



# STRATEGIC SCHOOLING: SOME RECENT RESULTS

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The vast majority of the following schools have high percentages of low income, minority students with significant numbers of English learners and low parent education levels. They have typically scored in the 500's, 600's, and 700's on the state Academic Performance Index (API).

With the consistent gains that can be achieved with Strategic Schooling, it is now possible to predictably and reliably close the achievement gap between minority and majority students. Several Strategic Schooling schools, in fact, have already closed the gap to within 20-30 points of White students in California. One has even exceeded the gap! Following is a sampler of recent Strategic Schooling results in California.

Note, as a point of reference, the state's high stakes accountability system requires a school with a 600 API to gain 10 points a year and a school with a 700 API to gain 5 points a year until it reaches at least 800. The schools below have exceeded these requirements by hundreds of percents a year.

1. **California** – Three of the seven schools in year four of Program Improvement (PI) that got out 2008-09 were Strategic Schooling schools.
2. **Orange County** – Nine schools got out of PI in 2008-09. Six were Strategic Schooling schools. Also, the two highest Academic Performance Index (API) gains in Orange County in 2008-09 were Strategic Schooling schools from Santa Ana USD: **Romero-Cruz Elementary** with 86 points and **Wilson Elementary** with 85 points. The year before, Wilson was the lowest achieving school in Orange County.
3. **Santa Ana USD** – In 2007-08, the second highest API gain in Orange County was **King Elementary** with 86 points. The four other schools that began Strategic Schooling that year were **Lowell** (46 points), **Jackson** (60 points), **Taft** (68 points), and **Pio Pico** (53 points). King gained another 38 points in 2008-09 and was honored by the state as a Distinguished School. By 2010-11, these schools had averaged a 30 point gain per year for four years, in spite of severe budget woes, pink slips, and continuous changes in staff due to "bumping rights" among teachers across the district.
4. **Oakland USD** – Strategic Schooling has helped **Think College Now** Elementary School make steady and dramatic gains over the past 5 years. For example, they have gone from 8% proficient to 66% proficient in English Language Arts, and their API has soared from 585 in 2004 to 859 in 2010. They were awarded both the Title I Achieving School Award and the California Distinguished School Award in 2008. To view a documentary about the school, go to [www.thinkcollegenow.org](http://www.thinkcollegenow.org).
5. **Los Angeles USD - Main Street Elementary School** implemented Strategic Schooling in 2008-09 resulting in a 51 API gain. The school has been in PI since the inception of that designation. It achieved its PI target for the first time in its history in 2008-09. Although it only gained one point the following year, Main Street gained 41 points in 2010-11 for a three-year average of more than 30 points.
6. **Earlimart School District – Earlimart Elementary** (Tulare County), a school with 98% Hispanic students and a parent education level of 1.04 (97% of parents have "less than a high school education"), gained 117 API points in 2008-09. From 2009-2011, it gained another 67 points, while **Alila Elementary** gained 77 and **Earlimart Middle School** gained 65 over the same two years.

7. **Burbank USD – Emerson Elementary** went from 4<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> in the district in three years using Strategic Schooling strategies gaining 33 points in 2008-09 to reach 881. **Disney Elementary** made 59 API points in 2008-09 by borrowing a single Strategic Schooling strategy from Emerson and achieving 835. Two other schools in the district, **Washington** and **Providencia** – again, by borrowing Strategic Schooling strategies from Emerson - gained 30 and 51 points in 2008-09 to reach an API of 792 and 831 respectively. Providencia and Washington have continued Strategic Schooling strategies and scored another 19 and 24 points in 2010-11 to reach 870 and 824 respectively with approximately 70% Hispanic and Free and Reduced Lunch at both schools.
8. **Hacienda-La Puente USD** - In 2008-09, **Sierra Vista Middle School**, in its second year of Strategic Schooling, gained 65 API points bringing it to 781. **Fairgrove Academy (K-8)**, another Strategic Schooling school in the same district, scored 832 with a 32 API point gain in 2008-09. This school, in grades 2-5 has an estimated API of 872, eleven points higher than White students in California whose API was 861 in 2008-09! With another 19 points gained in 2010-11, Fairgrove has now achieved 860. This is the third Strategic Schooling school in this district to exceed the state target of 800 on the API in recent years, beginning with **Baldwin Academy** and **Kwis Elementary** in 2005-06.
9. **Atwater Elementary School District** – Led by a committed superintendent, Melinda Hennes, this district in Merced County has launched a focused Strategic Schooling campaign over the past three years. During the prior three years, district API's gains were 9, 14, and 4 points from 2005-08. From 2009-11, district gains have been 20, 18, and 28 API points.
10. **Two-Way Bilingual Schools** - Two schools implementing Two-Way Bilingual Programs have implemented Strategic Schooling in recent years. **Napa Valley Language Academy**, from 2002-2005, made 91, 31, and 55 points respectively. In Windsor, **Calicalmecac** made 37 and 27 points from 2006-08. Both schools are Charter Schools.

**King Elementary** – a two-way bilingual school in Santa Ana - has now surpassed 800 with a score of 822, averaging 37 points/year for four years.

**Jefferson Elementary** in Lindsay, CA – a two-way bilingual school - was put at the top of the list of the most “persistently underperforming” elementary schools in the state in 2010. With three days of onsite Strategic Schooling training in 2010-11 and a new principal, Jefferson made a gain of 39 points, its first gain in 5 years.

11. **Artesia High School in ABC USD** - Artesia High School has been implementing Strategic Schooling for six years, averaging a 28 point gain/year, moving from an API of 594 in 2005 to 765 in 2011. From 2008-2010, we implemented Strategic Schooling most intensively with the Special Education and English Language Development (ELD) Departments because of their traditionally lower scores. While the school made a 38 point API gain overall in 2009, ELD gained 63 points and Special Education gained 80, followed by a 22 and 55 point gain respectively in 2010. In five years, the school has gone from a State – Similar Schools rank of 2 – 2 to 6 – 10! From 2009-11, all at-risk subgroups have surpassed the state API;s for these groups; in 2010-11 they beat them by 60 or more points. In the spring of 2009, the president of AFT, Randi Weingarten, spent a day at Artesia High School. At the end of the day, she reported to the district that Artesia was the best high school she had seen that year and – based on the interactive teaching strategies and schoolwide positive relationships - that “All high schools should be run like Artesia High School!”
12. **Other high schools** have made gains with Strategic Schooling as well. With one year of implementation at **Healdsburg High School** in 2004-05, the school gained 82 points, the highest gain in Sonoma County that year. At **Rialto High School** in 2002-03, the school made a 50 point gain with similar implementation for one year.

**Santa Maria High School** began implementing Strategic Schooling strategies in 2010-11 and achieved a 22 point API gain, surpassing all but one other high school in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. Finally,

**Farmersville High School** in Tulare County achieved an 80 point gain in 2009-10 and another 38 points in 2010-11. Three years ago, it was ranked a 1-3 and now enjoys a ranking of 3-9!

13. **Tulare County** – Site Leadership Teams have been attending 3-4 Strategic Schooling training sessions a year for the past three years. Results in 2010-11 show the fruition of these educators hard work with some of the state’s most disadvantaged students. Although **Farmersville High School, Earlimart,** and **Jefferson Elementary** have been mentioned above, other success stories in API gains for 2010-11 include **Monson-Sultana (66), Palo Verde (36), Pixely (36), Tipton (19), Kings River (11), and Waukena ES (60).**
14. **Konocti USD** – Located in Lake County, this low income, rural district began a districtwide Strategic Schooling initiative in 2010-11. Instructional Leadership Teams attended five sessions, and the whole district faculty attended two. As a result, Konocti marked an average gain of 41 points on their API in 2010-11, with the lowest schooling achieving 7 points and the highest 91 points.
15. **Los Angeles USD – Local District 2 – Persistently Underperforming** - Local District 2 launched a Strategic Schooling Initiative in 2010-11 with 9 elementary, 8 middle, and 4 high schools that had been identified by the state as the most “persistently underperforming” in the district. Leadership teams from each school attended five Strategic Schooling training sessions; there was an elementary and a secondary cohort. Most of the secondary schools were also visited for a half day by all participating administrators.

**The Elementary Cohort** (Broadous, Camellia, Hazeltine, Roscoe, Sharp, Strathern, Sylvan Park, Vinedale) - All but two schools made gains with Broadous (88), Hazeltine (76), Roscoe (58), and Strathern (58) leading the group for an average gain for the nine schools of 39 points.

**The Middle School Cohort** (Byrd, Fulton CP, Maclay, Madison, Olive Vista, Pacoima, Sun Valley, Van Nuys) - All eight schools made modest gains with Maclay leading with 24 points for an average of 16 points for all schools.

**The High School Cohort** (East Valley, Grant, San Fernando, Sylmar) - All four schools made gains. Sylmar Senior High led with 35 points for an average of 27 points for the high school group.

16. **Los Angeles USD – Local District 2 – Three Cohorts of Three** – In 2010-11, three cohorts of three schools each contracted independently for a series of five Strategic Schooling trainings: the North Hollywood Cohort, the Pacoima-Sylmar Cohort, and the Sun Valley Cohort. API gains in these schools are as follows:

**North Hollywood Cohort** – Oxnard ES (27), Fair Ave ES (21), and Coldwater Canyon ES (82);

**Pacoima-Sylmar Cohort** – Haddon ES (7 – pulled out of the project in the middle of the year), Sylmar ES (66), and Sara Coughlin ES (21);

**Sun Valley Cohort** – Fernangeles ES (67), Strathern ES (58), and Saticoy ES (32).

Not counting Haddon ES, the average gain for these three cohorts is 47 points.

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**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - LOCAL DISTRICT 2  
STRATEGIC SCHOOLING SCHOOLS  
API GAINS – 2010-11**

State Identified Underperforming Elementary Schools	API Points	North Hollywood Cohort of Elementary Schools	API Points
Broadous Camelia Hazeltine Roscoe Sharp Strathern Sylvan Park Toluca Lake Vinedale	88 23 76 58 -9 58 -1 39 23	Oxnard Fair Avenue Coldwater Canyon	27 21 82
State Identified Underperforming Middle Schools	API Points	Pacoima-Sylmar Cohort of Elementary Schools	API Points
Byrd Fulton MacClay Madison Olive Vista Pacoima Sun Valley Van Nuys	15 18 24 14 14 20 16 13	Haddon (pulled out mid-year) Sylmar Sara Coughlin	7 66 21
State Identified Underperforming High Schools	API Points	Sun Valley Cohort of Elementary Schools	API Points
East Valley Grant San Fernando Sylmar	32 25 16 35	Fernangeles Strathern Saticoy	67 58 32
<b>AVERAGE GAIN</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>AVERAGE GAIN</b>	<b>42</b>

**AVERAGE FOR ALL 30 SCHOOLS = 33 POINTS**

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