

# **Pioneer Middle School**

225 East College Avenue • Porterville, CA 93257 • (559) 782-7200 • Grades 7-8 Angel Valdez, Principal avaldez@portervilleschools.org

## 2012-13 School Accountability Report Card Published During the 2013-14 School Year

## About the SARC

Every school in California is required by state law to publish a School Accountability Report Card (SARC), by February 1 of each year. The SARC contains information about the condition and performance of each California public school. All data are reported for the 2012-13 school-year, unless otherwise indicated. For more information about SARC requirements, see the California Department of Education (CDE) SARC webpage at <a href="https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sa/">www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sa/</a>. For additional information about this school, please contact the school administration at (559) 782-7200.

## **Principal's Message**

"To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe." ~ Anatole France

Pioneer Middle School members share the belief that all students can learn. We believe that all students have the potential to become ethical and democratic citizens who are optimistic about the future. We see that maximizing the potential of each child as our responsibility and charge during their academic years at Pioneer Middle School.

The teachers at Pioneer Middle School are educators who value and understand the importance of working with young adolescent minds. As a professional learning community, we strive for continued improvement of the academic program. Teachers are continuously engaged in collaborative research, problem-solving, and reflective dialogue that enables them to examine their practices with the ultimate goal of improving student achievement. Pioneer continually strives to create a college-bound academic culture where students play a major role in their own learning and education.

We have emphasized the achievement of every student in every classroom. This approach makes sure that poor performance is not acceptable and each and every adult is accountable to the students that sit in front of them every day. By placing relentless focus on individual performance, we have implemented a vital cycle of instruction, assessment, and intervention, followed by more instruction, assessment, and intervention. We believe in all of our students and will do whatever it takes to make them successful. The students have developed an attitude of "I can and I will" when it comes to their academic success.

## **Community & School Profile**

Porterville, lying along the foothills of the Sierras, is located on State Highway 65, 165 miles north of Los Angeles, and 171 miles east of the Pacific Coast. Centrally located to major markets, the city has strategic access to major transportation routes. Porterville Unified School District serves more than 13,000 students throughout the community, as well as the town of Strathmore. The district is comprised of ten elementary schools, three middle schools, four comprehensive high schools, one magnet academy, one continuation high school, and two alternative sites.

## Porterville Unified School District

600 West Grand Ave. Porterville, CA 93257 (559) 793-2400 portervilleschools.org

## **District Governing Board**

Hayley Buettner Pete Lara, Jr. Pat Contreras Sharon Gill David DePaoli Richard Morris Lillian Durbin

District Administration John Snavely, Ed.D. Superintendent

Ken Gibbs, Ed.D. Assistant Superintendent Business Services

Martha Stuemky, Ed.D. Assistant Superintendent Instructional Services

Nate Nelson, Ed.D. Assistant Superintendent Human Resources Centrally located within city limits, Pioneer Middle School serves students in grades seven and eight on a traditional calendar schedule. Curriculum is based on improving literacy and mathematical comprehension, with special emphasis placed on cultural awareness. Diverse literature selections, the "Habits of Mind" program, and various cultural observances promote a climate of tolerance and acceptance among students and faculty.

During the 2012-13 school year, 542 students were enrolled at the school. Student demographics are displayed in the chart.

## **Opportunities for Parental Involvement**

Parents and the community are very supportive of the educational programs in the Porterville Unified School District. The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) plays a special role in the community and at each school site through fundraising and special activities. In addition to chaperoning field trips and volunteering in the classroom, Pioneer Middle School has established a school-to-home connection in which parents agree to have their children at school each day, provide assistance with homework when necessary, and read with their student each day.

Contributions by the following community partners add to the programs available at Pioneer Middle School: Wal-Mart and Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Lion's Club, Eagle Mountain Casino, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Target.

## **Contact Information**

Parents who wish to participate in the school's leadership teams, school committees, school activities, or become a volunteer may contact the main office at (559) 782-7200. The district's website (www.porterville.k12.ca.us) also provides a variety of helpful resources and information for parents, students, staff, and community members.

Student Enrollment by Grade Level						
Grade Level	Number of Students					
Gr. 7	271					
Gr. 8	263					
Total	534					

Student Enrollment by Group						
Group	Percent of Total Enrollment					
Black or African American	0.4					
American Indian or Alaska Native	8.2					
Asian	0.7					
Filipino	0.9					
Hispanic or Latino	80.7					
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.4					
White	8.1					
Two or More Races	0.4					
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	97.4					
English Learners	45.9					
Students with Disabilities	4.7					

	Average Class Size and Class Size Distribution												
Average Class Size					Number of Classrooms*								
Ave	erage C	lass Siz	e	1-20 21-32					33+				
Year	11	12	13	11	12	13	11	12	13	11	12	13	
English	22.8	25.7	25	8	5	6	15	16	14	0	1	1	
Math	25.2	26.6	28	5	4	3	13	13	9	1	2	7	
Science	25.3	23.6	25	4	6	6	10	11	3	0	0	2	
SS	26.3	28.3	28	3	1	3	3	6	8	3	1	5	

Number of classes indicates how many classrooms fall into each size category (a range of total students per classroom). At the secondary school level, this information is reported by subject area, English, Math, Science and Social Science (SS), rather than grade level.

Suspensions and Expulsions									
School	School 10-11 11-12								
Suspensions Rate	25.26	23.37	12.92						
Expulsions Rate	4.18	0.20	0.37						
District	10-11	11-12	12-13						
Suspensions Rate	11.96	11.83	7.97						
Expulsions Rate	1.03	0.14	0.17						

The rate of suspensions and expulsions is calculated by dividing the total number of incidents by the total enrollment (and multiplying by 100).

## School Safety Plan

This section provides information about the school's comprehensive safety plan, including the dates on which the safety plan was last reviewed, updated, and discussed with faculty; as well as a brief description of the key elements of the plan.

The safety of students and staff is a primary concern of Pioneer Middle School. Teachers and administrators supervise students on campus before and after school and during recess. Noon duty supervisors monitor students during the lunch break. All visitors must sign in at the Principal's office and receive proper authorization to be on campus. Visitors are asked by the staff to display their pass at all times.

The School Site Safety Plan was most recently revised in Fall 2012 by the Safety Committee. Key elements of the plan focus on emergency preparedness. The school is in compliance with the laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to hazardous materials and state earthquake standards. The school's disaster preparedness plan includes steps for ensuring student and staff safety during a disaster. Emergency drills are held on a regular basis; fire drills are held once a month, earthquake and lockdown drills are held twice a year.

#### School Facility Conditions and Planned Improvements (School Year 2013-14)

This section provides information from the most recent Facility Inspection Tool (FIT) data (or equivalent), including:

- Description of the safety, cleanliness, and adequacy of the school facility
- Description of any planned or recently completed facility improvements
- The year and month in which the data were collected
- Description of any needed maintenance to ensure good repair

#### Year and month in which data were collected: 2013

Pioneer Middle School, originally constructed in the 1950s, is currently comprised of 35 classrooms (including portables), a library, four computer labs, one staff room, a cafeteria/multi-purpose room, one athletic field, and the main office. All facilities have been modernized and upgraded throughout the years.

The most recent renovations to the campus occurred in 2009, and included the construction of a county-sponsored, multi-million dollar Special Education facility. The state-of-the-art building replaced a number of older portable classrooms on the property and serves the needs of numerous students throughout the district. The chart displays the results of the most recent school facilities inspection, provided by the district in December 2011.

### School Facility Good Repair Status (School Year 2013-14)

This section provides information from the most recent Facility Inspection Tool (FIT) data (or equivalent), including:

- Determination of repair status for systems listed
- Description of any needed maintenance to ensure good repair
- The Overall Rating (bottom row)

	School Fa	cility Good R	epair Status	5	
Contract Instruments of		Repair		Repair Needed and	
System Inspected	Good	Fa	nir	Poor	Action Taken or Planned
Systems: Gas Leaks, Mechanical/HVAC, Sewer	[X]	[	]	[]	
Interior: Interior Surfaces	[X]	[	]	[]	
Cleanliness: Overall Cleanliness, Pest/ Vermin Infestation	[X]	[	]	[]	
Electrical: Electrical	[]	[)	(]	[]	
Restrooms/Fountains: Restrooms, Sinks/ Fountains	[]	[	]	[X]	
<b>Safety:</b> Fire Safety, Hazardous Materials	[X]	[	]	[]	
Structural: Structural Damage, Roofs	[X]	] [	]	[]	
<b>External:</b> Playground/School Grounds, Windows/ Doors/Gates/Fences	[X]	]	]	[]	
Overall Rating	Exemplary	Good	Fair	Poor	
	[]	[X]	[]	[]	

Teacher Credentials							
School	10-11	11-12	12-13				
Fully Credentialed	24	24	24				
Without Full Credential	0	0	0				
Teaching Outside Subject Area	3	3	3				
Districtwide	10-11	11-12	12-13				
Fully Credentialed	•	•	563				
Without Full Credential	•	•	4				

Teacher Misassignments and Vacant Teacher Positions at this School 11-12 12-13 13-14 School **Teachers of English Learners** 0 0 0 0 0 0 **Total Teacher Misassignments** 0 0 Vacant Teacher Positions ٥

"Misassignments" refers to the number of positions filled by teachers who lack legal authorization to teach that grade level, subject area, student group, etc.

#### **Professional Development**

This section provides information on the number of days provided for professional development and continuous professional growth in the most recent three year period.

A constructive evaluation process promotes quality instruction and is a fundamental element in a sound educational program. Evaluations and formal observations are designed to encourage common goals and to comply with the state's evaluation criteria and district policies. Temporary and probationary teachers are evaluated annually and tenured teachers are evaluated every other year.

Evaluations are conducted by site administrators, who have been trained and certified for competency to perform teacher evaluations. Evaluation criteria includes the following:

- Engaging and Supporting all Students in Learning
- Understanding and Organizing Subject Matter for Student Learning
- Assessing Student Learning
- Creating and Maintaining Effective Environments for Student Learning
- Planning Instruction and Designing Learning Experiences for all Students
- Developing as a Professional Educator

Staff members build teaching skills and concepts through participation in conferences and workshops throughout the year. For the past three years, the district has offered two staff development days. During this time, teachers are offered a broad-based variety of professional growth opportunities in curriculum, teaching strategies, and methodologies. The school uses the Best Practices teaching strategies and teachers are trained in the techniques each year.

For additional support in their profession, teachers may enlist the services of the district's Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) facilitator and/or the Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) program.

#### Core Academic Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers

The Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB), requires that core academic subjects be taught by Highly Qualified Teachers, defined as having at least a bachelor's degree, an appropriate California teaching credential, and demonstrated core academic subject area competence. For more information, see the CDE *Improving Teacher and Principal Quality* webpage at: www.cde.ca.gov/nclb/sr/tq/

Percent of Classes In Core Academic Subjects Core Academic Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers								
Location of ClassesTaught by HighlyNot Taught by HighlQualified TeachersQualified TeachersQualified Teachers								
This School	100.0	0.0						
	Districtwide							
All Schools	98.2	1.8						
High-Poverty Schools	98.2	1.8						
Low-Poverty Schools	0.0	0.0						

High-poverty schools are defined as those schools with student eligibility of approximately 40 percent or more in the free and reduced price meals program. Low-poverty schools are those with student eligibility of approximately 25 percent or less in the free and reduced price meals program.

Academic Counselors and Other Support Staff at t	his School					
Number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)						
Academic Counselor						
Social/Behavioral or Career Development Counselor						
Library Media Teacher (Librarian)	1					
Library Media Services Staff (Paraprofessional)						
Psychologist	1					
Social Worker						
Nurse	1					
Speech/Language/Hearing Specialist	1					
Resource Specialist	1					
Other						
Average Number of Students per Staff Member						
Academic Counselor						

One Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) equals one staff member working full-time; one FTE could also represent two staff members who each work 50 percent of full-time.

Expenditures Per Pupil and School Site Teacher Salaries (Fiscal Year 2011-12)								
Expenditures Per Pupil Average								
Level	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Teacher Salary				
School Site	\$6,707	\$614	\$6,092	\$70,648				
District	•	•	\$6,336	\$69,248				
State	•	•	\$5,537	\$68,841				
Percent Diffe	rence: School S	-3.9	2.0					
Percent Diffe	rence: School S	Site/ State	10.0	2.6				

\* **Supplemental/Restricted** expenditures come from money whose use is controlled by law or by a donor. Money that is designated for specific purposes by the district or governing board is not considered restricted.

\* **Basic/Unrestricted expenditures** are from money whose use, except for general guidelines, is not controlled by law or by a donor.

For detailed information on school expenditures for all districts in California, see the CDE Current Expense of Education & Per-pupil Spending webpage at www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/ec/. For information on teacher salaries for all districts in California, see the CDE Certificated Salaries & Benefits webpage at www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/cs/. To look up expenditures and salaries for a specific school district, see the Ed-Data Web site at: www.ed-data.org.

#### Teacher and Administrative Salaries (Fiscal Year 2011-12) State Average for District Category **Districts In Same** Amount Category **Beginning Teacher Salary** \$40,933 \$42,106 \$63,598 \$65,087 Mid-Range Teacher Salary Highest Teacher Salary \$82,129 \$84,436 Average Principal Salary (ES) \$123,392 \$106,715 \$111,205 Average Principal Salary (MS) \$114,481 Average Principal Salary (HS) \$124,594 \$120,506

Superintendent Salary\$155,487\$207,812Percent of District BudgetTeacher Salaries38.9%39.8%Administrative Salaries4.0%5.1%

For detailed information on salaries, see the CDE Certificated Salaries & Benefits webpage at www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/cs/.

## Types of Services Funded (Fiscal Year 2012-13)

This section provides specific information about the types of programs and services available at the school that support and assists students. For example, this narrative may include information about supplemental educational services related to the school's federal Program Improvement (PI) status.

In addition to general state funding, Porterville Unified School District received state and federal categorical funding for the following support programs:

- Title I, Basic Grant
- Title II, Teacher Quality & Technology
- Title III, Limited English Proficiency

#### Quality, Currency, Availability of Textbooks and Instructional Materials (School Year 2013-14)

This section describes whether the textbooks and instructional materials used at the school are from the most recent adoption; whether there are sufficient textbooks and instruction materials for each student; and information about the school's use of any supplemental curriculum or non-adopted textbooks or instructional materials.

#### Year and month in which data were collected: December 2011

Porterville Unified School District held a Public Hearing on September 6, 2011 and determined that each school has sufficient and good quality textbooks, instructional materials, or science lab equipment pursuant to the settlement of Williams vs. the State of California. All students, including English Learners, are given their own individual standards-aligned textbooks or instructional materials, or both, in core subjects for use in the classroom and to take home. The chart below displays data collected in December 2011, regarding textbooks in use during the 2011-12 school year.

Textbooks and Instructional Materials								
Core Curriculum Area		Textbooks and Instructional Materials/Year of Adoption						
<b>Reading/Language Arts</b> The textbooks listed are from most r	recent adoption:	Yes	McDougal Littell Adopted 2003					
Percent of students lacking their ow	n assigned textbook:	0.0%	Wright Group Adopted 2003					

Textbooks and Instructional Materials							
Core Curriculum Area		Textbooks and Instructional Materials/Year of Adoption					
Mathematics The textbooks listed are from most rec	ent adoption:	Yes	Glencoe Adopted 2000				
Percent of students lacking their own a	ssigned textbook:	0.0%	McDougal Littell Adopted 2006 Prentice hall Adopted 2006				
Science			Glencoe				
The textbooks listed are from most rec	ent adoption:	Yes	Adopted 2001				
Percent of students lacking their own a	ssigned textbook:	0.0%					
History-Social Science			McDougal Littell				
The textbooks listed are from most rec	ent adoption:	Yes	Adopted 2007				
Percent of students lacking their own a	ssigned textbook:	0.0%					
Health			MacMillan/McGraw Hill				
The textbooks listed are from most rec	ent adoption:	Yes	Adopted 2006				
Percent of students lacking their own a	ssigned textbook:	0.0%					

<u>Note</u>: Scores are not shown when the number of students tested is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

The Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program consists of several key components, including:

- California Standards Tests (CSTs), which include Englishlanguage arts (ELA) and mathematics (Math) in grades two through eleven; science in grades five, eight, and nine through eleven; and history-social science (H-SS) in grades eight, and nine through eleven.
- California Modified Assessment (CMA), an alternate assessment that is based on modified achievement standards in ELA for grades three through eleven; mathematics for grades three through seven, Algebra I, and Geometry; and science in grades five and eight, and Life Science in grade ten. The CMA is designed to assess those students whose disabilities preclude them from achieving grade-level proficiency on an assessment of the California content standards with or without accommodations.
- California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA), includes ELA and mathematics in grades two through eleven, and science for grades five, eight, and ten. The CAPA is given to those students with significant cognitive disabilities whose disabilities prevent them from taking either the CSTs with accommodations or modifications or the CMA with accommodations.

The assessments under the STAR Program show how well students are doing in relation to the state content standards. On each of these assessments, student scores are reported as performance levels.

For detailed information regarding the STAR Program results for each grade and performance level, including the Percent of Students not tested, see the CDE STAR Results Web site at star.cde.ca.gov.

	STAR Results for All Students - Three-Year Comparison										
	Percent of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced										
Subject	School District State										
	10-11	11-12	12-13	10-11	11-12	12-13	10-11	11-12	12-13		
ELA	41	47	43	42	45	42	54	56	55		
Math	45	48	45	41	44	41	49	50	50		
Science	50	45	48	44	44	44	57	60	59		
H-SS	16	17	16	35	37	36	48	49	49		

#### **Internet Access**

Internet access is available at public libraries and other locations that are publicly accessible. Access to the Internet at libraries and public locations is generally provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Other use restrictions may include the hours of operation, the length of time that a workstation may be used (depending on availability), the types of software programs available on a workstation, and the ability to print documents.

2013 STAR Results by Student Group				
Group	Percent of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced			
	ELA	Math	Science	H-SS
All Students in the LEA	42	41	44	36
All Student at the School	43	45	48	16
Male	37	41	43	14
Female	49	50	52	18
Black or African American				
American Indian or Alaska Native	24	21	23	8
Asian				
Filipino				
Hispanic or Latino	44	48	51	17
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander				
White	47	44	40	18
Two or More Races				
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	42	44	47	15
English Learners	12	28	26	7
Students with Disabilities	9	9		
Students Receiving Migrant Education Services	38	47	41	5

#### Academic Performance Index

The Academic Performance Index (API) is an annual measure of state academic performance and progress of schools in California. API scores range from 200 to 1,000, with a statewide target of 800. For detailed information about the API, see the CDE API webpage at www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/.

API Growth by Student Group – Three-Year Comparison				
C-rown	Actual API Change			
Group	10-11	11-12	12-13	
All Students at the School	-8	25	-14	
Black or African American				
American Indian or Alaska Native				
Asian				
Filipino				
Hispanic or Latino	8	29	-16	
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander				
White				
Two or More Races				
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	-5	22	-16	
English Learners	-5	31	-22	
Students with Disabilities				

#### **California Physical Fitness Test Results**

The California Physical Fitness Test (PFT) is administered to students in grades five, seven, and nine only. This table displays by grade level the Percent of Students meeting the fitness standards for the most recent testing period. For detailed information regarding this test, and comparisons of a school's test results to the district and state, see the CDE PFT webpage at www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/pf/.

Grade	Percent of Students Meeting Fitness Standards			
Level	4 of 6	5 of 6	6 of 6	
7	21.2	17.3	20.1	

## DataQuest

DataQuest is an online data tool located on the CDE DataQuest webpage at dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/ that contains additional information about this school and comparisons of the school to the district, the county, and the state. Specifically, DataQuest is a dynamic system that provides reports for accountability (e.g., state Academic Performance Index [API], federal Adequate Yearly Progress [AYP]), test data, enrollment, high school graduates, dropouts, course enrollments, staffing, and data regarding English learners.

#### Academic Performance Index Ranks - Three-Year Comparison

This table displays the school's statewide and similar schools' API ranks. The **statewide API rank** ranges from 1 to 10. A statewide rank of 1 means that the school has an API score in the lowest ten percent of all schools in the state, while a statewide rank of 10 means that the school has an API score in the highest ten percent of all schools in the state. The **similar schools API rank** reflects how a school compares to 100 statistically matched "similar schools." A similar schools rank of 1 means that the school's academic performance is comparable to the lowest performing ten schools of the 100 similar schools, while a similar schools rank of 10 means that the school's academic performance is better than at least 90 of the 100 similar schools.

Academic Performance Index Ranks - Three-Year Comparison					
API Rank	2010 2011 2012				
Statewide	4	4	4		
Similar Schools	10	10	9		

## Federal Intervention Program (School Year 2013-14)

Schools and districts receiving federal Title I funding enter Program Improvement (PI) if they do not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same content area (ELA or mathematics) or on the same indicator (API or graduation rate). After entering PI, schools and districts advance to the next level of intervention with each additional year that they do not make AYP. For detailed information about PI identification, see the CDE PI Status Determinations webpage: www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/tidetermine.asp.

Indicator	School	District
Program Improvement Status	In Pl	In PI
First Year of Program Improvement	2004-2005	2006-2007
Year in Program Improvement	Year 5	Year 3
Number of Schools Currently in Program In	17	
Percent of Schools Currently in Program In	89.5	

#### API Growth by Student Group - 2013 Growth API Comparison

This table displays, by student group, the number of students included in the API and the 2013 Growth API (API-G) at the school, district, and state level.

level.				
Group		School	District	State
All Students	Students	508	10,065	4,655,989
at the School	API-G	750	742	790
Black or	Students	2	41	296,463
African American	API-G		742	708
American Indian or	Students	42	233	30,394
Alaska Native	API-G	638	683	743
Asian	Students	3	180	406,527
	API-G		815	906
Filipino	Students	5	93	121,054
	API-G		820	867
Hispanic or Latino	Students	412	7,923	2,438,951
	API-G	764	735	744
Native Hawaiian/	Students	2	26	25,351
Pacific Islander	API-G		655	774
White	Students	39	1,452	1,200,127
	API-G	715	775	853
Тwo	Students	3	94	125,025
or More Races	API-G		758	824
Socioeconomically	Students	492	8,452	2,774,640
Disadvantaged	API-G	746	730	743
English Learners	Students	232	3,765	1,482,316
	API-G	710	689	721
Students	Students	23	579	527,476
with Disabilities	API-G	436	494	615

## **Adequate Yearly Progress**

The federal ESEA requires that all schools and districts meet the following Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) criteria:

- Participation rate on the state's standards-based assessments in ELA and mathematics
- Percent proficient on the state's standards-based assessments in ELA and mathematics
- API as an additional indicator
- Graduation rate (for secondary schools)

Detailed information about AYP, can be found at the CDE Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) webpage at www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/.

AYP Criteria	School	District
Made AYP Overall	No	No
Met Participation Rate: English-Language Arts	Yes	Yes
Met Participation Rate: Mathematics	Yes	Yes
Met Percent Proficient: English-Language Arts	No	No
Met Percent Proficient: Mathematics	No	No
Met API Criteria	No	No
Met Graduation Rate (if applicable)	N/A	No