

# First Avenue Middle

## School Accountability Report Card

### Reported Using Data from the 2014-15 School Year

### Published During 2015-16

By February 1 of each year, every school in California is required by state law to publish a School Accountability Report Card (SARC). The SARC contains information about the condition and performance of each California public school. Under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) all local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to prepare a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), which describes how they intend to meet annual school-specific goals for all pupils, with specific activities to address state and local priorities. Additionally, data reported in an LCAP is to be consistent with data reported in the SARC.

- For more information about SARC requirements, see the California Department of Education (CDE) SARC Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sa/>.
- For more information about the LCFF or LCAP, see the CDE LCFF Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/lc/>.
- For additional information about the school, parents/guardians and community members should contact the school principal or the district office.

#### DataQuest

DataQuest is an online data tool located on the CDE DataQuest Web page at <http://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., test data, enrollment, high school graduates, dropouts, course enrollments, staffing, and data regarding English learners).

#### Internet Access

Internet access is available at public libraries and other locations that are publicly accessible (e.g., the California State Library). 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.

## About This School

#### Contact Information (Most Recent Year)

School Contact Information	
School Name	First Avenue Middle
Street	301 South First Ave.
City, State, Zip	Arcadia, CA 91006-3802
Phone Number	(626) 821-8362
Principal	Thomas S. Bruce, Ed.D.
E-mail Address	tbruce@ausd.net
Web Site	www.fa.ausd.net
Grades Served	6-8
CDS Code	19642616057467

<b>District Contact Information</b>	
<b>District Name</b>	Arcadia Unified School District
<b>Phone Number</b>	(626) 821-8300
<b>Superintendent</b>	David Vannasdall
<b>E-mail Address</b>	rforan@ausd.net
<b>Web Site</b>	www.ausd.k12.ca.us

### **School Description and Mission Statement (Most Recent Year)**

We are proud of the excellent middle school program at First Avenue Middle School. Our teachers and staff work hard to provide the support needed for every child to meet or exceed our high expectations. We have very strong beliefs that guide everything we do at First Avenue Middle School. We believe middle school students are young people in transition between childhood and adulthood. They have very distinctive physical, intellectual, social, and emotional needs that set them apart from elementary and high school students. We care very much about how students progress through middle school and the program has been planned to address student needs in a way that will help them feel safe and successful as they grow and make developmental changes. We strive to provide a stable yet flexible environment that will meet students' needs while challenging them to excel academically.

First Avenue is an educational community that promotes an environment of academic challenge with high expectations for student learning and strong character development. The school is centered on nurturing the educational spirit of each student in a safe learning environment that accommodates diverse learning styles, the pursuit of powerful learning through experimentation and exploration, and the opportunity to do so without fear of failure.

Instruction at First Avenue focuses on a thinking, meaning-centered curriculum. Lessons take a variety of forms, incorporate a variety of methods of student assessment, and allow for student self-directed learning through exploration of a broad range of materials and activities.

Students at First Avenue are involved in activities at school that help them grow in self-confidence, self-discipline, and self esteem. The development of these personal attributes leads to an increase in learning competency, perseverance, and preparedness for the future.

### **Student Enrollment by Grade Level (School Year 2014-15)**

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>
<b>Grade 6</b>	250
<b>Grade 7</b>	255
<b>Grade 8</b>	282
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	787

### Student Enrollment by Group (School Year 2014-15)

Student Group	Percent of Total Enrollment
Black or African American	2.4
Asian	67.5
Filipino	5.2
Hispanic or Latino	14.1
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.1
White	10.7
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	24.3
English Learners	7.9
Students with Disabilities	1.9

## A. Conditions of Learning

### State Priority: Basic

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the Basic State Priority (Priority 1):

- Degree to which teachers are appropriately assigned and fully credentialed in the subject area and for the pupils they are teaching;
- Pupils have access to standards-aligned instructional materials; and
- School facilities are maintained in good repair.

### Teacher Credentials

Teachers	School			District
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2015-16
With Full Credential	31	31	30	414
Without Full Credential	0	0	0	0
Teaching Outside Subject Area of Competence (with full credential)	0	0	0	0

### Teacher Misassignments and Vacant Teacher Positions

Indicator	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners	0	0	0
Total Teacher Misassignments *	0	0	0
Vacant Teacher Positions	0	0	0

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

\* Total Teacher Misassignments includes the number of Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners.

### Core Academic Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers (School Year 2014-15)

Location of Classes	Percent of Classes In Core Academic Subjects	
	Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers	Not Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers
This School	100.0	0.0
All Schools in District	99.2	0.8
High-Poverty Schools in District	0.0	0.0
Low-Poverty Schools in District	99.2	0.8

Note: 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 39 percent or less in the free and reduced price meals program.

**Quality, Currency, Availability of Textbooks and Instructional Materials (School Year 2015-16)**

**Year and month in which data were collected:** January 2013

Core Curriculum Area	Textbooks and Instructional Materials/ Year of Adoption	From Most Recent Adoption?	Percent of Students Lacking Own Assigned Copy
<b>Reading/Language Arts</b>	High Point (Basics, A, B & C) 2001 / 2002-2003 Language of Literature (6th) & Language Network (6th) 2002 / 2004-2005 Language of Literature (7th) & Language Network (7th) 2002 / 2004-2005 Language of Literature (8th) & Language Network (8th) 2002 / 2004-2005 Language Network (Grades 6-8) 2001 / 2003-2004	Yes	0
<b>Mathematics</b>	California Middle School Math: Course 1 (6th grade) 2008 / 2008-2009 California Middle School Math: Course 2 (7th grade) 2008 / 2008-2009 Algebra 1 2008 / 2008-2009	Yes	0
<b>Science</b>	CPO Focus on Earth Science, gr. 6 2007 / 2007- 2008 CPO Focus on Life Science, gr. 7 2007 / 2007- 2008 CPO Focus on Physical Science, gr. 8 2007 / 2007- 2008	Yes	0
<b>History-Social Science</b>	History Alive! The Ancient World (6th) 2005 / 2007-2008 History Alive! The Medieval World & Beyond (7th) 2005 / 2007-2008 History Alive! The U. S. Through Industrialism (8th) 2005 / 2007-2008	Yes	0

**School Facility Conditions and Planned Improvements (Most Recent Year)**

First Avenue Middle School provides a safe, clean environment for students and staff. All schools in the AUSD underwent complete renovation in 1995–1996. The campus currently has 28 regular classrooms, a staff room, a library/media center, two locker rooms, a cafeteria, and an auditorium. At the time of this publication, 100 percent of the school’s restrooms were fully functioning.

In 2006 a general obligation bond issue was passed for Arcadia Unified School District. In November of 2008, First Avenue Middle School broke ground on a multistep project that included classroom renovations and technology upgrades; renovations and improvements to the performing arts auditorium; installation of a new running track and field; new lunch facilities, including a Speed Line; extensive subterranean utilities and infrastructure improvements; office facility renovations; hardscape and landscape improvements, including exterior fencing and planting of trees; and a brand-new, state-of-the-art music building housing our more than 550 students who are involved in our magical music program. Measure I construction was completed in April 2010 at First Avenue. The recent addition of an electronic marquee will enable district and site leadership to clearly communicate activities, accomplishments, and the school calendar with parents and community members who pass by the school.

**School Facility Good Repair Status (Most Recent Year)**

School Facility Good Repair Status (Most Recent Year)				
Year and month in which data were collected: 12/17/15				
System Inspected	Repair Status			Repair Needed and Action Taken or Planned
	Good	Fair	Poor	
<b>Systems:</b> Gas Leaks, Mechanical/HVAC, Sewer	X			
<b>Interior:</b> Interior Surfaces	X			
<b>Cleanliness:</b> Overall Cleanliness, Pest/Vermin Infestation	X			
<b>Electrical:</b> Electrical	X			
<b>Restrooms/Fountains:</b> Restrooms, Sinks/Fountains	X			
<b>Safety:</b> Fire Safety, Hazardous Materials	X			
<b>Structural:</b> Structural Damage, Roofs	X			
<b>External:</b> Playground/School Grounds, Windows/ Doors/Gates/Fences	X			

**Overall Facility Rating (Most Recent Year)**

Year and month in which data were collected: 12/17/15				
Overall Rating	Exemplary	Good	Fair	Poor
		X		

**B. Pupil Outcomes**

**State Priority: Pupil Achievement**

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the State priority: Pupil Achievement (Priority 4):

- Statewide assessments (i.e., California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress [CAASPP], Science California Standards Tests); and
- The percentage of pupils who have successfully completed courses that satisfy the requirements for entrance to the University of California and the California State University, or career technical education sequences or programs of study

**California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress Results for All Students (School Year 2014-15)**

Subject	Percent of Students Meeting or Exceeding the State Standards (grades 3-8 and 11)		
	School	District	State
<b>English Language Arts/Literacy</b>	74	76	44
<b>Mathematics</b>	73	75	33

Note: Percentages are not calculated 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.

CAASPP Assessment Results - English Language Arts (ELA)

Disaggregated by Student Groups, Grades Three through Eight and Eleven (School Year 2014-15)

Student Group	Grade	Number of Students		Percent of Students				
		Enrolled	Tested	Tested	Standard Not Met	Standard Nearly Met	Standard Met	Standard Exceeded
All Students	6	251	238	94.8	11	15	39	36
	7	257	252	98.1	8	20	41	30
	8	286	281	98.3	10	14	46	30
Male	6	251	126	50.2	13	20	35	32
	7	257	112	43.6	13	21	41	24
	8	286	137	47.9	14	18	48	20
Female	6	251	112	44.6	7	10	43	40
	7	257	140	54.5	4	19	41	35
	8	286	144	50.3	6	11	44	38
Black or African American	6	251	7	2.8	--	--	--	--
	7	257	5	1.9	--	--	--	--
	8	286	7	2.4	--	--	--	--
Asian	6	251	160	63.7	9	9	36	46
	7	257	161	62.6	6	15	39	40
	8	286	198	69.2	6	12	47	36
Filipino	6	251	11	4.4	18	27	45	9
	7	257	14	5.4	0	29	50	21
	8	286	16	5.6	6	31	44	19
Hispanic or Latino	6	251	30	12.0	13	23	47	17
	7	257	42	16.3	17	33	38	10
	8	286	37	12.9	27	19	41	14
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	6	251	1	0.4	--	--	--	--
White	6	251	29	11.6	10	28	45	17
	7	257	30	11.7	10	20	53	17
	8	286	23	8.0	9	13	61	17
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	6	251	52	20.7	12	25	46	17
	7	257	63	24.5	13	29	41	17
	8	286	76	26.6	14	22	47	16
Students with Disabilities	6	251	6	2.4	--	--	--	--
	7	257	4	1.6	--	--	--	--
	8	286	5	1.7	--	--	--	--
Foster Youth	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Double dashes (--) appear in the table when the number of students is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

Note: The number of students tested includes students that did not receive a score; however, the number of students tested is not the number that was used to calculate the achievement level percentages. The achievement level percentages are calculated using students with scores.

**CAASPP Assessment Results - Mathematics**

**Disaggregated by Student Groups, Grades Three through Eight and Eleven (School Year 2014-15)**

Student Group	Grade	Number of Students		Percent of Students				
		Enrolled	Tested	Tested	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
All Students	6	251	248	98.8	11	20	23	46
	7	257	254	98.8	11	17	24	48
	8	286	285	99.7	6	12	25	54
Male	6	251	134	53.4	12	22	17	49
	7	257	113	44.0	12	19	24	45
	8	286	140	49.0	8	15	24	50
Female	6	251	114	45.4	10	18	30	42
	7	257	141	54.9	10	16	23	51
	8	286	145	50.7	5	10	26	57
Black or African American	6	251	7	2.8	--	--	--	--
	7	257	5	1.9	--	--	--	--
	8	286	7	2.4	--	--	--	--
Asian	6	251	169	67.3	7	14	18	62
	7	257	163	63.4	4	8	27	61
	8	286	201	70.3	3	5	23	68
Filipino	6	251	11	4.4	18	36	36	9
	7	257	14	5.4	14	7	36	43
	8	286	17	5.9	12	41	24	24
Hispanic or Latino	6	251	30	12.0	23	33	37	7
	7	257	42	16.3	38	36	12	14
	8	286	37	12.9	16	30	27	14
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	6	251	1	0.4	--	--	--	--
White	6	251	30	12.0	17	33	30	17
	7	257	30	11.7	7	33	20	40
	8	286	23	8.0	4	22	39	30
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	6	251	57	22.7	14	33	25	26
	7	257	63	24.5	16	25	24	35
	8	286	76	26.6	7	20	28	38
Students with Disabilities	6	251	6	2.4	--	--	--	--
	7	257	4	1.6	--	--	--	--
	8	286	5	1.7	--	--	--	--
Foster Youth	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Student Group	Grade	Number of Students		Percent of Students				
		Enrolled	Tested	Tested	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Double dashes (--) appear in the table when the number of students is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

Note: The number of students tested includes students that did not receive a score; however, the number of students tested is not the number that was used to calculate the achievement level percentages. The achievement level percentages are calculated using students with scores.

### California Standards Tests for All Students in Science (Three-Year Comparison)

Subject	Percent of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced (meeting or exceeding the state standards)								
	School			District			State		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
<b>Science (grades 5, 8, and 10)</b>	91	88	88	86	86	84	59	60	56

Note: 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.

### California Standards Tests Results by Student Group in Science (School Year 2014-15)

Student Group	Percent of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced
<b>All Students in the LEA</b>	84
<b>All Students at the School</b>	88
<b>Male</b>	86
<b>Female</b>	88
<b>Black or African American</b>	--
<b>Asian</b>	92
<b>Filipino</b>	70
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	71
<b>White</b>	86
<b>English Learners</b>	45
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	85
<b>Foster Youth</b>	--

Note: 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.

### California Physical Fitness Test Results (School Year 2014-15)

Grade Level	Percent of Students Meeting Fitness Standards		
	Four of Six Standards	Five of Six Standards	Six of Six Standards
<b>7</b>	17.80	25.70	41.10

Note: Percentages are not calculated 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.

## C. Engagement

### State Priority: Parental Involvement

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the Parental Involvement State Priority (Priority 3):

- Efforts the school district makes to seek parent input in making decisions for the school district and each schoolsite.

#### Opportunities for Parental Involvement (Most Recent Year)

Parents in the community are very supportive of the educational programs at First Avenue Middle School. The active PTSA is engaged in fund-raising efforts and supports various school activities such as theme days, Community Concerts, Walk/Jog/Run-a-thon, Career Day, Family Fun Nights, Open House, and Back-to-School Night. PTSA also sponsors the Reflections competition, challenging our students to explore their artistic interests by submitting photographs or artwork for local and statewide competitions. First Avenue parents are very active and well represented at district-wide parent information nights such as Math Night, Positive Prevention, and Character Education nights.

Parents who wish to participate in leadership teams, school committees, school activities, or become a volunteer can contact the school at (626) 821-8362 or visit the school's web site at <http://fa.ausd.net/>

### State Priority: School Climate

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the School Climate State Priority (Priority 6):

- Pupil suspension rates;
- Pupil expulsion rates; and
- Other local measures on the sense of safety.

#### Suspensions and Expulsions

Rate	School			District			State		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Suspensions	0.62	0.75	0.00	0.48	0.60	0.36	5.07	4.36	3.80
Expulsions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.10	0.09

#### School Safety Plan (Most Recent Year)

The Safety Plan is reviewed with all staff members at the beginning of each school year. Staff members also receive disaster training and information on a regular basis. To safeguard the well-being of students and staff, a comprehensive School Site Safety Plan is continually reviewed by the Safety and Disaster Committee, which consists of classified staff, teachers, and the principal. It is updated each fall and reviewed throughout the year to continually address emergency procedures. The committee sets long-term goals for the school to continually improve safety procedures and the state of school emergency resources. The plan also addresses various safety issues, including creating procedures that detect and prevent bullying, ensuring appropriate campus supervision, and maintaining disaster kits. We hold safety drills on a regular basis; fire drills are held 4 times a year, earthquake drills are held at least once a year, and intruder/lockdown drills are held 4 times each year.

To ensure student safety, teachers, administrators, and school proctors supervise students on campus before and after school, and during breaks and lunch. First Avenue Middle School has a closed campus, and permission is always required for students to leave school grounds. Any visitors to the campus are required to check in at the school's main office and must wear the proper identification badge at all times.

All safety plans and student handbook information are discussed with faculty and students at the beginning of each school year.

## D. Other SARC Information

The information in this section is required to be in the SARC but is not included in the state priorities for LCFF.

### Adequate Yearly Progress Overall and by Criteria (School Year 2014-15)

AYP Criteria	School	District	State
Made AYP Overall	Yes	Yes	Yes
Met Participation Rate: English-Language Arts	Yes	Yes	Yes
Met Participation Rate: Mathematics	Yes	Yes	Yes
Met Percent Proficient: English-Language Arts	N/A	N/A	N/A
Met Percent Proficient: Mathematics	N/A	N/A	N/A
Met Attendance Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Met Graduation Rate	N/A	Yes	Yes

### Federal Intervention Program (School Year 2015-16)

Indicator	School	District
Program Improvement Status	Not in PI	In PI
First Year of Program Improvement		2012-2013
Year in Program Improvement*		Year 2
Number of Schools Currently in Program Improvement	N/A	2
Percent of Schools Currently in Program Improvement	N/A	40.0

Note: Cells with N/A values do not require data.

### Average Class Size and Class Size Distribution (Elementary)

Grade Level	2012-13				2013-14				2014-15			
	Avg. Class Size	Number of Classes			Avg. Class Size	Number of Classes			Avg. Class Size	Number of Classes		
		1-20	21-32	33+		1-20	21-32	33+		1-20	21-32	33+
6	26	12	38	10	25	12	39	2	26	10	34	7

Note: Number of classes indicates how many classes fall into each size category (a range of total students per class).

### Average Class Size and Class Size Distribution (Secondary)

Subject	2012-13				2013-14				2014-15			
	Avg. Class Size	Number of Classrooms			Avg. Class Size	Number of Classrooms			Avg. Class Size	Number of Classrooms		
		1-22	23-32	33+		1-22	23-32	33+		1-22	23-32	33+
English	24	7	11	5	29	2	12	5	25	7	3	9
Mathematics	27	7	4	9	28	4	8	9	27	4	3	7
Science	32		9	8	34		2	14	34		4	12
Social Science	29	3	8	7	33	2		14	33		7	8

Note: 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 rather than grade level.

**Academic Counselors and Other Support Staff (School Year 2014-15)**

Title	Number of FTE Assigned to School	Average Number of Students per Academic Counselor
Academic Counselor	0.5	400
Counselor (Social/Behavioral or Career Development)	0.5	N/A
Library Media Teacher (Librarian)		N/A
Library Media Services Staff (Paraprofessional)		N/A
Psychologist	0.5	N/A
Social Worker		N/A
Nurse	1.0	N/A
Speech/Language/Hearing Specialist	0.5	N/A
Resource Specialist		N/A
Other	0.5	N/A

Note: Cells with N/A values do not require data. 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 2013-14)**

Level	Expenditures Per Pupil			Average Teacher Salary
	Total	Supplemental/Restricted	Basic/Unrestricted	
School Site	\$7,315	\$1,182	\$6,133	\$86,523
District	N/A	N/A	\$5,790	\$86,343
Percent Difference: School Site and District	N/A	N/A	5.9	-99.9
State	N/A	N/A	\$5,348	\$69,257
Percent Difference: School Site and State	N/A	N/A	14.7	-99.9

Note: Cells with N/A values do not require data.

**Types of Services Funded (Fiscal Year 2014-15)**

The school receives additional support from local community partners, including the Arcadia Educational Foundation, Arcadia Rotary Club, Target, Fresh and Easy, and Foothill Federal Credit Union. These funds are used to provide extra support for at risk learners, students in poverty and our English language learners. Before the Bell and tutoring programs are most prevalent. In addition, some of these funds are used to help with student oriented clubs during lunch and after school; program support depends on how our partners wish the funds to be spent.

**Teacher and Administrative Salaries (Fiscal Year 2013-14)**

Category	District Amount	State Average for Districts In Same Category
Beginning Teacher Salary	\$52,629	\$42,315
Mid-Range Teacher Salary	\$80,562	\$66,451
Highest Teacher Salary	\$104,499	\$85,603
Average Principal Salary (Elementary)	\$126,366	\$105,079
Average Principal Salary (Middle)	\$145,978	\$111,005
Average Principal Salary (High)	\$153,173	\$121,310
Superintendent Salary	\$216,327	\$189,899
Percent of Budget for Teacher Salaries	46%	39%
Percent of Budget for Administrative Salaries	5%	6%

For detailed information on salaries, see the CDE Certificated Salaries & Benefits Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/cs/>.

## Professional Development (Most Recent Three Years)

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In May of 2013, Governor Brown committed \$1 billion of the extra \$2.8 billion of revenue the state received in 2013 for Common Core State Standards implementation. Additional monies were made available to California school districts for Year 2 implementation in 2014-15; however, under the Local Control Funding Formula, districts like Arcadia Unified School District, with low numbers of unduplicated students will receive far less ongoing money to continue the implementation of California Academic Standards beyond 2014-15, while neighboring districts with greater numbers of targeted or “unduplicated” students (low income, English Learners, or foster youth) will have greater opportunities to purchase materials, hire consultants, and pay for hours of professional development for their instructional and student support staffs.

In the Fall of 2013, the Arcadia Unified School District negotiated an interest-based solution for California Academic Standards implementation with its bargaining units to add three days to the school calendar for two years starting in the 2014-15 school year. Negotiations also produced an agreement to spread the three days of additional paid time over seven early release days with development time of 2.5 hours per day built into the schedule.

In the Spring of 2014, a committee grew out of Arcadia’s Education 21 Task Force called the Collaboration Time Advisory Council (C-TAC) with the task of putting legs to the plan. C-TAC is a representative group made up of bargaining unit members and management team members who were charged with serving as an advisory committee to the District in the implementation of the district-wide California Academic Standards Collaboration Time supporting TK-12 instructional programs both vertically and horizontally, as they made dramatic instructional and curricular shifts.

The commitment from both our bargaining units and management was to build research-based professional development around small collaborative working groups. Each group would be designed intentionally to have a vertical alignment of teachers from TK-12 engaged in the work together.

In late Spring of 2014, the C-TAC committee reached out to all certificated staff to assist with generating ideas for the content of the Collaboration Days. The committee, after reviewing and discussing the many ideas that were submitted and looking at survey data, generated a list of themes which became the foundation of the Collaboration Days and assisted in guiding the development of a Course Group Catalogue. The planning of the Collaboration Days was research based, focused on meaningful work, teacher choice, flexibility, and ongoing commitment. The Professional Development was designed around teacher interests that included creating autonomous choice for teachers and support providers in relation to where they felt they could best contribute their training, talents, interests, and education, by participating in Small Working Groups (SWaG) and engaging with other professionals to continue the real work of implementing the California Academic Standards.

Each SWaG is led by a self-selected Facilitator from amongst the various stakeholder groups and has been charged with collaborating both with colleagues at their own site and with fellow professionals from other district sites. Mentor-leaders have self-selected several Facilitators to provide support throughout implementation of this professional development. The crystal-clear goals of the Collaboration Days include producing a comprehensive and fully articulated Arcadia California Academic Standards Core Curriculum in English-Language Arts and Mathematics; to research and make recommendations for curriculum and instructional shifts in the Social Sciences, Sciences, Foreign Languages, Physical Education, Electives, Visual and Performing Arts, Character Education, Technology implementation, English-Language Development, and Special Education from a Transitional Kindergarten to Grade 12 perspective. Data continues to be collected from the SWaGs through group evaluations and is then disaggregated and shared through various modalities to each stakeholder group.

Over the past three years, additional professional development resources have been designated for Mathematics and English-Language curriculum development and 21st Century instructional skill development, including National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) conferences, Thinking Maps, and Write From the Beginning, in support of California Academic Standards implementation. At the high school level, data indicated that a large segment of potentially college-bound students were not being provided access and opportunity to pursue honors and college-level courses, as their high-achieving classmates were. Leadership worked with teachers to engage in professional development around the themes of Advanced Placement (AP) open access and equity for all students over the past two years. Professional Development resources have been designated to send teachers, counselors and leadership to the local and regional College Board/A.P. Forums. Continued professional development will be pursued at the national level.

Similarly, both middle school and high school leadership mined data to identify a significant population of students who should be college-bound but who were not achieving or engaged in school due to a variety of social, economic, or familial factors. As a result, the full implementation of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program has been a primary focus of professional development dollars over the past 3 years, especially at grades 7-12. In addition, one elementary school, Holly Avenue, added a full school AVID program.

Individual school sites have been tasked with working with the Instructional Coaches to conduct professional development around the themes of the California Academic Standards, including rigor, focus, coherence, instructional strategies, shifts in curriculum, pacing and instructional materials, writing instruction and problem-solving.

Staff development topics for the 2012 – 2013 school year included effective instruction and critical thinking, implementation of the electronic grade book, and discussion of the California Academic Standards.