scale of 1 through 100, a 50 is exactly average. The SAT 9 results are only one narrow measure of a student's ability and the district's programs, but they give our teachers and administrators valuable information for developing strategies to modify curriculum, instruction and assessment to improve student learning in the coming year. Based on SAT 9 scores the California Department of Education annually calculates an Academic Performance Index (API) for each California Public School:

Junior High API Growth	1999 API - 707	2000 API - 745	2001 API - 774
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Grade	Language						Mathematics						Reading					
	School			District			School			District			School			District		
	'99	'00	'01	'99	'00	'01	'99	'00	'01	'99	'00	'01	'99	'00	'01	'99	'00	'01
7	68	75	70	69	74	70	53	61	70	54	61	70	68	64	70	65	64	69
8	61	68	67	62	68	68	47	58	65	47	58	64	61	65	66	61	66	67

Quality and Currency of Textbooks

Textbooks and instructional materials adopted for use in the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District are first approved by the California State Department of Education, reviewed by District content area committees, piloted in the classroom, reviewed by school staff, recommended and approved by the District Curriculum Committee and then adopted by the District Governing Board. Each year a public hearing is held to assure that all students have current and high quality textbooks which have been adopted for use in the District.

School Facilities and Safety

Student and staff safety are top priority of administration. Students and parents are encouraged to communicate any issues with school officials. Administration provides a phone number on campus to be used as an anonymous tip line. Students are frequently reminded of these services by way of daily bulletin and signs posted in office. Campus cleanliness is an area of emphasis. Both custodians and students clean the outside campus several times a day. A Bond Measure was passed for modernizing our facilities. A School Safety Plan is annually updated and kept in the school office.

Student Support Services

Special Education: Teachers and aides provide services for students with learning disabilities in reading, language, speech and math.

Conflict Resolution: Students trained in conflict resolution techniques help fellow students solve conflicts cooperatively in a supportive setting.

School Psychologist: A school psychologist is on campus 3 days a week to provide support for students experiencing difficulties, to assess and monitor students in Special Education, and to provide classroom support for teachers.

Student Support: A family advocate is on site to address physical, social and emotional needs of families. A licensed counselor from TRIAD is also on campus 3 days a week.