

Nettie L Waite Middle School—La Mirada USD

Location: North Central South

County: Los Angeles County

Demographics: Suburban with typical Urban School Characteristics

Exemplar Area:
Family Engagement

Contact:
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Strengths:

- Improved data culture
- Improved parent involvement
- 97% Parent turn out rate at fall 2016 parent teacher conferences

Struggles:

- Parents not knowing how to support their students and limited participation in parent/teacher nights for various reasons
- Limited technology
- Declining student enrollment/staff

Summary:

Teachers can implement data-driven instruction across their content areas and integrate research-based teaching strategies that support school wide literacy.

School team has worked closely with staff, PTA, ELAC committees to establish an open-door policy on campus.

Support for families includes: English language classes with childcare, online grade and attendance tutorials, and diverse parent informational meetings. Increased communications via: Twitter, Connect Ed phone dialers, timely email exchanges, Web site information, marquee postings, and parent flyers have helped teachers and parents stay informed, hold students more accountable, and develop relationships.

Advice for Success:

1. Keep it simple, keep it consistent, and make it meaningful.
2. Simple—Focus on one area of growth at a time.
3. Consistent—Select a universal screener that is familiar and available for at least 5 years to ensure valid data.
4. Meaningful—Use data to drive discussions. Plan and implement purposeful instruction that leads to consistent progress.
5. Be flexible with need of the parents: provide child care, multiple avenues of communication, flexible time schedules for parents who work in evenings.