



Julius Corsini Elementary School

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Kiela Bonelli, Ed. D.-Principal

Our Commitment: Every Child a Successful Reader!

April 2009

During the 2007/2008 the staff at Julius Corsini Elementary was dedicated in working towards National Board Certification. I am very excited to share the accomplishments and results of their efforts. The experience has forever changed the culture of our school community.

Demographics of Julius Corsini Elementary School 2007/2008

- Program Improvement Year 5
- SAIT (School Assistance Intervention Team) School
- DAIT (District Assistance Intervention Team) District
- Highest student transience rate in the district.
- Negative perception of the school with both the district and community.
- Student Population
 - 900 students
 - 93% Free/Reduced Lunch
 - 84% Minority
 - 56% English Language Learner

Teacher Retention

- Teacher Demographics
 - Averages of:
 - 5.7 years of teaching (12.3 district)
 - 4 years in the district (9.1. district)
- 17 first/second year teachers- 39% (15%)
- Highest teacher turnover in the district since the opening of the school in 1976

The Direct Results of Our Participation in National Board Certification

- Teacher Retention

	% Teachers that Left	API	Growth
2004/2005	63% 35%mid-year	604	-24
2005/2006	25%	652	+48
2006/2007	45% 25% mid-year	649	-11
2007/2008	5%	706	56
2008/2009	Will only lose 1 teacher due to retirement		

- **Improve Student Learning**
 - School frozen in Program Improvement Year 5
 - 56 API point growth (school has the highest academic growth in 3 years)
 - Current benchmark data shows that Julius Corsini will exit out of Program Improvement during the 2008/2009 School Year (23 more students are needed to be proficient to meet this goal)

- **Building a Collaborative Learning Community**
 - Strong focus on instruction
 - Professional Learning Communities (PLC) are meeting weekly to improve instruction
 - Coaching is happening between teachers and different grade levels
 - Discussions changed to reflect more instructional conversations
 - Video taped lessons were shared PLC time in lieu of release time to visit
 - DAIT Team stated that Julius Corsini has one of the strongest PLC practices

- **Improve Quality of Instruction**
 - Promote Standards-Based Education- Teachers were focusing on standards, assessments, student goals then meeting to reflect on practices.
 - Model Successful Teaching Practices
 - Riverside County of Education Title III Representative visited Julius Corsini to see how teachers were working directly with English Language Learners. (April 7, 2009). She was immediately impressed. She stated, “ I can’t believe this is a Program Improvement Year 5 school. The level of instruction is unbelievable...It is hard to believe the experience of your staff is under 5 years.”
 - West Ed (SAIT Provider) has ranked the school a level 4 in all instructional areas. (February 8, 2009) Gary Duke and Sofia Arburto from West Ed have seen the biggest growth in this area. Student engagement is high and reflection is evident. This has been a direct result of National Board Certification participation.
 - A new school is opening and our enrollment will be decreasing next year. We are losing 9 teachers to the new school. Mike Grien, the interviewing principal, stated how impressed he was with the level of understanding of instruction that Corsini teachers had. He was amazed that teachers with only 1-2 years experience had a very high level of cognition, reflection and understanding of what students need and how to help them. The teachers’ learning through the Take One! and National Board Certification process was evident in their answers and clear examples. Mr. Grien is excited at being able to open a school with this high level of quality instructors.
 - BTSA worked with new teachers using their entries to support them in completing CFAST events. Video lessons were shared to reflect on practices.

- **Work Effectively with Parents**
 - Community perception has changed. The school has the highest requested inter-district transfers in Desert Hot Springs.
 - Change in Back-to-School Night (participation has changed from 25% to 90% over the past two years)
 - Parent Conferences (Attendance has increased from 45% to 95%)

Quotes

From another Palm Springs Unified School District administrator who has teachers currently going through the process:

As an administrator, I have seen a great deal of change in the teachers who are participating in this certification process. The level of professionalism in these teachers has increased dramatically. Preparing for the National Boards has challenged the belief systems of those who serve our students. I felt quite inspired today.

Lucy Medina
Elementary Principal, PSUSD

Teacher Quote:

The one thing that really changed for me as a result of going through the National Board process is my awareness of needing to actively solicit parent involvement in my classroom. Entry 4 made me realize that this was a strong area of weakness for me. I have strengthened my own efforts in this area over the last year. I do believe this has helped me connect better with families and has a positive effect on my students.

I think the benefit of National Board Certification is that teachers are in charge of their own professional development and the process offers a chance for teachers to really self-evaluate their own areas of strengths and weakness.

Lisa Anderson
3rd grade

As the principal at Julius Corsini, I can not express enough how our participation has changed the school site and improved the instruction every child receives. This has been a win-win for everyone. National Board Certification is rigorous and elevates teachers as professionals, which in turn has helped the neediest students in our district.

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