

Borrego Springs Middle School

School Accountability Report Card

Reported Using Data from the 2012-13 School Year

Published During 2013-14

Every school in California is required by state law to publish a School Accountability Report Card (SARC), by February 1 of each year. The SARC contains information about the condition and performance of each California public school.

- For more information about SARC requirements, see the California Department of Education (CDE) SARC webpage at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sa/>.
- For additional information about the school, parents and community members should contact the school principal or the district office.

I. Data and Access

DataQuest

DataQuest is an online data tool located on the CDE DataQuest Web page at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/> that contains additional information about this school and comparisons of the school to the district, the county, and the state. Specifically, DataQuest is a dynamic system that provides reports for accountability (e.g., state Academic Performance Index [API], federal Adequate Yearly Progress [AYP]), test data, enrollment, high school graduates, dropouts, course enrollments, staffing, and data regarding English learners.

Internet Access

Internet access is available at public libraries and other locations that are publicly accessible (e.g., the California State Library). Access to the Internet at libraries and public locations is generally provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Other use restrictions may include the hours of operation, the length of time that a workstation may be used (depending on availability), the types of software programs available on a workstation, and the ability to print documents.

Additional Information

For further information regarding the data elements and terms used in the SARC see the 2012–13 Academic Performance Index Reports Information Guide located on the CDE API Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/>.

II. About This School

Contact Information (School Year 2013-14)

School Contact Information	
School Name	Borrego Springs Middle School
Street	2281 Diegueno Road
City, State, Zip	Borrego Springs, CA 92004
Phone Number	(760) 767-5335
Principal	Tracey McFarland
E-mail Address	tmcfarland@bsusd.net
CDS Code	37-67983-6115315

District Contact Information	
District Name	Borrego Springs USD
Phone Number	(760) 767-5357
Web Site	www.bsusd.com
Superintendent	Martha Deichler
E-mail Address	mdeichler@bsusd.net

School Description and Mission Statement (School Year 2012-13)

This section provides information about the school, its programs and its goals.

Community & School Profile

Borrego Springs Middle School is located in the remote desert community of Borrego Springs, in eastern San Diego County. Borrego Springs is a quiet community with a true home town atmosphere and is situated next to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Known for its ideal winter climate and natural beauty, the area attracts many visitors. Borrego Springs Middle School is governed by the Borrego Springs Unified School District. The district currently includes one elementary school, one middle school, one high school, and one continuation high school. Borrego Springs Middle School serves 120 students in grades six through eight, providing comprehensive educational programs and services to its unique student population. The school also acts as a focal point for community events.

Borrego Springs Middle School is a school in which the faculty, staff and students work as a team through sharing the decision-making responsibilities of the school. Recommendations are honored both up and down the supervisory chain. Faculty members are considered an integral part of the decision making process. Students arrive at school enthusiastic and ready to learn without undue concern for their own safety as it relates to school violence. The students of Borrego Springs Middle School are involved in a curriculum that is tailored for their future life endeavors. Their course studies are meaningful and directly related to their life goals. Emphasis is placed on preparing students to lead productive as well as fulfilling lives as adults. The mission of the Borrego Springs Middle School is to provide a safe, holistic, educational environment, which blends academic, social, emotional, and physical development for each student. The staff accomplishes these goals by working together to provide a challenging and safe social environment that encourages all students to reach their highest potential and to be competitive, responsible citizens in a culturally diverse world.

The educational community of Borrego Springs, which includes parents, students, staff, and the community, promotes pride in our schools through respect for each other, good citizenship, maintenance of high standards, and the positive encouragement of students. Through pursuit of these ideals, we develop the students' whole person, foster selfesteem in a safe environment, and provide guidance for their post-secondary planning and success.

Opportunities for Parental Involvement (School Year 2012-13)

This section provides information on how parents can become involved in school activities, including contact information pertaining to organized opportunities for parent involvement.

Parents and the community are very supportive of the educational program at Borrego Springs Middle School. Due to the nature of Borrego Spring's small, close-knit community, local people and organizations heavily invest time and money into the development of the next generation of well-rounded, educated, and responsible citizens. The Middle School Site Council meets monthly to review school programs and student data. The Spanish-speaking parents participate in the District English Language Advisory Committee (DELAC) throughout the year. Community members and parents volunteer at the school, both during the school day and after school, to provide enriching educational activities for our students. The support of parents, community members, and local businesses instills students at Borrego Springs Middle School with a sense of pride in their school and connection to their community.

Parents who wish to volunteer or participate in Borrego Springs Middle School's leadership teams, school committees, and school activities may contact Principal Tracey McFarland (760) 767-5335.

III. Student Performance

The Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program consists of several key components, including:

- **California Standards Tests (CSTs)**, which include English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades two through eleven; science in grades five, eight, and nine through eleven; and history-social science in grades eight, and nine through eleven.
- **California Modified Assessment (CMA)**, an alternate assessment that is based on modified achievement standards in ELA for grades three through eleven; mathematics for grades three through seven, Algebra I, and Geometry; and science in grades five and eight, and Life Science in grade ten. The CMA is designed to assess those students whose disabilities preclude them from achieving grade-level proficiency on an assessment of the California content standards with or without accommodations.
- **California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA)**, includes ELA and mathematics in grades two through eleven, and science for grades five, eight, and ten. The CAPA is given to those students with significant cognitive disabilities whose disabilities prevent them from taking either the CSTs with accommodations or modifications or the CMA with accommodations.

The assessments under the STAR Program show how well students are doing in relation to the state content standards. On each of these assessments, student scores are reported as performance levels.

For detailed information regarding the STAR Program results for each grade and performance level, including the percent of students not tested, see the CDE STAR Results Web site at <http://star.cde.ca.gov>.

Standardized Testing and Reporting Results for All Students - Three-Year Comparison

Subject	Percent of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced (meeting or exceeding the state standards)								
	School			District			State		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
English-Language Arts	48	45	38	43	42	41	54	56	55
Mathematics	27	34	17	33	31	24	49	50	50
Science	68	70	38	47	47	43	57	60	59
History-Social Science	42	50	52	33	42	47	48	49	49

Note: Scores are not shown when the number of students tested is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

Standardized Testing and Reporting Results by Student Group - Most Recent Year

Group	Percent of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced			
	English-Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	History-Social Science
All Students in the LEA	41	24	44	47
All Student at the School	38	17	38	52
Male	36	18	38	77
Female	39	17	38	31
Black or African American				
American Indian or Alaska Native				
Asian				
Filipino				
Hispanic or Latino	35	15	39	52
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander				
White	60	33		
Two or More Races				
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	37	17	38	52
English Learners	11	8		
Students with Disabilities				
Students Receiving Migrant Education Services	15	8		

Note: Scores are not shown when the number of students tested is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

California Physical Fitness Test Results (School Year 2012-13)

The California Physical Fitness Test (PFT) is administered to students in grades five, seven, and nine only. This table displays by grade level the percent of students meeting the fitness standards for the most recent testing period. For detailed information regarding this test, and comparisons of a school's test results to the district and state, see the CDE PFT Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/pf/>.

Grade Level	Percent of Students Meeting Fitness Standards		
	Four of Six Standards	Five of Six Standards	Six of Six Standards
7	31.0	4.8	33.3

Note: Scores are not shown when the number of students tested is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

IV. Accountability

Academic Performance Index

The Academic Performance Index (API) is an annual measure of state academic performance and progress of schools in California. API scores range from 200 to 1,000, with a statewide target of 800. For detailed information about the API, see the CDE API Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/>.

Academic Performance Index Ranks - Three-Year Comparison

This table displays the school’s statewide and similar schools’ API ranks. The statewide API rank ranges from 1 to 10. A statewide rank of 1 means that the school has an API score in the lowest ten percent of all schools in the state, while a statewide rank of 10 means that the school has an API score in the highest ten percent of all schools in the state.

The **similar schools API rank** reflects how a school compares to 100 statistically matched “similar schools.” A similar schools rank of 1 means that the school’s academic performance is comparable to the lowest performing ten schools of the 100 similar schools, while a similar schools rank of 10 means that the school’s academic performance is better than at least 90 of the 100 similar schools.

API Rank	2010	2011	2012
Statewide	4	4	3
Similar Schools			

Academic Performance Index Growth by Student Group – Three-Year Comparison

Group	Actual API Change		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
All Students at the School	9	-19	-52
Black or African American			
American Indian or Alaska Native			
Asian			
Filipino			
Hispanic or Latino	33	-34	-47
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander			
White			
Two or More Races			
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	42	-40	-27
English Learners			-54
Students with Disabilities			

Note: "N/D" means that no data were available to the CDE or LEA to report. "B" means the school did not have a valid API Base and there is no Growth or target information. "C" means the school had significant demographic changes and there is no Growth or target information.

Academic Performance Index Growth by Student Group - 2013 Growth API Comparison

This table displays, by student group, the number of students included in the API and the 2013 Growth API at the school, LEA, and state level.

Group	2013 Growth API					
	School		District		State	
	# of Students	Growth API	# of Students	Growth API	# of Students	Growth API
All Students at the School	98	691	304	730	4,655,989	790
Black or African American	2		5		296,463	708
American Indian or Alaska Native	0		0		30,394	743
Asian	0		0		406,527	906
Filipino	0		0		121,054	867
Hispanic or Latino	86	680	250	710	2,438,951	744
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0		0		25,351	774
White	9		43	844	1,200,127	853
Two or More Races	1		6		125,025	824
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	71	699	275	735	2,774,640	743
English Learners	73	654	203	679	1,482,316	721
Students with Disabilities	13	342	32	504	527,476	615

Adequate Yearly Progress

The federal ESEA requires that all schools and districts meet the following Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) criteria:

- Participation rate on the state's standards-based assessments in ELA and mathematics
- Percent proficient on the state's standards-based assessments in ELA and mathematics
- API as an additional indicator
- Graduation rate (for secondary schools)

For detailed information about AYP, including participation rates and percent proficient results by student group, see the CDE AYP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/>.

Adequate Yearly Progress Overall and by Criteria (School Year 2012-13)

AYP Criteria	School	District
Made AYP Overall	No	No
Met Participation Rate: English-Language Arts	Yes	Yes
Met Participation Rate: Mathematics	Yes	Yes
Met Percent Proficient: English-Language Arts	No	No
Met Percent Proficient: Mathematics	No	No
Met API Criteria	No	Yes
Met Graduation Rate (if applicable)	N/A	N/A

Federal Intervention Program (School Year 2013-14)

Schools and districts receiving federal Title I funding enter Program Improvement (PI) if they do not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same content area (ELA or mathematics) or on the same indicator (API or graduation rate). After entering PI, schools and districts advance to the next level of intervention with each additional year that they do not make AYP. For detailed information about PI identification, see the CDE PI Status Determinations Web page: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/tidetermine.asp>.

Indicator	School	District
Program Improvement Status	In PI	Not In PI
First Year of Program Improvement	2004-2005	
Year in Program Improvement	Year 5	
Number of Schools Currently in Program Improvement	---	3
Percent of Schools Currently in Program Improvement	---	60.0

V. School Climate

Student Enrollment by Grade Level (School Year 2012-13)

Grade Level	Number of Students
Grade 6	40
Grade 7	41
Grade 8	30
Total Enrollment	111

Student Enrollment by Group (School Year 2012-13)

Group	Percent of Total Enrollment	Group	Percent of Total Enrollment
Black or African American	2.7	White	12.6
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.0	Two or More Races	0.0
Asian	0.0	Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	74.8
Filipino	0.0	English Learners	71.2
Hispanic or Latino	84.7	Students with Disabilities	7.2
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0		

Average Class Size and Class Size Distribution (Secondary)

Subject	2010-11				2011-12				2012-13			
	Avg. Class Size	Number of Classrooms			Avg. Class Size	Number of Classrooms			Avg. Class Size	Number of Classrooms		
		1-22	23-32	33+		1-22	23-32	33+		1-22	23-32	33+
English	23	2	2	0	32	0	1	1	21/2	3	2	
Mathematics	20.7	2	1	0	21.3	2	1	0	21.4	4	1	
Science	31	0	2	0	32	0	1	1	19.4	4	1	
Social Science	26.4	2	2	1	32	0	1	1	21.0	4	1	

Note: Number of classes indicates how many classrooms fall into each size category (a range of total students per classroom). At the secondary school level, this information is reported by subject area rather than grade level.

School Safety Plan (School Year 2012-13)

This section provides information about the school's comprehensive safety plan, including the dates on which the safety plan was last reviewed, updated, and discussed with faculty; as well as a brief description of the key elements of the plan.

Safety of students and staff is the primary concern at Borrego Springs Middle School. Borrego Springs Middle School welcomes visitors and volunteers, but asks all visitors to sign in at the front office, to be respectful of the learning process. We also want to minimize classroom disruptions. Before and after school, and during lunch, instructional aides, teachers, lunch supervisors and the principal monitor campus activity and ensure student safety.

The Comprehensive Safe School Plan was developed by the district to comply with Senate Bill 187 (SB 187) of 1997. The plan provides students and staff a means of ensuring a safe and orderly learning environment. Each school includes the following requirements of SB 187 within their safe school plans: current status of school crime; child abuse reporting procedures; disaster procedures, routine and emergency; policies related to suspension and expulsion; notification to teachers; sexual harassment policy; provision of a school-wide dress code; safe ingress and egress of pupils, parents, and school employees; safe and orderly school environment; and school rules and procedures.

The school reviews the plan annually and updates it , as needed. Safety procedures, including elements of the Safe School Plan, are reviewed with school and district staff in the fall, at the start of each school year. The plan was last updated and reviewed with school staff in February 2006. A copy of the plan is available for public review at the school office. A Safe Schools Committee was formed in December 2012 to review and revise the School Safety Plan, where appropriate.

Borrego Springs Middle School and High School collaborate with local law enforcement in drills and simulations of threatening situations that might endanger our students. Fire drills and/or earthquake drills are held quarterly A complete lockdown drill is completed annually.

An updated campus map indicating student gathering points and critical utility shut-off valves is placed in all classrooms and also resides in the school and district office.

Suspensions and Expulsions

Rate	School			District		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Suspensions		8	17			
Expulsions		1	0			

Note: The rate of suspensions and expulsions is calculated by dividing the total number of incidents by the total enrollment x 100.

VI. School Facilities

School Facility Conditions and Planned Improvements (School Year 2013-14)

This section provides information from the most recent Facility Inspection Tool (FIT) data (or equivalent), including:

- Description of the safety, cleanliness, and adequacy of the school facility
- Description of any planned or recently completed facility improvements
- Description of any needed maintenance to ensure good repair

Safety conditions of the school site are the number one priority of Maintenance and Operations personnel and the site principal. District maintenance supervisors are proactive and conduct inspections at school sites on a continual basis. Repairs necessary to keep the school in good repair and working order are completed in a timely manner. A work order process is used to ensure efficient service and that emergency repairs are given the highest priority. The district maintenance staff has indicated that 100% of all toilets on school grounds are in working order.

Date of most recent inspection: 9/16/12

School Facility Good Repair Status (School Year 2013-14)

This section provides information from the most recent Facility Inspection Tool (FIT) data (or equivalent), including:

- Determination of repair status for systems listed
- Description of any needed maintenance to ensure good repair
- The year and month in which the data were collected
- The Overall Rating

School Facility Good Repair Status (School Year 2013-14)				
Year and month in which data were collected: 9/2011				
System Inspected	Repair Status			Repair Needed and Action Taken or Planned
	Good	Fair	Poor	
Systems: Gas Leaks, Mechanical/HVAC, Sewer	[X]	[]	[]	
Interior: Interior Surfaces	[X]	[]	[]	
Cleanliness: Overall Cleanliness, Pest/ Vermin Infestation	[X]	[]	[]	
Electrical: Electrical	[X]	[]	[]	
Restrooms/Fountains: Restrooms, Sinks/ Fountains	[X]	[]	[]	
Safety: Fire Safety, Hazardous Materials	[X]	[]	[]	
Structural: Structural Damage, Roofs	[X]	[]	[]	
External: Playground/School Grounds, Windows/ Doors/Gates/Fences	[X]	[]	[]	

Overall Facility Rate

Overall Rating	Exemplary	Good	Fair	Poor
	[]	[X]	[]	[]

VII. Teachers

Teacher Credentials

Teachers	School			District
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2012-13
With Full Credential	5	4	4	
Without Full Credential	5	0	0	
Teaching Outside Subject Area of Competence (with full credential)	2	1	0	---

Teacher Misassignments and Vacant Teacher Positions

Indicator	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners	0	0	
Total Teacher Misassignments	0	0	
Vacant Teacher Positions	0	0	

Note: "Misassignments" refers to the number of positions filled by teachers who lack legal authorization to teach that grade level, subject area, student group, etc.

* Total Teacher Misassignments includes the number of Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners.

Core Academic Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers (School Year 2012-13)

The federal ESEA, also known as NCLB, requires that core academic subjects be taught by Highly Qualified Teachers, defined as having at least a bachelor's degree, an appropriate California teaching credential, and demonstrated core academic subject area competence. For more information, see the CDE Improving Teacher and Principal Quality Web page at www.cde.ca.gov/nclb/sr/tq/.

Location of Classes	Percent of Classes In Core Academic Subjects	
	Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers	Not Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers
This School	96.3	3.7
All Schools in District	92.4	7.6
High-Poverty Schools in District	92.4	7.6
Low-Poverty Schools in District	0.0	0.0

Note: High-poverty schools are defined as those schools with student eligibility of approximately 40 percent or more in the free and reduced price meals program. Low-poverty schools are those with student eligibility of approximately 39 percent or less in the free and reduced price meals program.

VIII. Support Staff

Academic Counselors and Other Support Staff (School Year 2012-13)

Title	Number of FTE Assigned to School	Average Number of Students per Academic Counselor
Academic Counselor	.50	111
Counselor (Social/Behavioral or Career Development)	1.00	---
Library Media Teacher (Librarian)	0	---
Library Media Services Staff (Paraprofessional)	.40	---
Psychologist	.25	---
Social Worker	0	---
Nurse	.25	---
Speech/Language/Hearing Specialist	0	---
Resource Specialist	0	---
Other	0	---

Note: One Full Time Equivalent (FTE) equals one staff member working full time; one FTE could also represent two staff members who each work 50 percent of full time.

IX. Curriculum and Instructional Materials

Quality, Currency, Availability of Textbooks and Instructional Materials (School Year 2013-14)

This section describes whether the textbooks and instructional materials used at the school are from the most recent adoption; whether there are sufficient textbooks and instruction materials for each student; and information about the school's use of any supplemental curriculum or non-adopted textbooks or instructional materials.

Year and month in which data were collected: 9/15/12

All textbooks and instructional materials used within the Borrego Springs Unified School District are aligned with the California Academic Content Standards and Frameworks and have been selected from the state's most recent list of standards-based materials. The district follows the state Board of Education's eight-year adoption cycle for core content materials. The district held a Public Hearing on November, 2012 and determined that each school within the district has sufficient and good quality textbooks or instructional materials, pursuant to the settlement of Williams vs. the state of California. All students, including English Language Learner students, are provided their own individual textbooks in core subjects for use in the classroom and to take home to complete required homework assignments.

Core Curriculum Area	Textbooks and Instructional Materials/ Year of Adoption	From Most Recent Adoption?	Percent of Students Lacking Own Assigned Copy
Reading/Language Arts	McDougal Littell 2002 In good condition.	Yes	0
Mathematics	McDougal Littell 2001 In good condition.	Yes	0
Science	Prentice Hall 2001 In good condition.	Yes	0
History-Social Science	McGraw-Hill 2000 Houghton Mifflin 1999 Glencoe/McGraw-Hill 2000 In good condition.	Yes	0
Visual and Performing Arts	In good condition.		

X. School Finances

Expenditures Per Pupil and School Site Teacher Salaries (Fiscal Year 2011-12)

Level	Expenditures Per Pupil			Average Teacher Salary
	Total	Supplemental/ Restricted	Basic/ Unrestricted	
School Site	\$14,711	\$4,708	\$10,003	\$52,665
District	---	---	\$10,003	\$54,446
Percent Difference: School Site and District	---	---	0.0	-3.3
State	---	---	\$5,537	\$58,606
Percent Difference: School Site and State	---	---	80.7	-10.1

Supplemental/Restricted expenditures come from money whose use is controlled by law or by a donor. Money that is designated for specific purposes by the district or governing board is not considered restricted.

Basic/Unrestricted expenditures are from money whose use, except for general guidelines, is not controlled by law or by a donor.

For detailed information on school expenditures for all districts in California, see the CDE Current Expense of Education & Per-pupil Spending Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/ec/>. For information on teacher salaries for all districts in California, see the CDE Certificated Salaries & Benefits Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/cs/>. To look up expenditures and salaries for a specific school district, see the Ed-Data Web site at: <http://www.ed-data.org>.

Types of Services Funded (Fiscal Year 2012-13)

This section provides specific information about the types of programs and services available at the school that support and assist students. For example, this narrative may include information about supplemental educational services related to the school's federal Program Improvement (PI) status.

For the 2012-13 school year, Borrego Springs Unified School District spent an average of \$13,261 to educate each student (based on 2012-13 data). This calculation is required by law annually and compared with other districts statewide. The "Total Expenditures" table provides a comparison of a school's per pupil funding from unrestricted sources with district and state funding.

Borrego Springs Unified School District receives state and federal categorical funding for special programs. For the 2012-13 school year, the district received approximately \$1,256 per student in federal and state aid for the following categorical and support programs:

- Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Funds
- Special Education
- Interagency Contracts
- Economic Impact Aid
- Home-to-School Transportation
- Instructional Materials
- School Improvement Program
- Peer Assistance and Review
- Title I
- Title III

Teacher and Administrative Salaries (Fiscal Year 2011-12)

Category	District Amount	State Average for Districts In Same Category
Beginning Teacher Salary	\$39,224	\$38,390
Mid-Range Teacher Salary	\$61,862	\$55,793
Highest Teacher Salary	\$70,544	\$72,306
Average Principal Salary (Elementary)	\$105,000	\$88,846
Average Principal Salary (Middle)	\$0	\$92,801
Average Principal Salary (High)	\$105,000	\$95,916
Superintendent Salary	\$39,000	\$116,026
Percent of Budget for Teacher Salaries	27.6%	34.0%
Percent of Budget for Administrative Salaries	10.6%	6.6%

For detailed information on salaries, see the CDE Certificated Salaries & Benefits Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/cs/>.

XI. Instructional Planning and Scheduling

Professional Development

This section provides information on the number of days provided for professional development and continuous professional growth in the most recent three year period. Questions that may be answered include:

- What are the primary/major areas of focus for staff development and specifically how were they selected? For example, were student achievement data used to determine the need for professional development in reading instruction?
- What are the methods by which professional development is delivered (e.g., after school workshops, conference attendance, individual mentoring, etc.)?
- How are teachers supported during implementation (e.g., through in-class coaching, teacher-principal meetings, student performance, and data reporting, etc.)?

Training and professional development at Borrego Springs Middle School currently revolves around the Common Core State Standards, Smarter Balanced Assessments, and 21st Century Learning Skills. Because of the small teaching staff, curriculum and staff development decisions are made by the entire staff working directly with the principal.

To acquire necessary knowledge, upgrade skills, and develop professionally, Borrego Springs Middle School's staff members are encouraged to attend workshops and conferences. Teachers regularly share expertise and best teaching practices with their colleagues, based on advanced education and/or specialized training. The sharing of information by teachers occurs throughout the year at weekly collaboration meetings held each Monday. The entire district faculty and staff meet regularly to discuss issues common to all district faculty and staff. Teaching staff provide input into developing the year-long weekly collaboration schedule.

Administrators conduct classroom visitations to observe and provide feedback. Release time is provided to teachers to observe colleagues and plan instruction.

The district annually offers three staff development buy-back days.

Recent staff development topics included:

- Using student data to develop Response to Instruction and Intervention
- Differentiated Instruction and Student Re-engagement
- Critical Reading strategies
- Unpacking and planning for implementation of Common Core State Standards (ELA, Math, Social Sciences)

Borrego Springs Unified School District assists new teachers with building classroom skills and instructional techniques by offering Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA), a state-sponsored two-year program designed for first- and second-year credentialed teachers. For experienced teachers, the Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) program utilizes the district's most effective veteran and knowledgeable teachers who assist with staff development and participate in such exercises as classroom visits, one-on-one meetings, and student work reviews.