



HELEN CARR CASTELLO ELEMENTARY

9850 Fire Poppy Dr
Elk Grove, CA 95757
(916) 686-1725

Board of Education
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Hours of Operation

Our office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. We operate on a year-round, multitrack schedule. You are always welcome to visit the school with questions or concerns. Parents can also find pertinent and current information on our school's website at: www.egusd.net/castello.

School Highlights and Awards

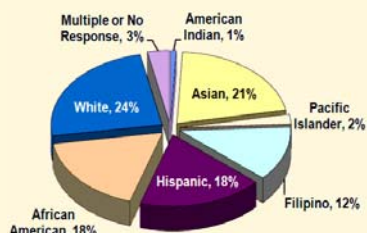
- Visual & Performing Arts /Science Focus
- Academic Performance Index (API) of 838
- Award of Excellence in Food Safety
- District Oral Language Fair - 1st & 2nd place winners
- District Science Fair- 3rd place & honorable mention winners

Student Demographics

	School	District
Enrollment	850	61,573
English Learners	111	10,241
Languages Spoken	19	72
Students of Poverty	282	29,915
GATE	29	3,784

SOURCE: Enrollment: 2008 CBEDS, California Dept. of Education; Students of Poverty and GATE: October 2008, EGUSD; English Learners and Languages Spoken: March 2008, EGUSD

Population by Ethnicity



SOURCE: 2008 CBEDS, California Dept. of Education

Introduction from the Board

Thank you for your interest and commitment to your child's education, and your continuing partnership in teaching and learning. In order to best serve our community, we have created this condensed version of the full School Accountability Report Card (SARC) with the mission of presenting information about each of our schools in a clear, parent friendly format. If you are interested in viewing the full SARC report for your child's school, you will find it at the district website: www.egusd.net.

A Message From the Principal

Helen Carr Castello Elementary
A school with a mission to EXPLORE, DREAM and DISCOVER!

At Helen Carr Castello Elementary we are committed to building a culture of academic excellence and enrichment, maintaining a climate that is welcoming, safe, and nurturing, and celebrating cultural and educational diversity!

Helen Carr Castello Elementary truly provides a unique and wonderful educational experience for children: a safe campus; a warm learning environment; exciting and creative educational opportunities; and rigor and breadth of instruction.

Our district's mission is to provide a learning community that challenges ALL students to realize their greatest potential. We focus on supporting our students in reaching our district's bold goals. Our success in implementing the district's mission can be evidenced through our school's special strengths, including: an outstanding team of teachers; visual and performing arts and science focus; after school enrichment programs such as science club, math olympiad club, art, drama, dance, band, choir, yearbook, and sports; rigorous and differentiated curriculum supporting all student needs; and during and after school accelerated classes.

As a school, we emphasize student unity, cooperation, and respectful behavior. Additionally, we prioritize maintaining a safe and orderly campus. We ask that everyone visiting campus check in through the school office, helping us to maintain a secure and comfortable environment for our students.

In our fourth year of operation, we are proud that we continue to build programs for students. In the past year, we have enhanced our Visual and Performing Arts and Accelerated Reader programs. Our student leadership program continues to thrive. Our success is a tribute to the partnership that exists between the staff, the community and students.

Thank you and please feel free to contact and/or visit the school.

Ms. Ilesha Graham, Principal
Helen Carr Castello Elementary

Parental Involvement

Our partnership with parents increases and sustains our school's sense of community. Parents are encouraged to support their children's schooling by attending school functions like Back to School Night, student performances, parent conferences and Open House. Parents are invited to join our school's very active PTA. The PTA sponsors events that promote a sense of community and raise money for worthy causes. Our parents also play an important role in governance and decision making through the School Site Council, EL and GATE parent advisory groups. You are always welcome to visit and/or volunteer. For more information on parent involvement opportunities, please call the office or PTA at 686-1725.

Teacher Credentials and Misassignments

Teacher Credentials

2007-2008	
Total Number of Teachers	42
Total Full Credentials	42

SOURCE: 2007-2008 CBEDS, California Dept. of Education

Teacher Misassignments and Vacancies

2008-2009	
Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners	0
Misassignments Due to Subject Matter Competency	0
Teacher Vacancies	0

SOURCE: 2008-2009, EGUSD

In the 2008-2009 school year, over 99 percent of the district's teachers held full teaching credentials. In addition to being fully credentialed, if a class is 20 percent or more English Learners (EL), the teacher should hold a supplementary authorization to instruct students in learning English or they are considered misassigned. Our district is working to remedy these misassignments by providing training opportunities for teachers to earn these authorizations and providing ongoing professional development in strategies to help EL students.

In subjects with a shortage, a fully credentialed teacher is sometimes asked to teach outside of their subject matter competency area until an appropriately credentialed teacher can be hired. In these cases, teachers are counted as misassigned.

Vacancies are defined as a position to which a permanent teacher has not been assigned by the beginning of the course. Most vacancies in our district are in subject areas where qualified teachers are in shortage.

School Facility Conditions and Planned Improvement

The district takes great efforts to ensure that all schools are clean, safe, and functional. To assist in this effort, the district uses a facility survey instrument developed by the State of California Office of Public School Construction. Each month, the lead custodian, in collaboration with the site administrator, conducts a thorough inspection of the school grounds utilizing this survey instrument. On a daily basis the custodial team provides supervision and maintenance from 6:30 am - 10:00 pm. During these hours the school facilities are thoroughly cleaned, the classrooms are inspected, the playground is maintained and the restrooms are checked hourly.

Helen Carr Castello Elementary has 36 classrooms, a multipurpose room, a library, a computer lab, and an administration building.

District maintenance staff ensures that the repairs necessary to keep the school in good repair and working order are completed in a timely manner. A work order process is used to ensure efficient service and that emergency repairs are given the highest priority. The district governing board has adopted cleaning standards for all schools in the district. A summary of these standards is available at the school office or the district Facilities Department. The principal works with the custodial staff to develop cleaning schedules to ensure a clean and safe school.

There are no corrective actions necessary at this time.

School Facility Good Repair Status

Date of facilities inspection: 5/9/07

Item Inspected	Repair Status			Repair Needed
	Good	Fair	Poor	
Gas Leaks	x			None
Mechanical Systems	x			None
Windows/Doors/Gates (int. and ext.)	x			None
Interior Walls, Floors, and Ceilings	x			None
Hazardous Materials (int. and ext.)	x			None
Structural Damage	x			None
Fire Safety	x			None
Electrical (interior and exterior)	x			None
Pest/Vermin Infestation	x			None
Drinking Fountains (int. and ext.)	x			None
Restrooms	x			None
Sewer	x			None
Playground/School Grounds	x			None
Roofs	x			None
Overall Cleanliness	x			None

	Exemplary	Good	Fair	Poor
Overall Summary		x		

SOURCE: 2008-2009, EGUSD

Class Size

In Elk Grove schools, our research shows that small class sizes lead to higher student engagement and academic achievement. It has been a top priority in our district to reduce class sizes over the last several years. We have reduced class size to 20 to 1 in Kindergarten through 3rd grade, and 26 to 1 in 4th through 6th grades. At the secondary level, certain core classes, such as Algebra I and 9th grade English, have reduced class sizes.

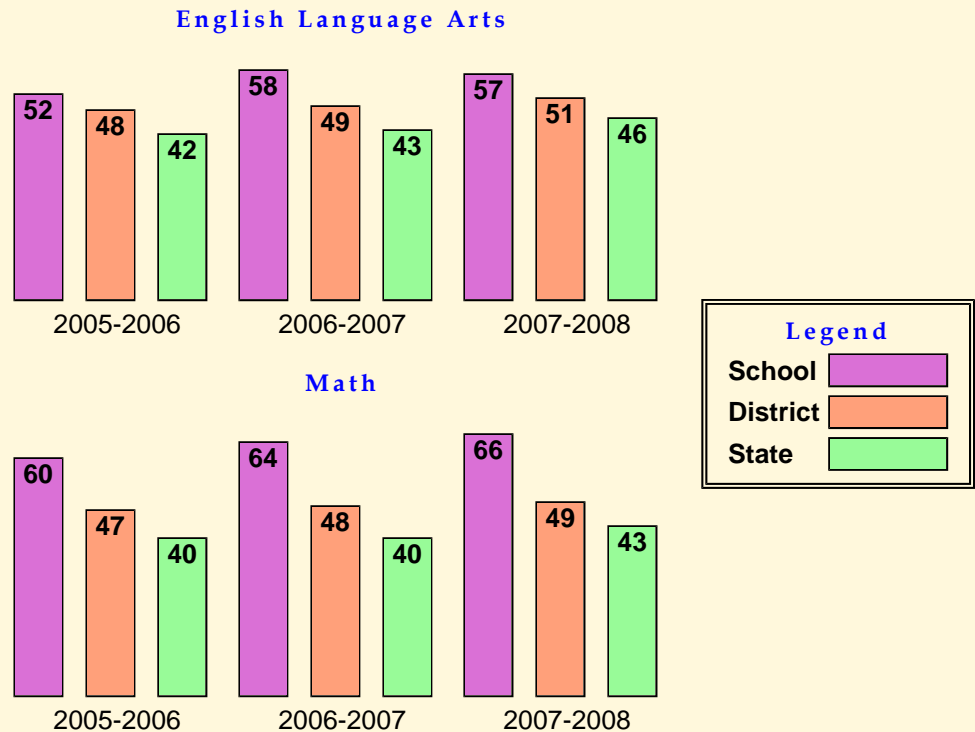
School Average	
Kindergarten	20.0
Grade 1	20.0
Grade 2	20.0
Grade 3	19.7
Grade 4	25.8
Grade 5	25.8
Grade 6	25.8

SOURCE: 2008 CBEDS, California Dept. of Education

California Standards Tests (CST)

The California Standards Tests (CST) show how well students are doing in relation to the state content standards. Student scores are reported as performance levels. The five performance levels are Advanced, Proficient, Basic, Below Basic, and Far Below Basic. Students scoring at the Proficient or Advanced level meet state standards in that content area.

Data reported are the percent of students scoring at the Proficient or Advanced levels.



SOURCE: Spring 2008, California Dept. of Education

Academic Performance Index (API)

The Academic Performance Index is a score on a scale of 200 to 1,000 that annually measures the academic performance and progress of individual schools in California. The state has set 800 as the API score that schools should strive to meet. Each year a school's API is required to increase a minimum of 5% until they meet the 800 target overall and for significant subgroups. Schools across the state are ranked into ten categories, from one (lowest) to ten (highest), which is referred to as their statewide rank. In addition, each school is compared to 100 statistically matched similar schools and ranked against this group. This ranking is also ranked into ten categories, from one to ten. These ranks are published when the Base API is released each March.

Growth Score	838
Statewide Rank	8
Similar Schools Rank	8

SOURCE: 2007-2008, California Dept. of Education

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that all students perform at or above the proficient level on the state's standards-based assessments by 2014. In order to achieve this goal and meet annual performance objectives, districts and schools must improve each year according to set requirements. A "Yes" in the following table displaying Overall AYP Status indicated that AYP was met for all students and all subgroups.

Schools receiving Title I funding enter federal Program Improvement (PI) if they do not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years. In the 2008-2009 school year, there are no Program Improvement schools in our district.

Overall AYP Status Met	Yes
Program Improvement	N/A

SOURCE: 2007-2008, California Dept. of Education

Professional Development

For 2008-2009, our school has a professional development emphasis in writing to support the recent purchase of the Step Up to Writing Program. Our intermediate teachers also take part in a district math professional development program for teachers of grades 4-7 that is intended to increase students' conceptual understanding of mathematics. Additionally, our special education teachers have numerous opportunities to learn how to best meet the needs of students with learning disabilities through the Reading First Special Education Professional Development program.

Through our district's Trainer of Trainers (TOT) professional development model, a team of teachers attend training on eliminating the Achievement Gap and then return to the site and train the whole staff on the strategies that they learned.

New teachers who have been teaching fewer than two years are supported by the district's beginning teacher (BTSA) program. They meet regularly with an experienced mentor to discuss their successes and challenges and new ideas for their classrooms.

Finally, the district offers a variety of classes for support staff. Instructional aides, school secretaries, office clerks, and custodians may take classes that relate to their work such as learning new computer skills and learning to work more efficiently and in ergonomically correct ways.

School Safety Plan

At Helen Carr Castello Elementary, we believe that nothing should get in the way of the academic achievement of students. One area of emphasis for our students is our positive Character Education program. Each month we have a schoolwide focus on caring, giving, service, justice, fairness, respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, leadership, initiative or teamwork. At Helen Carr Castello Elementary, we believe that these positive assets make a difference in our students' education and social and emotional well-being.

In Spring of 2008, we updated our School Safety and Traffic plan. An "Emergency Handbook" outlining a plan of action for emergencies such as earthquakes, fires, floods, and chemical spills is kept in the school office. Emergency clipboards and flashlights are kept in each classroom. Emergency radios are kept in each building. Emergency drills are conducted monthly. Random, periodic school safety inspections are also conducted. The district's Police Services Department works closely with our school to provide a safe, secure environment for all students.

Specialized Programs

At Helen Carr Castello Elementary, we have highly qualified staff members to assist students with specialized learning needs. Our Learning Center services not only special education students, but also general education students who need additional support to meet grade level standards. Bilingual Teaching Associates help our English Learners access the core curriculum. Gifted and Talented/Accelerated students participate in differentiated and accelerated instruction in class, after school and pull-out programs. After school extended day programs include science, math, art, drama, choir, band, dance, yearbook, and sports.

Average Salaries

Data reported are the district's average salaries for teachers, principals, and superintendents, compared to the state average salaries for districts of the same type and size, as defined by Education Code Section 41409.

Teachers	EGUSD 50,000+ ADA	State Average 20,000+ ADA
Beginning	\$40,047	\$40,721
Midrange	\$59,384	\$65,190
Highest	\$82,031	\$84,151
Principals		
Elementary	\$109,155	\$104,476
Middle	\$109,139	\$108,527
High	\$120,324	\$119,210
District Superintendent	\$221,536	\$210,769
Share of budget used for		
Teachers' salaries	45.4%	39.9%
Administrative salaries	4.7%	5.5%

SOURCE: FY 2006-2007, California Dept. of Education

District Administration

Steven M. Ladd, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Xavier De La Torre, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent,
Human Resources
Nancy Lucia
Associate Superintendent,
Education Services
Richard Odegaard
Associate Superintendent,
Finance & School Support
Christina Penna
Associate Superintendent,
Secondary Education
Robert Pierce
Associate Superintendent,
Facilities
L. Steven Winlock, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent,
Elementary Education

Average Daily Attendance

	Percent
School	96.43%
District	95.37%

SOURCE: 2007-2008, EGUSD

Discipline

	School	District
Suspensions	44	12,551
Expulsions	0	224

SOURCE: 2007-2008, California Dept. of Education

Elk Grove Unified School District

This school is administered by the Elk Grove Unified School District, which covers over 320 square miles in southern Sacramento County.

Total Students (Oct 2008)	61,573
Elementary Schools	39
Middle Schools	9
High Schools	9
Alternative Schools	4
Charter Schools	1
Adult Education Schools	1
Special Education Schools	1