

## Carpinteria Unified School District, Santa Barbara County, CA

Our district:

- 69% Hispanic
- 65% free-reduced lunch
- high percentage of immigrant families
- employment in nursery/tourism industries
- generations of Hispanic families in the community, many middle class and above

# Carpinteria Unified School District, Santa Barbara County, CA

## Challenges:

- poverty, poverty, poverty
- language
- education
- immigration status

## Strengths:

- strong desire for children to succeed
- despite challenges, strong sense of family
- desire to become a part of the community and contribute therein

## Carpinteria Unified School District, Santa Barbara County, CA

To address poverty:

- Scope of initiatives to supervise, nurture and support
  - preschool (SSHS)
  - therapeutic counseling/drug use prevention (SSHS)
  - enrichment (SSHS)
  - campus security (SSHS)
  - peer mediation/drug abuse resistance (SSHS)
  - prevention curriculum (SSHS)

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### To address poverty:

- Main Family Resource Center--case-managed coordinated services focusing on infancy to grade 3 (funded by three foundations)
- developing effort led by S.B. Co. United Way to build similar services from grade three through high school.
- advocacy and technology-based communication mechanisms to maximize participation (foundation/District-funded), looking to build incentives)
- instructional initiatives to raise achievement, focusing on accelerating language acquisition (District/foundation funded)
- ESL for adults (funded by local community college)

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To address language:

- bilingual personnel
- frequent communications in two languages through various media
- “validate” Spanish as a language of equal status

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## Challenges:

- dealing with the annual state funding “drama”
- building trust and opening communication lines
- boosting advocacy/management to maximize participation in multiple services year-to-year
- understanding and addressing families’ basic needs
- **empowering parents to fully realize their advocacy potential**
- “dancing” with multiple private partners
- ensuring skilled, child/family-focused management

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### Successes:

- new belief system about closing the achievement gap
- coherence in instructional programs, K-12
- expanding the system's reach through extensive engagement with multiple partners, private and public
- private foundations' commitment over multiple years..."critical mass" leading to more support