

WASCO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
1998-99 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD

The Wasco Union High School Board of Trustees is committed to communicating with parents and community members. This report is intended to provide you with information on the nature and quality of your school.

Wasco Union High School District is comprised of an area of approximately 700 square miles in northwest Kern County. It provides secondary education to a student population of over 1,400 students. The student body is made up of a multi-racial population consisting of 77% Latino, 18% Anglo, 4% African American, .5% Asian and .5% other students.

In the Wasco Union High School geographic area there are four public elementary school districts which include Lost Hills, Semitropic, Maple and Wasco Elementary. In addition to the public schools, Wasco High School receives students from two private schools, which are St. John's and North Kern Christian School.

Questions regarding any information in this report should be directed to Dr. Roberta Mayor, Superintendent, or Mr. Jerry Johnson, Principal, at 758-7400.

Achievement Scores

Student performance is assessed in several ways. An achievement test is administered to all 9th, 10th and 11th graders each year. The Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills, Fourth Edition (CTBS/4) has been used by this district over the past several years. The State Department of Education has selected the Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition to be administered as the statewide test for the 1997-98 school year. The following table summarizes student scores on the CTBS/4 over the past three years.

The scores for 1997-98 are as follows:

Standard Achievement Ninth Edition

Grade	% Reading	% Language	% Mathematics
9th	18	37	35
10th	21	30	29
11th	22	34	27

Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills, Fourth Edition (CTBS/4)

Grade	96-97	95-96	94-95	96-97	95-96	94-95	96-97	95-96	94-95
9th	24.1	16	23	27.5	27	41	26.3	27	38
10th	20.5	26	27	24.6	27	39	21.5	32	45
11th	14.7	20	19	20.4	26	38	29.7	42	44

Reported as median national percentile

Scholastic Aptitude Test (College Board)

Students intending to go to college after graduation take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (College Board) that is required by colleges. The following report indicates the number of seniors taking the test and the average scores.

	1996	1997	1998
Grade 12 Enrollment	304	301	307
SAT Test			
Test Takers - Number	80	72	76
Test Takers - Percent	26.3	23.9	24.8
Average Verbal Score	442	417	420
Average Math Score	436	435	429
Average Total Score	878	852	849

Drop-Out Rates

The dropout rate for Wasco Union High School over the last four years is as follows:

GRADE	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
9th	22	4	9	11
10th	8	6	9	15
11th	6	8	5	11
12th	7	26	7	9
TOTAL	43 = 4%	44 = 3.5%	30 = 2%	46 = 4%

The district is making continual efforts to reduce the dropout rate. Students have several alternative educational programs from which they may earn a diploma. The district provides adult night school, independent study and continuation high school.

Enrollment and Attendance for Wasco Union High School

	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
Type of Data	Range	Avg.	Range	Avg.	Range	Avg.	Range	Avg.
Enrolled	906-1014	949	999-1105	1048	1071-1212	1136	1087-1242	1147
Apportioned Attendance		97%		97%		97%		97%
Attending Average		857		960		1038		1053
Actual Attendance Rate		90.31%		91.58%		91.36%		91.5%

In 1988-89 the district began to address the issue of attendance improvement. The staff began to express a genuine concern in this area. With a united effort, the district continues improving student attendance. The district implemented a policy four years ago requiring seniors to maintain 90% attendance as a condition for participating in the graduation ceremony. The percentage of student attendance days generated by students who did not receive full minimum instructional days because of unexcused absences was 3%.

Expenditures and Services Offered

The Wasco Union High School has an annual budget in excess of eight million dollars. The district spends approximately \$5,800 per student from the General Fund. This compares with the statewide average of \$5,200 per student. Wasco is very proud of the effort it makes to provide a comprehensive educational program for its students.

Honors classes are offered in English, math, science and social studies. The district maintains a school farm and implements an extensive agricultural program. Several computer labs are provided and 5-station mini-labs are available in 16 academic classes. In addition to these classes and the traditional course of studies, the following programs are provided:

Special Education:

Three resource specialist teachers are employed to work with students identified as having special needs. These teachers meet with approximately twenty-five students a day and are each supported by an instructional aide. Instruction is individualized and designed to meet the special needs of each student, while assisting them to meet graduation requirements.

Two special day class teachers are provided for students with more severe learning handicaps. These classes are composed of approximately fifteen students and are supported by instructional aides.

A psychologist is hired on a contract basis for one day a week to work with students identified with special needs and to counsel students with various problems. Additional days of service are contracted as needed. The psychologist serves as a resource person to staff and students.

Migrant Education:

There are over 700 identified migrant students at Wasco Union High School. The district received approximately \$200,000 this year from the federal government to help implement this program. The school has a very active migrant advisory committee, which is composed of parents of migrant students and meets on a regular basis to provide support and direction for this program.

The purpose of the migrant program is to provide supplemental support to insure that migrant students are able to progress and succeed in school. This program provides services after school to help teach the students how to learn. Teachers, as well as college students, are employed to tutor migrant students after school.

Chapter I:

The district receives approximately \$82,000 each year from the federal government for compensatory education. The purpose of these funds is to enrich the educational opportunities for students who are educationally and economically deprived. A teacher has been hired to provide small basic skills classes for students experiencing difficulties in the classroom, and an instructional aide was hired to provide additional assistance to identified students, in their regular classes. There are many other small grants that provide supplemental funding in specific areas.

Vocational Education:

Approximately 120 Wasco High students take vocational education courses through North Kern Vocational Training Center (NKVTC). The Wasco High staff works closely with NKVTC to provide vocational education experience for Wasco High students. Approximately \$325.00 per student is provided for vocational education. Students in vocational programs graduate with skills to enter the work force.

Counseling:

Wasco High School employs two counselors. Counselors orient each entering freshman and develop a four-year program outlining a proposed course of studies for each student. Counselors conduct meetings in the evenings to review these programs with the student and their parents. Counselors meet with students and parents throughout the year to modify student programs and to help students resolve problems.

Additional support is provided by a bilingual career technician and an intervention counselor who works with students with special problems and is experienced in dealing with students with substance abuse problems, helping individuals and groups to develop more effective coping strategies.

Class Size and Teaching Load

The average class size for academic classes at Wasco Union High School at the end of the first semester of the 1998-99 school year was 25.10. Last year the average class size for academic classes was 25.23. The Board makes an effort to maintain optimum class sizes even though the school continues to grow.

The class size by academic area is as follows:

	1998-99	1997-98	1996-97	1995-96
*English	19.51	23.18	23.79	22.93
Math	26.32	26.26	27.40	26.66
Science	26.74	26.06	24.86	24.96
Social Science	27.83	25.43	28.89	27.25

*The class size for the 9th grade English classes averages 20 students per class.

Teacher Assignments

The Board and administration make every effort to insure that teachers are assigned to teach only those subjects for which they are trained. Several teachers have emergency permits to teach in their major area while completing teacher-training courses.

Textbooks and Instructional Materials

The district budgets approximately \$150.00 per year for each student for textbooks and instructional supplies. Textbooks are reviewed and updated regularly. Most textbooks are generally used for six years or less. Each student is provided with his/her own textbook for classes, which use textbooks. Textbooks are compatible with the state curriculum framework and the finest quality available. All students are provided with textbooks and adequate instructional materials. The State Department of Education provided additional funds for the 1998-99 school year. This included an additional \$44,000 for math & \$17,000 for science.

The district has a heavy investment in educational technology equipment including six full computer labs, two in business, one in agriculture, one in industrial arts, and two in the library. Additionally, computers are provided in sixteen mini-labs with five stations each in the math department, English department, social studies department, special education department, and the science department. Students are exposed to educational technology in many different classes. Each student is required to take a course in computer literacy. This past year the district received \$400,000 in a Digital High School grant to support the acquisition of additional educational technology equipment and programs. Every classroom has at least one computer that may be used by the teacher and students.

All instructional materials in all departments must meet a set of criteria adopted by the Board of Trustees and approved by the teacher, department chairperson, principal of instructional services, and the superintendent. It is then submitted to the Board of Trustees at one meeting and adopted at the next meeting. If there is a question along the way, the material is referred back to a committee of the department chairperson and the principal of instructional services for further study. The only exception to this policy is current events in newspapers, magazines and other media. This material may be used without the review process. Parents are invited and encouraged to join in the review process for all instructional material and textbooks.

The district has an extensive budget of approximately \$50,000 to purchase additional textbooks during the school year to replace those lost or destroyed. These funds are also used to purchase all textbooks as the enrollment of the school grows. This budget has always been extended as the need arises to insure a textbook for all students in every class.

The business department is using all computers at this time and electric ten key calculators. Introduction to Computers is a class offered to students in order to acquaint them to computer use. Many students are now coming to the high school from the elementary districts with computer use skills.

Funds from the IASA Title VI Grant provide technology for the library, upgrading of the AV-TV department and other instructional uses.

The library has approximately seventeen thousand books, which is an average of fifteen per student. Computers with reference information have been purchased for use in the library this past year. The library is open at 7:00 a.m., remains open during the lunch period and does not close until 4:30 p.m. The library currently has nine sets of encyclopedias, two of which are in Spanish.

Substitute Teachers

Each year the Board of Trustees of the Wasco Union High School approves substitute teachers. Substitutes are acquired from Wasco as well as the surrounding area. Of the substitute teachers available, some have regular high school teaching credentials while most have a temporary or emergency credential that will satisfy the requirements to substitute in a 9th-12th grade high school.

On days when a teacher is going to be gone only a period or two, the substitute position is filled from within our existing staff, by having a teacher teach during his/her preparation period or having an administrator take the class.

When a regular staff teacher is used to cover a class, the cost is considerably higher than when a substitute is used. A substitute receives \$80.00 per day, while a teacher's rate varies from \$30.89 to \$36.34 per hour depending on their placement on the district's salary schedule.

With nearly a 7% absence rate for full day absences, there are not enough qualified substitute teachers in the community to serve the high school.

School Facilities and Safety

Wasco Union High School is located on a 40-acre site at the corners of Seventh and Palm in the city of Wasco. In addition, the school has a 110-acre agricultural education site three miles west of town. Approximately ten years ago, the main campus academic buildings were remodeled. In all, the school facilities provide 1,250 students with a crowded, but up-to-date learning environment.

The campus and its appearance are a source of pride within the community. Visitors generally comment on the well-kept grounds. The facilities include the academic buildings, administration, a cafeteria, a library, industrial arts, band/chorus, gymnasium and weight room, football/track stadium, playing fields and tennis courts. The focal point of the campus is the landmark auditorium, which was built in 1928 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in September 1997.

School safety is addressed on a continual basis. Our campus is safe and the staff strives to keep Wasco High School a good place to be. A number of activities are conducted to insure school safety:

1. Fire and evacuation drills are conducted.
2. Bus evacuation drills are conducted.
3. All coaches are First-Aid/CPR certified.
4. Classrooms are connected to the main office via intercom. Immediate contact is available if necessary
5. Lab chemicals are kept in secured areas.
6. All cleaning materials are kept in locked storage areas.

7. Parking lot safety is stressed.
8. The custodial crew does an excellent job in keeping facilities safe for students.
9. Staff and administrators are present on campus to provide visible supervision.
10. Two campus supervisors are on duty and in constant communication with the Assistant Principal via a walkie-talkie.
11. A Conflict Resolution Program was established in 1991-92.

The following table provides information on the number and types of student infractions that are compiled and reported to the state.

School Crime Report

Crime	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Property	16	12	15	9	17
Fighting	48	41	70	40	55
Substance Abuse	20	14	9	19	6
Theft	6	4	13	14	7
Dangerous Objects	3	1	2	4	6
Assaults	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Extortion	0	0	0	0	0

Teacher Evaluation and Professional Improvement

The governing Board in agreement with the teachers' association adopted the teacher evaluation process of the Wasco Union High School District.

Once every two years, each tenured faculty member is evaluated on a rotating basis by the Principal or Assistant Principal.

The areas of evaluation include student progress, learning environment, student and classroom control and the implementation of district programs. Probationary teachers are evaluated annually by the Principal or Assistant Principal.

All department chairpersons are notified of upcoming conferences and instruction and professional workshops in their teaching area. Many departments budget for professional workshops and conferences. In addition, most State and Federal programs have budget allowances for conferences.

The past three years Wasco High School has received staff development funds from the State. The district schedules appropriate workshops focusing on topics requested by staff. Beginning in the 1998-99 school year, all staff development days are scheduled beyond the student instructional calendar.

Wasco Union High School continues to approve conference and inservice requests for staff requesting them. Most inservice activities are in the areas of the individual teacher's area of instruction.

Classroom Discipline and Climate for Learning

Wasco Union High School has a progressive discipline program to deal with student behavior and discipline. Whenever possible, students are referred to counselors if they display disruptive behavior. If necessary, students are referred to the Assistant Principal for offenses of the school Code of Conduct. Based on the offense, a student may receive detentions or In-School Retention. If a major offense occurs, a student will be placed on suspension or be expelled.

The Code of Conduct is provided to each student at the beginning of school. Parents sign a signature sheet indicating that they have discussed the school rules with their student. All new students are given a copy of the Code as well.

The first week of school all teachers go over the Code of Conduct with their students. The Assistant Principal visits each freshman English class to go over the Code of Conduct and other expectations of good behavior.

In general, we feel that we have a positive school climate.

Suspensions and Expulsions

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
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Suspensions	102	99	120	97	120
Expulsions	4	3	3	2	1

Training and Curriculum Improvement

A five member Board of Trustees governs the district. The Board Members are elected and are responsible to the community. The Board hires an administrative staff composed of a Superintendent, Principal, Assistant Principal, a Director of Athletics and Activities, a Director of Library/Media Services and Testing, and a Principal for its continuation high school. The district continues to place a high priority on maintaining small classes and providing instructional materials to support the educational curriculum. The district is committed to an extended school year and offers a minimum of 65,000 minutes of instruction per year.

A Principal § s Advisory Committee, composed of the various department chairpersons, meets on a monthly basis to provide communication between the staff and administration. Department chairpersons meet regularly with their departments to review curriculum issues. Full faculty meetings are held as needed.

The district provides an adult education program, a continuation school and an independent study program to meet the diverse needs of the students and community. Through these programs, students are provided with a wide variety of alternatives for completing the requirements for a high school diploma. Graduates are prepared to either enter the work force or attend college.

The high percentage of students going on to post-secondary education and the success these students have in college attests to the quality of the instructional program in the Wasco Union High School District.