



CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS TO WATCH

California Schools to Watch™ is a statewide program implemented by the California League of Schools, California Department of Education, California Middle Grades Alliance, National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform, and the California Schools to Watch model schools. For more information, visit www.leagueofschools.org.



ALONDRA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Designated 2014; Re-Designated 2017, 2020

Paramount Unified School District

Los Angeles County

Lynn Butler, Principal

16200 Downey Avenue, Paramount, CA 90723

(562) 602-8004 Phone

alondra-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: Suburban; Enrollment: 965; Grade Levels: 6-8; School Schedule: Six period day; Flexible schedule allows for two periods of Language Arts/Math for students needing extra support. Self-contained Sixth grade.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

87% Hispanic; 7% African American; 1% Asian; 1% Other; 2% White; 2% Pacific Islander. 95% Free/Reduced lunch; 32% Language Learners.

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS AND REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- Highly implemented program of CHAMPS (Safe and Civil Schools) provides a positive school culture and compliance to behavioral expectations.
- Strong school focus on student engagement and literacy skills across all content areas through the use of: Thinking Maps, Higher Level Questioning, Close Reads, Text Dependent Questions, Writing Across the Curriculum and other participation strategies. Implementation data gathered through observations are used to determine next steps and staff development needs.
- With the goal of producing lessons that balance conceptual and procedural understanding, teachers submit one team lesson plan per month in which administrators and coaches provide constructive feedback followed by classroom observations.
- Staff provides bi-monthly parent education opportunities to help parents support students' academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs. Parents are also invited to be involved in "learning walks" of classrooms.
- Teachers have identified essential learnings, developed district pacing guides and give frequent common assessments to inform their work as professional learning communities. Assessments include selected response questions, constructed responses, and end of unit performance assessments.
- Through the use of a co-teaching model both resource teachers and instructional coaches "push-in" and team teach with general education teachers to maximize support for targeted students. In addition, a learning center is available for all students as well as mentoring, tutoring, Homework Club and the MESA program.