

"Partners' work is clearly a powerful national model for school transformation; but what might be the most lasting benefit for us is how the Partners approach works to build the capacity of our leaders at the district level."

JOSÉ L. MANZO, SUPERINTENDENT
ALUM ROCK UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT (2009-2012)



PROFILES IN SUCCESS: ALUM ROCK

From 2010 through 2015, Partners in School Innovation engaged with the central office and several schools in the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, located in San Jose, CA.

For the central office, we helped create a transformation plan, provided one-on-one coaching to district leaders, and annually assessed the district's progress with our research-based transformation rubric. Between those annual assessments, we provided district and school leaders with frequent updates on multiple performance measures. This regular monitoring eventually led to a re-design of district offices so they could better support schools.

One of the schools that we partnered with in Alum Rock was Cesar Chavez Elementary. The school serves as a model of what can be achieved when a results-oriented support provider teams up with a reform-minded principal. In just three years, **the school's Academic Performance Index rose from 645 to 812**, making it one of the most improved schools in the state. (The API was on a 200-1,000 scale, with 800 being the state target.)

Rene Sanchez, who was the principal of Cesar Chavez Elementary during that partnership, says that what sets Partners in School Innovation apart from other support providers is its

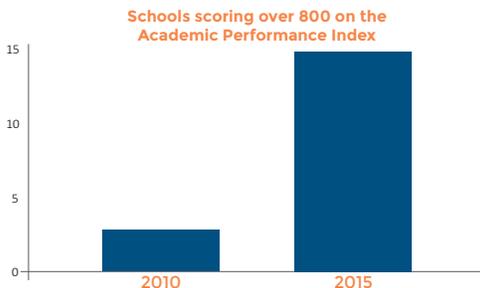
hands-on approach. "Staff from Partners rolled up their sleeves, worked closely with us, and if something didn't work, they came back to the table with us and figured out how to make it work," says Sanchez. "But Partners didn't drive the agenda; our community drove the agenda and Partners helped us get there," he says.

In addition to supporting the central office and schools, Partners set up district-wide professional learning communities for teachers and leaders to provide targeted professional development to individuals and school teams. The multi-pronged approach helped the district make and sustain significant progress.

Pleased with the growth that Partners in School Innovation helped produce, Jose Manzo, the former superintendent of Alum Rock, recently stated, "Partners absolutely gets results. We had significant improvement in academic achievement in a very short time. That happened through a very articulated approach to building capacity so that as Partners exited, there was internal capacity within the system to continue the work."

While Partners worked with Alum Rock, the district increased the number of schools scoring above 800 on the Academic Performance Index, the state's performance target.

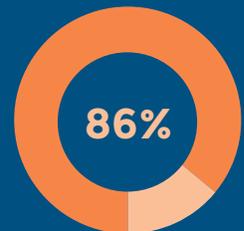
ARUESD's number of schools scoring above 800 on the Academic Performance Index went from 3 to 14 from 2010 to 2015, making it one of the most improved districts in the state.



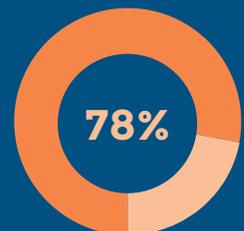
K-8
Grades Served



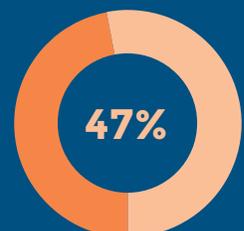
12,000
Students



86%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged



78%
Latino



47%
English Learners