

Lakeside School Exposed!

The folks at Lakeside claim to be one of the highest performing school districts in Santa Clara County, or the entire state of California for that matter.

There are 37 districts in Santa Clara County of which Lakeside is the smallest. Lakeside demonstrated an API score of 935 on the 2008-09 testing cycle. This score is not higher than Saratoga or Cupertino, but it is higher than Los Gatos or Loma Prieta. How does a small district serving a very rural population produce student performance that has eluded all but a handful of Silicon Valley school districts? Unlike some of their neighbors, Lakeside has no assistant principals, no directors of curriculum, and no layers of support staff. In fact, other than classroom teachers, Lakeside has only one full-time employee, the chief business officer. Sure they have small classes – but isn't that what you would expect in a rural community with only about 1,500 residents.

Has Lakeside “cooked the books” to get the high scores or is it something else. Could it be experience – the least veteran teacher at Lakeside has 7 years experience with the average being 12 years. Could it be teaching skills – all Lakeside teachers are considered “highly qualified” according to Federal Government No Child Left Behind criteria.

Claiming to have experienced, skilled teachers seems to be a little self-serving. High scores and outstanding achievement could be the result of something else all together! What about excellent kids and involved parents? Is this the secret ingredient in the high performance formula? Is this the REAL reason behind the success of Lakeside School?

You be the judge.