



# LAKE TAHOE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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## Lake Tahoe Unified School District Makes Huge Gains on California's Academic Performance Index (API)

*SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA –*

The California Department of Education released the 2008-2009 Accountability Progress Report (APR) today and Lake Tahoe Unified School District is celebrating its 2009 API results. The 2009 API (Academic Performance Index) results reflect dramatic improvements in student achievement at all schools in the district.

School Name	2008 API* ALL STUDENTS	2009 Required Increase in Points set by State	2009 Actual Increase in Points	2009 API* ALL STUDENTS	The Wow!! Factor
Bijou Community School	625	9	64	689	
Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School	881	0	38	919	Wow!
Sierra House Elementary School	768	5	31	799	Wow!
Tahoe Valley Elementary School	743	5	77	820	Wow!
South Tahoe Middle School	772	5	28	800	Wow!
South Tahoe High School	730	5	20	750	

**\*The State's Goal for every California School is an API score of 800**

The API is a numeric index that ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1000 with a statewide target of 800. School and subgroup targets are set at 5 percent of the difference between the school or subgroup's Base API score and the statewide target of 800, with a minimum target of 5 points. All numerically significant subgroups at a school must meet their growth targets for a school to meet its API growth target. These subgroups include racial/ethnic subgroups, socioeconomically disadvantaged students, English learners, and students with disabilities.

The percentage of schools at or above the target of 800 on 2009 API scores is 48% for elementary schools, 36% for middle schools, and 21% for high schools. LTUSD has three

schools at 800 or above, which are Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School (919), Tahoe Valley Elementary School (820), and South Tahoe Middle School (800). Sierra House Elementary is one point below 800, at 799.

As a whole, Lake Tahoe Unified School District recorded double-digit improvements, as demonstrated by the attached charts highlighting sub-group performance by school. The graphic illustration portrays the District's reaction to the incredible achievement by students. District Superintendent, Dr. James R. Tarwater said "the API scores reflect perseverance by teachers, students, support staff, and parents. The "can-do" attitude and the focus on individual students has collectively resulted in these remarkable results. This is not only a District accomplishment but a community accomplishment".

The District can identify three major areas which have contributed to this success.

1. Curriculum:

- Adopting standards-based math textbooks with a pacing guide.
- The development of support classes and/or intervention groups for re-teaching skills.
- Providing English Language Development support for English language learners.
- Providing high quality instruction in Language Arts with Houghton/Mifflin.

2. Monitoring student performance through an online electronic reporting system (OARS) which allows teachers to focus on learning performance and prescribe interventions.

3. Collaboration and staff development where teams of teachers discuss academic goals of the students and receive the proper professional growth training in order to maximize instruction.

Five out of six of Lake Tahoe Unified School District's schools also made their 2009 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), not only for *all students*, but in all *sub-groups*. Despite these outstanding results, LTUSD still moves forward in Year 3 Program Improvement (PI) under the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. This is a very good example of why so many people across the nation are calling for the kind of NCLB reforms that we're expecting to see sometime this fall.

"It took a team effort", said Dr. Tarwater. "We celebrate the success for all and will continue to refine and improve our delivery of instruction".

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LAKE TAHOE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Highlighted Academic Performance Index (API) SUBGROUPS by site

**Bijou Community School**

Subgroup	2008 API*	2009 Required Increase in Points set by State	2009 Actual Increase in Points	2009 API*
Hispanic/Latino	591	10	+76	667
English Learners	572	11	+75	647
Students with Disabilities	499	15	+157	656



**Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School**

Subgroup	2008 API*	2009 Required Increase in Points set by State	2009 Actual Increase in Points	2009 API*
White	879	0	+38	917



**Sierra House Elementary School**

Subgroup	2008 API*	2009 Required Increase in Points set by State	2009 Actual Increase in Points	2009 API*
Hispanic/Latino	675	6	+48	723
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	698	5	+50	748



**Tahoe Valley Elementary School**

Subgroup	2008 API*	2009 Required Increase in Points set by State	2009 Actual Increase in Points	2009 API*
Hispanic/Latino	666	7	+78	744
White	787	5	+67	854
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	704	5	+85	789
English Learners	627	9	+90	717
Students with Disabilities	560	12	+211	771



**South Tahoe Middle School**

Subgroup	2008 API*	2009 Required Increase in Points set by State	2009 Actual Increase in Points	2009 API*
Hispanic/Latino	672	6	+50	722
Students with Disabilities	650	8	+39	689



**South Tahoe High School**

Subgroup	2008 API*	2009 Required Increase in Points set by State	2009 Actual Increase in Points	2009 API*
Hispanic/Latino	642	8	+20	662

