

Argonne Alternative Elementary School

675 17th Avenue, San Francisco CA 94121, Phone (415) 750-8460

Ms. Rose Barragan, Principal

S.F.U.S.D.

1995-1996 School Accountability Report Card

Fall, 1995

School Description

Argonne Year-Round Alternative School provides an academic program that allows children to develop to their fullest potential. Students attend from various parts of San Francisco, creating a culturally diverse student body. The school year runs from July through mid-June providing an opportunity for 204 days of attendance. This allows for an uninterrupted learning flow and also provides more time for the implementation of an enriched educational program. Most Argonne students attend from kindergarten through fifth grade providing greater continuity for their educational growth. Argonne is committed to the SFUSD Restructuring Schools Initiative. As a result, the delivery of instruction has been redesigned employing findings of the latest educational research. Our instruction reflects Howard Gardner's "Theory of Multiple Intelligences." Teachers employ their knowledge of this theory within an interdisciplinary/thematic focus as they create learning situations in which concepts and skills are developed. Instruction is also designed to develop critical and creative thinking. Staff is presently implementing student progress portfolios and is committed to the district-wide reporting form which is more personalized to individual student performance. In addition, as part of our restructuring effort, the Argonne community has created a shared decision-making structure through an on-going series of surveys, brainstorming sessions, seminars and training sessions involving the entire school community.

District Mission and Goals

The mission of the San Francisco Unified School District is to provide each student with an equal opportunity to succeed by promoting intellectual growth, creativity, self discipline, cultural and linguistic sensitivity, democratic responsibility, economic competence and physical and mental health so that each student can achieve to his or her maximum ability.

To achieve this mission, the Board of Education has adopted the following goals: 1) To improve teaching and learning to enhance the academic achievement of all students; 2) To improve staff, parent and community participation in the educational process; 3) To maintain school environments that are safe, secure and attractive; 4) To build a school environment that is fully integrated in all its programs and activities and provides equal opportunity for all students; 5) To improve and expand the Early Childhood Education Program and integrate it into the K-12 Program; and 6) To increase and expand inter-agency collaboration to better serve our students.

School Priorities

For each goal there are a number of measurable objectives. Every school has developed a school site plan to achieve each objective and identified their individual school priorities: 1) Develop and apply instructional strategies to better meet the needs of the students. 2) Improve the assessment practices to more accurately measure achievement. 3) Improve mathematics education. 4) Improve staff, parent and community participation in the educational process. 5) Maintain school environments that are safe, secure and attractive.

Philosophical Tenets

In order to achieve these objectives, the Board has adopted the following set of philosophical tenets:

- * All individuals can learn.
- * All individuals are both potential learners and potential teachers.
- * All individuals want to learn and to be recognized for their achievements.
- * All individuals are entitled to be treated with respect and dignity.
- * Learning can be subdivided into a number of specific, concrete competencies that can be used as a focus for teaching.
- * All individuals should learn to live and work in a world that is characterized by interdependence and cultural diversity.
- * Learning has both cognitive and affective dimensions.
- * If individuals do not learn, then those assigned to be their teachers should accept responsibility for this failure and should take appropriate remedial action.
- * All individuals learn in many different ways and at varying rates.
- * Each individual learns best in a particular way.
- * Parents want their children to attain their fullest potential as learners and to succeed academically.

Grade Span:	K-5	Student Enrollment:	336	LEP/NEP*:	32.1%
Building (sq.ft.):	21,700	Average Daily Attendance:	99.9%	Special Education:	4.2%
Year of Construction:	1971	Optional Enrollment Requests:	100%	EDY**:	19.6%
Children Center: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Pre-K: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		% Objectives Met***:	92%

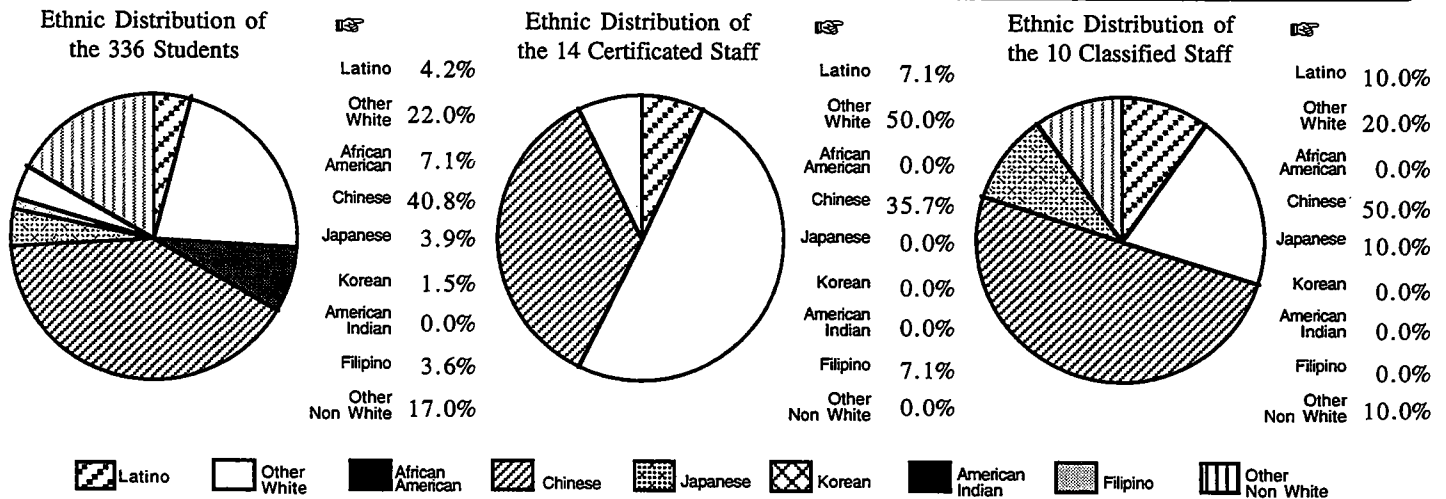
Counseling and Student Support Services

District general funds are not available for counseling services at the elementary school level. However, some schools have added support staff funded through special programs, projects, or grant awards. Additional support for students is provided by the principal, paraprofessionals, speech therapist, resource specialist, student advisor and classroom volunteers. We have recently taken advantage of the counseling services offered by a USF intern, and the Youth Aware Program. Cantonese and Mandarin speaking teachers/paraprofessionals are available to assist students and parents in their first language. Our Student Council assists in developing and implementing school standards of behavior, initiates school activities for positive student involvement, and participates in the resolution of school problems. A conflict manager's program has been implemented this year. This program follows the model of Community Boards using a facilitator and a dialogue process to assist students in resolving their own conflicts.

Teacher Assignment

Out of 2,305 certificated classroom teachers in the District's schools, none are teaching out of their credentialed areas. Argonne teachers are assigned according to their credentials, taking pride in the quality of their instruction and in their collegiality. Teachers choose to remain as members of Argonne's teaching staff therefore providing a very stable instructional environment. As part of our site governance, staffing of Argonne school is done by an interview panel composed of parents and staff and selection is made by consensus.

Ethnic Diversity



Objective 4a: Each school will have no more than 45 percent of its students from any one racial/ethnic group, and at least four racial/ethnic groups will be represented. (Based upon previous year's enrollment.)*

The staff and parent decision making team of Argonne School is committed to ethnic diversity in both staff and student body. Our commitment recognizes the richness of experience that can be brought to a school community in which diversity is valued. It also recognizes how important this validation is to the future of our pluralistic society.

*Several District objectives are listed in this document. If the objective is shown with a check (✓), the objective has been achieved. N/A indicates that the objective is not applicable to the school. No mark at all indicates that the objective has not been achieved.

Student Attendance and Dropout Rate

The District's K-5 average attendance for 1994-95 was 99.1% and the dropout rate was 1.7%. At Argonne, attendance for the year was 99.9%, excused absences were 3.4%, unexcused absences were 0.1% and the dropout rate was 1.1%. An important District objective is to reduce dropout rates. Dropouts are defined as students who are absent without reason for 45 days or more. Argonne's attendance rate is excellent. Most students choose to attend all of the extended days offered. Our attendance is monitored carefully and our mobility rate is low.

Objective 1o: 1994-95 dropout rate will be reduced from its 1993-94 level.*

Class Size and Instructional Minutes

Grade Level	Contract Ratios	Contract Goals	District Averages	School Averages	Minutes Per Year**
K	31.2	28	28.8	27.5	36,000
1	26.0	24	27.2	27.3	50,400
2	26.0	24	27.4	23.0	50,400
3	29.8	25	26.7	29.0	50,400
4	32.2	30	27.5	29.0	54,000
5	32.2	30	28.1	29.5	54,000

** All schools offer and often exceed the minimum required number of instructional minutes per year. All instructional days meet or exceed the state minimum requirement for instructional minutes.

Teacher Evaluation

Administrators, probationary and long term substitute teachers, and all classified personnel are evaluated by their supervisors every year. Tenured teachers are evaluated every two years.

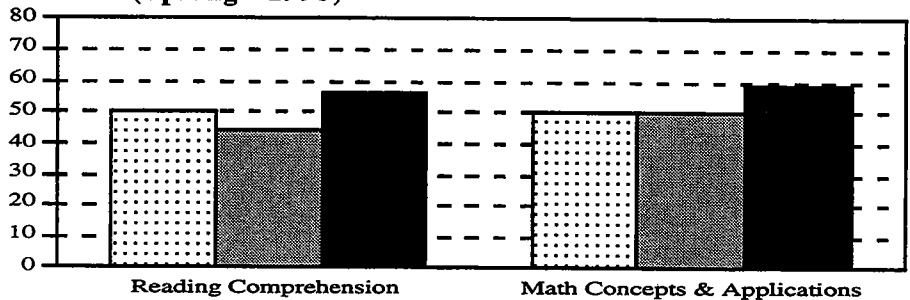
The evaluation processes are determined through contractual agreements with the United Administrators of San Francisco, the United Educators of San Francisco, and the Civil Service Commission of the City and County of San Francisco.

Student Achievement

Portions of the Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills (CTBS) are used by this District to measure individual student progress and proficiency standards.

CTBS: 

CTBS (Spring 1995)



LEP/NEP = 32.1%

Special Education = 4.2%

EDY = 19.6%

GATE & High Potential = 7.7%

Teacher/Staff Professional Development, and Curriculum Improvement

Professional development is a part of every school site plan and is a major component of the instructional support departments. The district's professional development program provides training opportunities to enable new and experienced teachers to implement the district's core curriculum for all students, to update subject area expertise, and to acquire new instructional strategies. Argonne teachers attend District inservices and specific workshops such as those given by the Lawrence Hall of Science, San Francisco math, arts and science resources including S.F. State, the art museums, the Symphony, the Exploratorium, and workshops given by the business community for forward thinking, restructuring schools. Recently, the entire staff participated in offerings related to science, thematic instruction, and authentic assessment. Our teachers are committed to professional development in the area of English as a Second Language with a focus on becoming certified as an English Language Development Specialists. We are currently working with district staff development providers to further our course of study. Regular meetings are held to discuss both program and methodology.

Quality of School Instruction and Leadership

Argonne's ten Councils meet regularly on issues relevant to curriculum, technology, evaluation, finance, as well as the concerns of individual stakeholder groups. We are presently putting our shared decision making model into action in which decisions are reached through consensus. In order to expand the involvement of parents, "Town Hall" meetings are held and surveys are circulated. Most important to every member of our community is the commitment to provide a rich and powerful curriculum connected meaningfully to the lives of our students and to provide the necessary support systems that will guarantee our students the opportunities to develop a lifelong love of learning.

Substitute Teachers

During the 1994-95 school year, the Argonne teacher attendance rate was 96%. Argonne teachers take 35 vacation days within the extended school year. We are fortunate to have a cadre of substitute teachers who work with us in a partnering relationship. We consistently attract qualified substitute coverage.

Student Behavior

In order to provide a healthy climate, we have regulations consistent with the Student Behavior Handbook. Last year, at Argonne, 2 students were suspended for violations of those regulations. The following program(s) have been included in the School Site Plan to achieve the District's objective to reduce the number of suspensions: In order to communicate general behavior expectations we distribute the SFUSD Student Behavior Handbook. In addition, we open each school year with activities that emphasize the building of positive relationships and that teach conflict resolution.

Objective 3a: Schools will provide interventions which result in the reduction of the number of suspensions and expulsions.*

Average Salaries, Budget Percentages & Expenditure per Student

1993-94 SALARY COMPARISON		
	* STATE	SFUSD
Beginning Teacher Salary	\$26,521	\$26,660
Mid-range Teacher Salary	\$41,168	\$39,146
Highest Teacher Salary	\$48,152	\$48,106
Principal's Average Salary	\$66,289	**\$60,544
Superintendent's Salary	\$109,669	\$120,000
Expenditure per Student	-	**\$3,163
% of Budget for Teacher Salaries	42.62%	44.5%
% of Budget for Administrators	5.08%	4.1%

* Districts over 20,000 ADA
** Elementary Schools Only

Textbooks and Instructional Materials

The review, selection, and purchase of textbooks and instructional materials are carried out in conjunction with the California eight-year curriculum improvement cycle. Each year, textbooks and instructional materials are reviewed and adopted in one or two specific subject areas. In 1994-95, there was a district-wide adoption of K-8 mathematics instructional materials which will be implemented over a three-year period. During the 1995-96 school year, there will be the traditional curriculum development of an improved K-8 language arts instructional program and adoption of new materials will be considered in 1996-97. The Argonne staff understands that curriculum implementation far exceeds the limitations of a single text. Therefore, in addition to the textbooks selected by the district process and provided by allocated state textbook funds; the Argonne instructional team is committed to supplementing these materials with ever growing library/media resources including single titles and multiple copy literary works, ie..." The Voyage of the Mimi" and other "block" taping of PBS offerings, computer software, and "hands on" materials for math and science instruction. This is done by utilizing community-raised funds, grants written by teacher/parent teams, and participation in special projects.

School Facilities and Safety

Current Conditions:

We are in the process of building a new school plant through Prop A Funds. The Argonne Elementary School Project Schedule began in April 1995. Our site has replaced the matting beneath the metal play structure. We have purchased a new PA system.

Planned Improvements:

The Argonne Elementary School is scheduled for a new school building. The projected date for actual construction of the new school plant is January 1996. The new building is projected to be completed by January 1997.

Needed Improvements:

Following the completion of the Argonne's Building Project Schedule and the building of a new school plant, additional building facility and safety needs will be noted and addressed.

Objective 3b: The appearance of the school site will be improved *



Parent Involvement

It is the intent of the governance plan that parents become involved in the operation and programs of the school. At present, the Argonne Council of Empowerment, ACE, is the body of the whole and is designed to act on all major decisions by survey, panel participation, or community meetings. Each of the working councils has parent and teacher members. The Parent Council, a stakeholder collaborative for parents, meets monthly to discuss parent concerns and parent education interests. Meetings in Chinese language are held to provide information and discuss issues. In addition, an active cadre of parents volunteer on site, from their workplace, or at home.

Objective 2a: Together with parent leaders from established site committees and organizations, schools will develop plans to increase parent participation.*



For further information about our school or if you have questions about this document, please feel free to call us.

Si necesita información sobre nuestra escuela o si tiene alguna pregunta sobre este prospecto, llámenos.

Nếu muốn biết thêm chi tiết về trường học hoặc về tập tài liệu này, xin quý vị gọi điện thoại cho chúng tôi.

Kung kailangan ang karagdagang impormasyon tungkol sa ating paaralan O gustong magtanong tungkol sa mga kailangang dokumento, maaari kayon tumawag sa amin.

Если у Вас есть вопросы, или нужна дополнительная информация, пожалуйста позвоните по телефону.

如果你們需要任何有關學校的資料或有任何關於此文件的問題，請打電話與我們聯絡。

San Francisco Unified School District

135 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Attn: Argonne Alternative Elementary School