

Adelanto Elementary School



August 14, 2008

Dear Larry Bell,

My name is Jesse M Najera and I am the Principal of Adelanto Elementary School. We are a K-6 school with very challenging (promising) demographics. We are 97% free and reduced lunch, 65% English Learners, 95% Hispanic and African-American. Our school is in Year 4 of Program Improvement. This was my first year at AES.

A friend, who is a Principal in Chicago, called and recommended the two day workshop you do on expectations, incentives, strategies, etc. I took a team of 5 to your workshop in San Diego, where we were challenged, encouraged and taught how to close the achievement gap and empower our students. We immediately implemented UNRAAVEL school wide and we laid out the testing incentives for students to see, including a trip to Disneyland for students who were proficient in both math and language arts. They could earn tickets towards those incentives by using their UNRAAVEL on the state test, taking their time on the test, and showing all their work on the test. I personally visited every classroom and went over every incentive before testing.

Well, we were blown away by our results. Our African American students jumped 84 API points. Our Hispanic students jumped 92 API points. Our Socio-Economically Disadvantaged students rose 82 points and our English Learners rose 100 API points. Adelanto Elementary School jumped an incredible 87 API points on the state test! We also made our AYP targets for the first time and froze in Program Improvement. One more year of making progress and we can exit from Program Improvement!

I want to thank you for challenging us like you did. Every student on my campus knows the word UNRAAVEL and uses the strategies on a daily basis. I believe our district will adopt UNRAAVEL this school year. We are excited to send another 6 teachers to your conference in December. Thanks again for everything you did for the students and teachers of Adelanto Elementary School. We proved that every child can and will achieve, no matter how challenging their situations may be.

Sincerely,

Jesse M Najera
Principal



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