

# **Galena Park Independent School District Cimarron Elementary Campus Improvement Plan**

**2009 - 2010**

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## Section 1 - Introduction

1. **School:** Cimarron Elementary

2. **Location:** 816 Cimarron St  
Houston, TX 77015

3. **Budget Manager:** Amy Cole, Principal

4. **School Advisory Team:**

Edna Guzman  
Sheila Clark  
Francisco Rodriguez  
Lindy Robertson  
Eduardo dela Fuente  
Angela Hysler  
Angie Thomas  
Veronica Tovar  
Lori Gordon  
Diego Calderon  
Shannon Zepeda  
Apolonia Salazar  
Otto Meyers  
Amanda Brown  
Jorge Hernandez  
Kimberly Hadaway  
Wanna Giacona  
Amy Cole  
Gloria Vasquez  
Stefanie Perry

5. **Campus Mission/Vision Statement:**

**Motto:** "The BEST School in the World"

**Mission:** "Learning, Fun and Fulfillment for All"

## Section 2 - Needs Assessment

### 1. Where We Have Been:

In August, 1996, Cimarron Elementary became the first and only Recognized campus in Galena Park ISD. This was the beginning of a long, successful journey, full of high expectations for the community-based campus and its students.

Overall, student performance has remained remarkably consistent and stable despite our changing student population. Once again, Cimarron finds itself as the largest elementary school in GPISD, testing the largest numbers of students on district and state assessments.

With an average of 875 students, we continue to practice as we always have. When we are presented with a challenge, we pride ourselves in thinking out of the box. Although we have fallen short of our goal of Exemplary, it has not been due to a lack of dedication, effort or creativity. This always provides us with the opportunity to reflect on what we want to see when we look at a Cimarron kid: a well-rounded, confident individual. Despite not being an Exemplary campus, we continue to focus on doing what is right for each individual child.

### 2. Where We Are Now:

Based on student performance results from the 2007 - 2008 school year, Cimarron Elementary is currently ranked as a Texas Education Recognized Campus and a campus that met the Adequately Yearly Progress requirements. Cimarron also received Gold Performance Acknowledgments for "Commended on Science." Once again, the goal of everyone at Cimarron Elementary has been, and will continue to be, the attainment of a Texas Education Agency Exemplary status, despite the challenges and rigorous standards that accompany the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test.

During this school year, teachers and students have participated in numerous programs in order to attain individual, classroom and campus goals. As always, the philosophy of creativity and "thinking out of the box" remained the instructional focus as the year began. Although data was analyzed and some new approaches were taken to ensure student success, the one method that has always worked for Cimarron has remained a constant: positive, small group instruction and building relationships with students and teachers. As always, EVERY MEMBER of the Cimarron family has made sacrifices and worked together which has allowed the campus to make these instructional practices take place by allowing teachers to target areas of need and build meaningful and purposeful relationships with their students. Combining this with students setting personal goals has proven to help the campus increase student performance results and increase self-confidence. The ability for students to set their own goals and understand the process of attaining those goals has not only prepped them for the TAKS assessments, but has taught "real life" lessons and allowed them to put "goals" into perspective. Our mission is to help students see the purpose and long-term benefits of their learning. We want learning to be fun, fulfilling AND relevant. The continued application of successful practices such as individualized and small group tutoring/teaching and an intense and dynamic tutorial program, tailored for each student, has allowed for significant student growth.

Continual focus on ongoing assessments, diagnosing and prescribing for each individual, internal staff development, the unconditional support of faculty and staff throughout the campus, and the constant attempts to develop meaningful relationships with every student have once again proven to be the key components to overall success. All teachers teach all kids! We recognize that bonding with students is imperative, small groups are imperative and acquiring and applying new knowledge is a priority. These have all worked to our advantage as we strive to provide our low income students with the "richest" education one can receive.

As always, we continually ask ourselves, "What else can we do to make this year one where everyone - including adults - is able to reach his/her full potential?" The answer is time and planning. We always strive for more in-house opportunities for staff development, planning, reflecting, analyzing, etc.

### 3. Where We Are Going:

The dedication of the Cimarron faculty has proven that the time and commitment to our students' academic achievement is Exemplary! Cimarron children feel they are successful, they feel confident, and they are proud of the school which they attend! The most important and lifelong goal is the development of happy, successful and well-rounded citizens - children who understand the need for a wealth of individual qualities and characteristics, in addition to academic success, in order to be productive citizens and life long learners.

Our prioritized academic goals will continue to be the application of those outlined by GPISD. This will drive all other campus goals and instruction for optimal student achievement. By doing so, the expectation is to continually enhance student performance and raise the current campus rating. Thus, it can be attributed to increased alignment of instruction and methods. In accordance with the District's focus on developing a strong reading and math foundation, the high academic expectations of students in the primary grades will continue to be a campus focus. A campus based team, with guidance from the Language Arts department, will help us develop a phonics based plan to help struggling students develop a strong foundation in reading. We ascribe much of our students' success in the upper grades to a solid primary instructional program. As we continue to focus on all academic areas, we will have a laser focus on the subjects of math and science specifically. Teachers in the upper grades will begin block scheduling to maximize instructional time.

With the continual strengthening and staff developing of the Cimarron family, we will finish strong as we strive toward our goal of Exemplary.

## Section 3 - Overview of Goals and Objectives

The goals for Cimarron Elementary for the 2009 - 2010 school year are as follows:

### **Goal 1: Student Success**

Cimarron Elementary will define measure by which student success can be determined relative to the tested, foundation curriculum areas of math, social studies, science, and English/LA.

- Objective 1.1:** To attain 100% passing rate on all portions of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills in each content area tested, as well as for each subpopulation of students in the third, fourth and fifth grades during the 2009 - 2010 school year (Exemplary rating) by providing instruction by highly qualified teachers (Title I Components 3 & 9).
- Objective 1.2:** To meet the state expectations set for Adequate Yearly Progress on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills tests for all sub-populations.
- Objective 1.3:** To refine plans and instructional strategies in the early childhood program in a way that prepares students for current and future success.
- Objective 1.4:** To provide high quality, on going staff development to maintain (retain) 100% of classes taught by highly qualified teachers in the core academic subject areas to enable all children to meet the state's academic achievement standards (Title I Components 3, 4 & 5).
- Objective 1.5:** To continue upgrading computer workstations for the campus to include technical support and instructional software to be utilized as a component of the teaching curriculum, to include keyboarding, in alignment with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills in order to support regular classroom instruction.
- Objective 1.6:** To continue the implementation and refinement of the Two-Way Immersion Program in grades K-5 in a way that increase students' knowledge of cultural diversity so that they may achieve the goals of the program: developing bilingual and biliterate citizens.

### **Goal 2: Destination Graduation**

Cimarron Elementary will create an environment of high expectations for students to graduate from high school and college and seek a career.

- Objective 2.1:** To provide staff development and training opportunities that allow teachers to gain insight into strategies that reflect and promote current and new practices which are developed for classroom use and provide opportunities for shared personal practice techniques so that students may have greater opportunities to become life-long learners.
- Objective 2.2:** To expose students to local, state and national colleges in order for them to set their goals for Destination Graduation.
- Objective 2.3:** To achieve commended performance on TAKS in each tested subject for at least 25% of the students.

### **Goal 3: Environment**

Cimarron Elementary will promote a safe learning and working environment for students, employees and parents.

- Objective 3.1:** To offer and provide a consistent and informative communication network that will inform the community of important dates, school events and students' academic achievement.
- Objective 3.2:** To develop and maintain a safe school atmosphere, with an emphasis on customer service, which is inviting and encourages volunteering and the ongoing involvement and participation of parents and community members.
- Objective 3.3:** To prevent unwanted physical or verbal aggression, sexual harassment, and bullying in a way that all students and staff will feel safe and secure by implementing the components of Foundations.
- Objective 3.4:** To implement the components of the CATCH program that will encourage healthy eating and physical activity to prepare students, parents and staff members to become healthy, productive learners.

## **Goal 4: Attendance**

Cimarron Elementary will seek to have 97% or higher student and teacher attendance rate.

**Objective 4.1:** To encourage, motivate and reward teachers and students for attending school.

**Objective 4.2:** To integrate nutrition education into health and physical education in a way that all students will see the benefits of eating healthy and being physically active which will result in healthy students attending school on a consistent basis.

**Objective 4.3:** To refine current programs and design new programs that will contribute to the increased self-esteem, attendance and academic accomplishments of students through motivation and relationship building.

## **Goal 5: Guidance Counseling**

Cimarron Elementary will increase the counseling services offered to our students and parents.

**Objective 5.1:** To provide classroom guidance lessons that focus on K-2 classes

**Objective 5.2:** To encourage and provide parent education programs which promote the involvement and participation of parents in the education of their children by offering classes which impart instructional techniques, testing and homework strategies.

## **Goal 6: Enrichment**

Cimarron Elementary will implement and promote measures by which student success can be determined for enrichment and extracurricular areas not tested by TAKS which include art, music and physical education.

**Objective 6.1:** To provide enrichment programs that address the needs of individual students so they can experience success.