



Independence Continuation High School

School Accountability Report Card, 2006–2007
Amador County Unified School District

» An annual report to the community about teaching, learning, test results, resources, and measures of progress in our school.

Independence Continuation High School

School Accountability Report Card, 2006–2007
Amador County Unified School District

This School Accountability Report Card (SARC) provides information that can be used to evaluate and compare schools. State and federal laws require all schools to publish a SARC each year.

The information in this report represents the 2006–2007 school year, not the current school year. In most cases, this is the most recent data available. We present our school's results next to those of the average continuation high school in the county and state to provide the most meaningful and fair comparisons. To find additional facts about our school online, please use the [DataQuest](#) tool offered by the California Department of Education.

If you are reading a printed version of this report, note that words that appear in a smaller, bold typeface are links in the online version of this report to even more information. You can find a master list of those linked words, and the Web page addresses they are connected to, at:

http://www.schoolwisepress.com/sarc/links_2007_en.html

Reports about other schools are available on the [California Department of Education Web site](#). Internet access is available in local libraries.

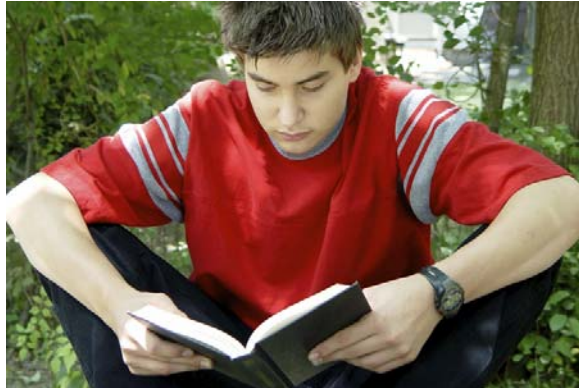
If you have any questions related to this report, please contact the school office.

How to Contact Our School

525 Independence Dr.
Sutter Creek, CA 95685
Principal: Sandra Watson
Phone: (209) 267-5150

How to Contact Our District

217 Rex Ave.
Jackson, CA 95642
Phone: (209) 223-1750
<http://www.amadorcoe.org>



» Contents

ONLINE USERS: CLICK ON A TITLE TO JUMP TO THAT SECTION

- 1 Principal's Message**
- 2 Measures of Progress**
- 4 Student Achievement**
- 12 Preparation for College and the Workforce**
- 18 Students**
- 19 Climate for Learning**
- 21 Leadership, Teachers, and Staff**
- 26 Curriculum and Textbooks**
- 27 Resources**
- 28 District Expenditures**
- 29 School Expenditures**



Published by
SCHOOL WISE PRESS
385 Ashton Ave., Ste. 200
San Francisco, CA 94112
Phone: (415) 337-7971
www.schoolwisepress.com

©2007 Publishing 20/20

Independence Continuation High School

School Accountability Report Card, 2006–2007
Amador County Unified School District

» Principal's Message

Independence is located in the Sierra foothills, an hour from Sacramento. Students attend our school when they lack credits, wish to graduate early, or become disenchanted with traditional public school. The mission of Independence High School is to provide each student with new opportunities and alternative ways to fulfill his unique potential.

We strive to promote student success in a positive alternative environment that acknowledges and nurtures unique learning styles. The staff seeks to provide educational, social, and career development services to students based on state, district, and school goals. We also try to create a positive climate with an emphasis on enhancing academic achievement, self-esteem, physical well-being, personal goal setting, and interpersonal skills emphasizing respect for self and others.

Our focus for improvement includes meeting our Academic Performance Index (API) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets for all student populations.

Sandra Watson, PRINCIPAL

Grade range and calendar

9-12

TRADITIONAL

Academic Performance Index

601

County Average: 612
State Average: 537

Student enrollment

77

County Average: 84
State Average: 138

Teachers

4

County Average: 6
State Average: 7

Students per teacher

21

County Average: 14
State Average: 19

Students per computer

3

County Average: 6
State Average: 3

MEASURES OF PROGRESS

Academic Performance Index

The Academic Performance Index (API) is California’s way of comparing schools based on student test scores. The index was created in 1999 to help parents and educators recognize schools that show progress and identify schools that need help. A school’s API determines whether it receives recognition or sanctions. It is also used to compare schools in a statewide ranking system. The California Department of Education (CDE) calculates our school’s API using student test results from the California Standards Tests, the California Achievement Test, and, for high schools, the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). APIs range from 200 to 1000. The CDE expects all schools to eventually obtain APIs of at least 800. [Additional information on the API](#) can be found on the CDE Web site.

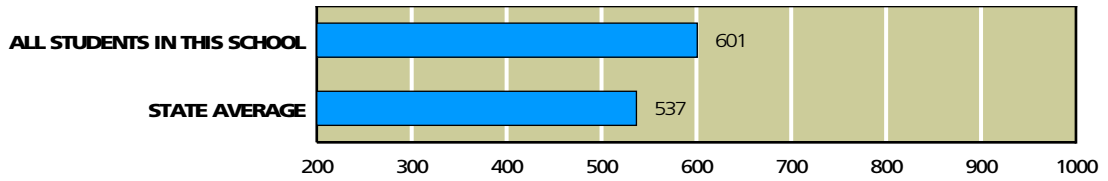
CALIFORNIA API ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX	
Met schoolwide growth target	N/A
Met growth target for prior school year	N/A
API score	601
Growth attained from prior year	+9
Met subgroup* growth targets	N/A
Underperforming school	No

Independence’s API was 601 (out of 1000). This is an increase of 9 points compared to last year’s API. About 88 percent of our students took the test. You can find three years of detailed API results in the Data Almanac that accompanies this report. Based on our 2005–2006 test results, we started the 2006–2007 school year with an API base score of 592.

SOURCE: API based on spring 2007 test cycle. Growth scores alone are displayed and are current as of January 2008.
*Ethnic or socioeconomic groups of students that make up 15 percent or more of a school’s student body. These groups must meet AYP and API goals. R/P - Results pending due to challenge by school. N/A - Results not available.

API GROWTH TARGETS: Each year the CDE sets specific API “growth targets” for every school. It assigns one growth target for the entire school, and it sets additional targets for ethnic or socioeconomic subgroups of students that make up a significant portion of the student body. Schools are required to meet all of their growth targets. If they do, they may be eligible to apply for awards through the California School Recognition Program and the Title I Achieving Schools Program.

API, Spring 2007



SOURCE: API based on spring 2007 test cycle. State average represents continuation high schools only.
NOTE: Only groups of students that represent at least 15 percent of total enrollment are calculated and displayed as student subgroups.

Adequate Yearly Progress

In addition to California’s accountability system, which measures student achievement using the API, schools must also meet requirements set by the federal education law known as **No Child Left Behind (NCLB)**. This law requires all schools to meet a different goal: **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)**.

We met all six criteria for yearly progress. As a result, we succeeded at making AYP.

To meet AYP, high schools must meet four criteria. First, a certain percentage of students must score at or above Proficient levels on the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE): 22.3 percent on the English/language arts test and 20.9 percent on the math test. All significant ethnic and socioeconomic subgroups of students also must meet these goals. Second, the schools must achieve an API of at least 590 or increase their API by one point from the prior year. Third, 95 percent of tenth grade students must take the CAHSEE. Fourth, the graduation rate for the class of 2006 must be higher than 82.9 percent (or satisfy alternate improvement criteria).

If even one subgroup of students fails to meet just one of the criteria, the school fails to meet AYP. While all schools must report their progress toward meeting AYP, only schools that receive federal funding to help economically disadvantaged students are actually penalized if they fail to meet AYP goals. Schools that do not make AYP for two or more years in a row in the same subject enter **Program Improvement (PI)**. They must offer students transfers to other schools in the district and, in their second year in PI, tutoring services as well.

FEDERAL AYP ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS	
Met AYP	Yes
Met schoolwide participation rate	Yes
Met schoolwide test score goals	Yes
Met subgroup* participation rate	N/A
Met subgroup* test score goals	N/A
Met schoolwide API for AYP	Yes
Met graduation rate	Yes
Program Improvement School in 2007	No

SOURCE: AYP is based on the Accountability Progress Report of January 2008. A school can be in Program Improvement based on students' test results in the 2006–2007 school year or earlier.

*Ethnic or socioeconomic groups of students that make up 15 percent or more of a school's student body. These groups must meet AYP and API goals. R/P - Results pending due to challenge by school. N/A - Results not available.

Adequate Yearly Progress, Detail by Subgroup

● MET GOAL ● DID NOT MEET GOAL — NOT ENOUGH STUDENTS

	English/Language Arts		Math	
	DID 95% OF STUDENTS TAKE THE CAHSEE?	DID 22.3% ATTAIN PROFICIENCY ON THE CAHSEE?	DID 95% OF STUDENTS TAKE THE CAHSEE?	DID 20.9% ATTAIN PROFICIENCY ON THE CAHSEE?
SCHOOLWIDE RESULTS	●	●	●	●

SOURCE: AYP release of January 2008, CDE.

The table at left shows our success or failure in meeting AYP goals in the 2006–2007 school year. The green dots represent goals we met; red dots indicate goals we missed. Just one red dot means that we failed to meet Adequate Yearly Progress.

Note: Dashes indicate that too few students were in the category to draw meaningful conclusions. Federal law requires valid test scores from at least 50 students for statistical significance.





















STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Here you'll find a three-year summary of our students' scores on the California Standards Tests (CST) in selected subjects. We compare our students' test scores to the results for students in the average continuation high school in California. On the following pages we provide more detail for each test, including the scores for different subgroups of students. In addition, we provide links to the California Content Standards on which these tests are based. If you'd like more information about the CST, please contact our principal or our teaching staff. To find [grade-level-specific scores](#), you can refer to the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Web site. Other tests in the [STAR program](#) can be found on the California Department of Education (CDE) Web site.

California Standards Tests

BAR GRAPHS BELOW SHOW THESE PROFICIENCY GROUPS (LEFT TO RIGHT):

■ FAR BELOW BASIC ■ BELOW BASIC ■ BASIC ■ PROFICIENT ■ ADVANCED

TESTED SUBJECT	2006–2007		2005–2006		2004–2005	
	LOW SCORES	HIGH SCORES	LOW SCORES	HIGH SCORES	LOW SCORES	HIGH SCORES
ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS						
Our school Percent Proficient or higher						
Average continuation high school Percent Proficient or higher						
GEOMETRY						
Our school Percent Proficient or higher	NO DATA AVAILABLE N/A		NO DATA AVAILABLE N/A		NO DATA AVAILABLE N/A	
Average continuation high school Percent Proficient or higher						
US HISTORY						
Our school Percent Proficient or higher						
Average continuation high school Percent Proficient or higher						
BIOLOGY						
Our school Percent Proficient or higher	NO DATA AVAILABLE N/A		NO DATA AVAILABLE N/A		NO DATA AVAILABLE N/A	
Average continuation high school Percent Proficient or higher						
SCIENCE						
Our school Percent Proficient or higher	NO DATA AVAILABLE N/A		NO DATA AVAILABLE N/A		NO DATA AVAILABLE N/A	
Average continuation high school Percent Proficient or higher					NO DATA AVAILABLE N/A	

SOURCE: The scores for the CST are from the spring 2007 test cycle. State average represents continuation high schools only. Whenever a school reports fewer than 11 scores for a particular subgroup at any grade level, the CDE suppresses the scores when it releases the data to the public. Missing data makes it impossible for us to compile complete schoolwide results. Therefore, the results published in this report may vary from other published CDE test scores.

Frequently Asked Questions About Standardized Tests

WHERE CAN I FIND GRADE-LEVEL REPORTS? Due to space constraints and concern for statistical reliability, we have omitted grade-level detail from these test results. Instead we present results at the schoolwide level. You can view the results of far more students than any one grade level would contain, which also improves their statistical reliability. Grade-level results are online on the [STAR Web site](#). More information about student test scores is available in the Data Almanac that accompanies this report.

WHAT DO THE FIVE PROFICIENCY BANDS MEAN? Test experts assign students to one of these five proficiency levels, based on the number of questions they answer correctly. Our immediate goal is to help students move up one level. Our eventual goal is to enable all students to reach either of the top two bands, Advanced or Proficient. Those who score in the middle band, Basic, have come close to attaining the required knowledge and skills. Those who score in either of the bottom two bands—Below Basic or Far Below Basic—need more help to reach the Proficient level.

WHY ARE THE CALIFORNIA STANDARDS TESTS (CST) AND THE CALIFORNIA ACHIEVEMENT TEST (CAT/6) SCORED DIFFERENTLY? When students take the CST, they can score at any of the proficiency levels: Advanced, Proficient, Basic, Below Basic, or Far Below Basic. In theory all students in California could score at the top. The CAT/6 is a nationally normed test, which means that students are scored against each other nationally. This scoring method is similar to grading “on the curve.” CAT/6 scores are expressed as a ranking on a scale from 1 to 99.

HOW HARD ARE THE CALIFORNIA STANDARDS TESTS? Experts consider California’s standards to be among the most clear and rigorous in the country. Just 45 percent of elementary school students scored Proficient or Advanced on the English/language arts test; 53 percent scored Proficient or Advanced in math. You can review the [California Content Standards](#) on the CDE Web site.

ARE ALL STUDENTS’ SCORES INCLUDED? No. Only students in grades two through eleven are required to take the CSTs. When fewer than 11 students in one grade or subgroup take a test, state officials remove their scores from the report. They omit them to protect students’ privacy, as called for by federal law.

CAN I REVIEW SAMPLE TEST QUESTIONS? Sample test questions for the CST are on the [CDE’s Web site](#). These are actual questions used in previous years.

WHERE CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION? The CDE has a wealth of resources on its Web site. The STAR Web site publishes detailed reports for schools and districts, and assistance packets for parents and teachers. This site includes explanations of [technical terms](#), scoring methods, and the [subjects](#) covered by the tests for each grade. You’ll also find a [guide](#) to navigating the STAR Web site as well as help understanding how to [compare test scores](#).

WHY ARE ONLY SOME OF THE TEST RESULTS PRESENT? California’s test program includes many tests not mentioned in this report. For brevity’s sake, we’re reporting six CST tests usually taken by the largest number of students. We select at least one test from each core subject. For science, we’ve selected biology (an elective) and the tenth grade life science test. For math, we’ve selected two courses, both of them electives: Algebra I, which students take if they haven’t studied and passed it in eighth grade; and Geometry, often the most popular math course because it follows Algebra I. In social studies, we’ve selected US History, which is taken by all juniors (eleventh graders). English/language arts summarizes the results of students in grades nine through eleven.

English/Language Arts (Reading and Writing)

BAR GRAPHS BELOW SHOW THESE PROFICIENCY GROUPS (LEFT TO RIGHT):

■ FAR BELOW BASIC ■ BELOW BASIC ■ BASIC ■ PROFICIENT ■ ADVANCED

GROUP	LOW SCORES	HIGH SCORES	PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED	STUDENTS TESTED	COMMENTS
SCHOOLWIDE AVERAGE			15%	88%	SCHOOLWIDE AVERAGE: About eight percent more students at our school scored Proficient or Advanced than at the average continuation high school in California.
AVERAGE CONTINUATION HIGH SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY			17%	95%	
AVERAGE CONTINUATION HIGH SCHOOL IN CALIFORNIA			7%	91%	

Subgroup Test Scores

BAR GRAPHS BELOW SHOW TWO PROFICIENCY GROUPS (LEFT TO RIGHT):

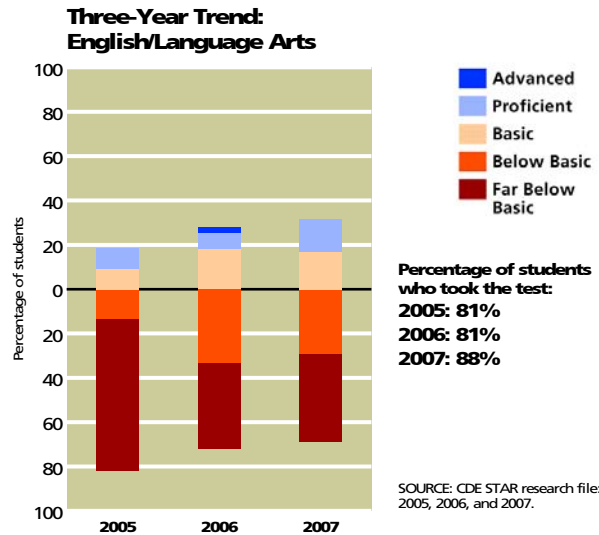
■ FAR BELOW BASIC, BELOW BASIC, AND BASIC ■ PROFICIENT AND ADVANCED

GROUP	LOW SCORES	HIGH SCORES	PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED	STUDENTS TESTED	COMMENTS
Boys	DATA STATISTICALLY UNRELIABLE		N/S	27	GENDER: We cannot compare scores for these two subgroups because the number of students tested was too small to be statistically significant.
Girls	DATA STATISTICALLY UNRELIABLE		N/S	23	
English proficient			15%	50	ENGLISH PROFICIENCY: We cannot compare scores for these two subgroups because the number of English learners tested was either zero or too small to be statistically significant.
English learners	NO DATA AVAILABLE		N/A	N/A	
Low income	DATA STATISTICALLY UNRELIABLE		N/S	21	INCOME: We cannot compare scores for these two subgroups because the number of students tested was too small to be statistically significant.
Not low income	DATA STATISTICALLY UNRELIABLE		N/S	29	
Learning disabled	NO DATA AVAILABLE		N/A	2	LEARNING DISABILITIES: We cannot compare scores for these two subgroups because the number of students tested with learning disabilities was either zero or too small to be statistically significant.
Not learning disabled			15%	48	
White/Other			16%	43	ETHNICITY: Test scores are likely to vary among students of different ethnic origins. The degree of variance will differ from school to school. Measures of the achievement gap are beyond the scope of this report.

SOURCE: The scores for the CST are from the spring 2007 test cycle. County and state averages represent continuation high schools only. Whenever a school reports fewer than 11 scores for a particular subgroup at any grade level, the CDE suppresses the scores when it releases the data to the public. Missing data makes it impossible for us to compile complete schoolwide results. Therefore, the results published in this report may vary from other published CDE test scores.
 N/A: Not applicable. Either no students took the test, or to safeguard student privacy the CDE withheld all results because very few students took the test in any grade.
 N/S: Not statistically significant. While we have some data to report, we are suppressing it because the number of valid test scores is not large enough to be meaningful.

The graph to the right shows how our students’ scores have changed over the years. We present each year’s results in a vertical bar, with students’ scores arrayed across five proficiency bands. When viewing schoolwide results over time, remember that **progress** can take many forms. It can be more students scoring in the top proficiency bands (blue); it can also be fewer students scoring in the lower two proficiency bands (brown and red).

You can read the California standards for [English/language arts](#) on the CDE’s Web site.



Algebra I

BAR GRAPHS BELOW SHOW THESE PROFICIENCY GROUPS (LEFT TO RIGHT):

■ FAR BELOW BASIC ■ BELOW BASIC ■ BASIC ■ PROFICIENT ■ ADVANCED

GROUP	LOW SCORES	HIGH SCORES	PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED	STUDENTS TESTED	COMMENTS
SCHOOLWIDE AVERAGE			0%	33%	SCHOOLWIDE AVERAGE: About three percent fewer students at our school scored Proficient or Advanced than at the average continuation high school in California.
AVERAGE CONTINUATION HIGH SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY			0%	26%	
AVERAGE CONTINUATION HIGH SCHOOL IN CALIFORNIA			3%	39%	

Subgroup Test Scores

BAR GRAPHS BELOW SHOW TWO PROFICIENCY GROUPS (LEFT TO RIGHT):

■ FAR BELOW BASIC, BELOW BASIC, AND BASIC ■ PROFICIENT AND ADVANCED

GROUP	LOW SCORES	HIGH SCORES	PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED	STUDENTS TESTED	COMMENTS
Boys	DATA STATISTICALLY UNRELIABLE		N/S	11	GENDER: The number of girls who took this test is too small to be counted in this analysis.
Girls	NO DATA AVAILABLE		N/A	8	
English proficient	DATA STATISTICALLY UNRELIABLE		N/S	19	ENGLISH PROFICIENCY: We cannot compare scores for these two subgroups because the number of English learners tested was either zero or too small to be statistically significant.
English learners	NO DATA AVAILABLE		N/A	N/A	
Low income	NO DATA AVAILABLE		N/A	9	INCOME: We cannot compare scores for these two subgroups because the number of students tested was either zero or too small to be statistically significant.
Not low income	NO DATA AVAILABLE		N/A	10	
Learning disabled	NO DATA AVAILABLE		N/A	1	LEARNING DISABILITIES: We cannot compare scores for these two subgroups because the number of students tested with learning disabilities was either zero or too small to be statistically significant.
Not learning disabled	DATA STATISTICALLY UNRELIABLE		N/S	18	
White/Other	DATA STATISTICALLY UNRELIABLE		N/S	16	ETHNICITY: Test scores are likely to vary among students of different ethnic origins. The degree of variance will differ from school to school. Measures of the achievement gap are beyond the scope of this report.

SOURCE: The scores for the CST are from the spring 2007 test cycle. County and state averages represent continuation high schools only. Whenever a school reports fewer than 11 scores for a particular subgroup at any grade level, the CDE suppresses the scores when it releases the data to the public. Missing data makes it impossible for us to compile complete schoolwide results. Therefore, the results published in this report may vary from other published CDE test scores.
 N/A: Not applicable. Either no students took the test, or to safeguard student privacy the CDE withheld all results because very few students took the test in any grade.
 N/S: Not statistically significant. While we have some data to report, we are suppressing it because the number of valid test scores is not large enough to be meaningful.

The graph to the right shows how our students' scores have changed over the years. Any student in grades nine, ten, or eleven who took algebra is included in this analysis. We present each year's results in a vertical bar, with students' scores arrayed across five proficiency bands. When viewing schoolwide results over time, remember that **progress** can take many forms. It can be more students scoring in the top proficiency bands (blue); it can also be fewer students scoring in the lower two proficiency bands (brown and red).

About 33 percent of our students took the algebra CST, compared to 39 percent of all continuation high school students statewide. To read more about the [math standards for grades eight through twelve](#), as well as the California standards for [algebra](#), visit the CDE's Web site.

