

**Mission**

The Kelsey Unified School District is committed to working in partnership with the community to provide broad, comprehensive opportunities and a superior quality academic curriculum, individualized to allow students to realize their highest potential and gain a lifelong love for learning.

**General Information**

Kelsey Unified School District is located in the Northwest Valley, serving more than 71,000 students in grades K-12. It is the only public school district serving the City of Kelsey and its population of 625,000. The District employs over 4,500 people and, in addition to its Central Administration offices, maintains 97 facilities:

* 66 Elementary Schools (Avg. student population = 500)
* 20 Middle Schools (Avg. student population = 750)
* 11 High Schools (Avg. student population = 2,000)

Reading, language and mathematics are at the core of students' education. The district has specific expectations for students in these three basic areas. Academic achievement is a high priority in the district as evidenced by test scores above the state and national averages. Our students consistently score among the top in the state on college-entrance exams.

The District enjoys tremendous community support as evidenced by the recent passage of a $2 million bond issue. The money is earmarked for adding technology to the District's schools which will greatly benefit our students.

Memo

To: Our new compliance officer

From: Stefani Barreto, principal of Kelsey Elementary

Re: English Compliance Team

# Welcome to Kelsey Unified School District!

I am so glad to have you as the district’s new compliance officer, and I am excited that you will be working with Kelsey Elementary School! One of your most pressing issues here at Kelsey Elementary is the Language Arts Compliance Team, which you will lead. As you know, this school did not achieve the required scores in English Language Arts last year, and we must meet those scores this year. The Language Arts Compliance Team seems to be stuck, and I am counting on your team skills to get the group achieving again.

Here is a list of team members. I recommend reviewing the information in their district files to get a better sense of who you’ll be dealing with.

1. Mrs. Annamarie Matthew, kindergarten
2. Mrs. Renee Lucero, 1st Grade
3. Mr. Justin Simms, 2nd Grade
4. Miss Eartha Corley, 3rd Grade
5. Mrs. Shirlene Goins, 4th Grade
6. Dr. Ronald Wilt, 5th Grade
7. I am not a member of the committee, but have been acting as moderator pending your arrival. I will make an effort to attend any meeting at which you request my presence.

Yesterday’s meeting of the Language Arts Compliance Team was very contentious. This is the fourth consecutive meeting that Shirlene has missed, and the only point of agreement among the other team members seemed to be criticizing her.

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Annamarie and Justin emphasize the importance of early childhood learning theory and bringing play and real world examples into the classroom—approaches that Ronald and Eartha argue are inappropriate for children beyond first or second grade. Ronald and Renee are adamant about focusing on encouragement and involvement, but their approaches are very different. Ronald—a great talent—is absolutely convinced that his approaches are the best, while Renee—one of Ronald’s mentees from last year—seems to lack confidence in her approach and grow increasingly frustrated. Eartha consistently reminds the team that they need to set high expectations for students, and she is consistently drowned out by the other teachers calling her approach unsympathetic and unreasonable.

At this meeting, I had to step in several times when the conversation turned toward name-calling and complaining rather than constructive problem-solving. The outcome of yesterday’s meeting was that the team would reconvene in one week, with you as the team leader, and I put a flyer in Shirlene’s mailbox notifying her of the meeting.

I am counting on you to put together a problem-solving plan that addresses how you will facilitate communication, manage conflict, spur creativity, and ultimately deliver success with this team.

Welcome to Kelsey!

March 26

**Attention Kelsey Unified School District:**

A new State law recently passed now requiring all students to pass both portions, English Language Arts and Mathematics, of the exit exam in order to graduate from high school and receive a diploma. If students do not pass one or both portions of the exam, they have the opportunity to retest; however, if they do not pass before the graduation deadline – they will be unable to participate in the graduation ceremonies and receive a diploma.

Educators are prompted to assist students with coursework directly connected to the exit exams in order to set them up for success. The details of the exit exams are as follows:

1. Each section is worth 450 points.
2. Students must score a minimum of 350 in each section to meet the passing requirement.
3. A score of 349 is not passing.
4. Students must answer 55% of the English Language Arts questions to pass.
5. There is an essay part to the English Language Arts.
6. Students must answer 50% of the Mathematics questions to pass.
7. English Language Arts is always given on the first Tuesday of each month.
8. Mathematics is always given on the first Wednesday of each month.
9. Students have several opportunities to take and pass one or both sections before graduation; however, it is the student’s responsibility to register for the exams.
10. Students will be required to take one or both sections of the exam until they meet the 350 requirement for both sections.

The Kelsey School district is currently developing intervention strategies for students having problems passing the exam. The strategies will introduce small learning communities and supported the core curriculum. Personalized teaching and learning approaches were developed for each student, such as an outreach program and intervention on an individual basis. The district is now making attendance at exit exam preparation classes **mandatory** for students who had yet to pass one or both test portions. These classes will meet outside of the normal school day and are provided free of charge to the students through the district. We plan on seeing a significant increase in scholastic achievement.

The district continues to aggressively focus upon the development of rigorous curriculum for its senior high schools. We need to ensure our graduating students are prepared for higher education and the increasingly demanding requirements in the job market. Kelsey Schools recognize the importance of improved high school instruction, which can directly impact higher graduation rates and allow students to matriculate and move on to viable options in their adult lives.