

La Quinta High School

Brockton, Massachusetts

3,100 Students

37% free and reduced lunch

53% Hispanic

9% English language learners

La Quinta High School, a comprehensive high school on an attractive, well-kept campus, opened its doors in 1994. In July 2005, Donna Salazar took over as principal. Under her new leadership, the administration decided to incorporate additional best practices.



Donna Salazar
Principal

"Our association with the International Center for Leadership in Education has contributed to significant, widespread improvement in all facets of our school: a large increase in our 2007 Growth API, a high pass rate on the state test (CAHSEE), increased student engagement, the forging of a common staff vision and a new awareness of the elements that are in place at highly effective schools — all of which we are implementing with the support, guidance, research and resources provided by the International Center."

CHALLENGE

To improve declining test scores in the basic knowledge areas and to create a shared vision of school success by empowering teachers to make critical decisions regarding curriculum, instruction, and assessment through collaboration and teamwork.

SOLUTION

The International Center's *10 Key Components of School Improvement* rubric was used by the staff to identify strengths and areas of need. This led to a heightened awareness of the elements that exist in highly successful schools and the need to create a school culture that supports all learners.

Since 2006, La Quinta's base API score rose an unprecedented 71 points (2006-08) compared to the state average increase of 19 points.

PROCESS

Since attending the International Center's High School Reinvention Symposium in October 2005, Principal Donna Salazar and her Leadership Team have followed the procedures, processes and tools recommended by the International Center.

In partnership with the International Center, La Quinta High School first developed a strong shared strategic vision and then a comprehensive and integrated implementation plan to guide the process.

1. Site Visit/Needs Assessment Spring 2006

- An International Center Senior Consultant met with administrative, teacher and student groups to complete an external review using the *10 Key Components of School Improvement* rubric.
- The consultant composed a School Profile highlighting strengths and areas of need.

2. Strategic Planning

- The school's Successful Practices Network liaison worked with Donna Salazar and the Leadership Team to plan strategically for the coming year.
- The Learning Criteria to Support 21st Century Learners was introduced as a tool to measure school success on state tests and beyond.
- The school identified data indicators to measure stretch learning, student engagement, and personal skill development for all students.
- Goal statements, actions plans, and timelines were developed.

3. Professional Development — Models Schools Conference, Fall Symposium, and Network State and Regional Meetings

- Donna Salazar and members of the Leadership Team attended these events.
- The team engaged in strategic planning for high school reinvention.
- Workshops provided in-depth explanations of the Rigor/Relevance Framework and the Learning Criteria to Support 21st Century Learners.
- Conference keynotes spelled out the challenges facing American education.
- Team members participated in sessions that featured model schools describing best practices and effective strategies.

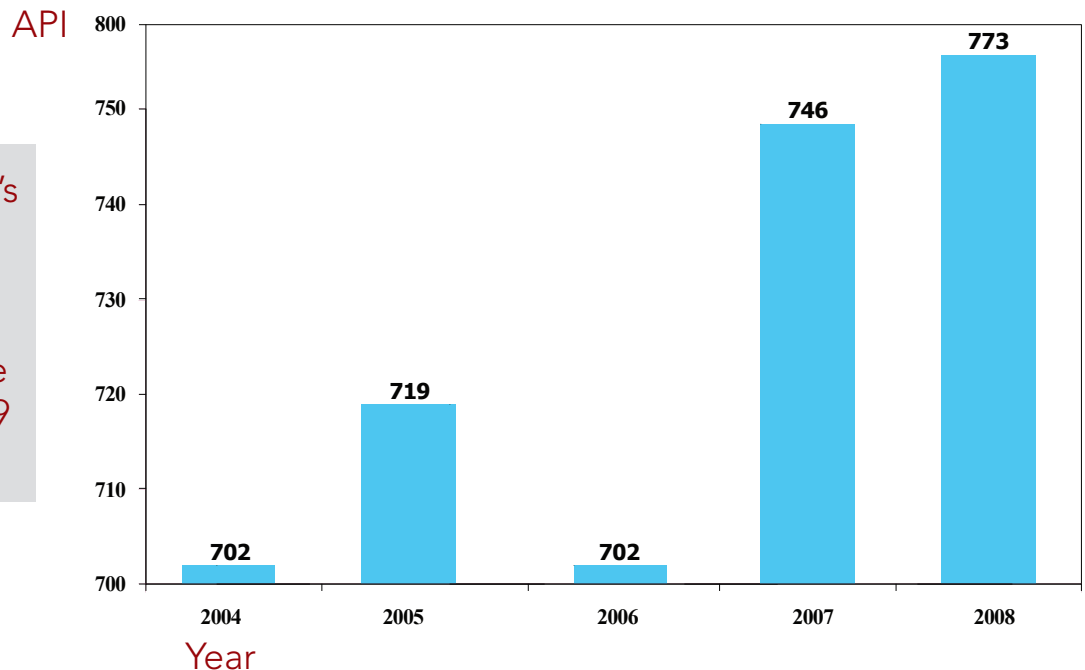
4. International Center's Education Leadership Institute

- Donna Salazar enrolled in this leadership development initiative in fall 2006.
- The Institute focused on developing effective leadership skills to support rigor, relevance, and relationships and exploring leadership styles and techniques.

5. Internal Needs Assessment — Fall 2006

- Staff conducted a needs assessment of the school using the International Center's *10 Key Components of School Improvement* rubric.
- Through this process, staff developed a heightened awareness of the elements that exist in highly successful schools and the need to create a school culture that supports all learners.

Four-year Trend Data on Academic Performance Index (API) La Quinta High School



Since 2006, La Quinta's base API score rose an unprecedented 71 points (2006-08) compared to the state average increase of 19 points.

La Quinta credits the International Center for helping the school reach the next level of performance.

6. Implementation of the International Center's Rigor/Relevance Framework™

- Teachers were introduced to the Rigor/Relevance Framework through the site visit, Symposiums, and Model Schools Conference.
- Several teachers completed Quadrant D Gold Seal Lessons and submitted them to the International Center for editing and feedback.
- Staff was provided with access to the entire bank of Gold Seal Lessons through the International Center's Successful Practices Network.
- The International Center conducted a full-day workshop on the Rigor/Relevance Framework in August 2007.

7. Successful Practices Network Membership/Liaison

- La Quinta continues to make use of the school's Network liaison to provide technical assistance.
- Activities have included alignment of goals and action plans to the Learning Criteria.

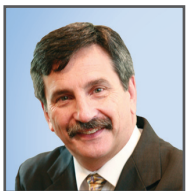
8. Continuous Improvement and Sustainability

- Ray McNulty worked with staff for a full day in August 2008 to build and sustain their focus on the Rigor/Relevance Framework and continue to develop a culture of innovative instruction.
- A schoolwide literacy initiative was launched in Fall 2008 focusing on improving the writing skills of students.

Bill Daggett, Ray McNulty, and our team of skilled and experienced consultants represent the nation's finest education leaders, practitioners and experts in leading, assisting, managing and implementing change at all levels of K-12 education.



Dr. Willard R. Daggett
Chief Executive Officer



Raymond J. McNulty
President

Consulting Services

- ✓ school improvement support
- ✓ needs assessment and strategic planning
- ✓ professional development for educators

Best Practices

Ongoing relationships and connections to tap into a host of exemplary model schools, successful practices and related research

Experience

20 years of high-touch support for K-12 educators and education leaders in more than 10,000 schools and school districts across North America

Reputation

A trusted track record of expert, customized, and personalized consulting services

Expertise

America's most respected consultants, each with hands-on experience and expertise on a broad range of school improvement issues

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