



**KERN COUNTY INNOVATIVE & IMPACTFUL SCHOOLS**  
Academics | Engagement | College & Career Readiness

Kern County Innovative & Impactful Schools (I²S) is a county wide program implemented by Kern County Superintendent of Schools to acknowledge schools who are high-performing and improving student outcomes based on these three pillars of success.

## Buena Vista Continuation High School

**Largest Reduction in Suspension Rate by 13.4% points**  
**Based upon 3-year average from 2017-2020 CA School Dashboard**

Taft Union High School District  
Kern County  
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### School Profile

Buena Vista Continuation High School is a 9th-12th grade high school for approximately 100 students.

### School Demographics

The ethnicity of the student population of Buena Vista High School is as follows: 56% Hispanic/Latino and 43% White. The additional student groups from this population include: 6% Students with Disabilities, and 90% Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students.

### Self-Identified Contributing Factors

- Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) was aligned with trauma-informed practices training and a systems approach throughout the school. This was accomplished by the following actions:
  - Dr. [Joelle Hood-Joho](#)'s Social Emotional Academic Learning (SEAL) training for faculty.
  - Newer staff went through PBIS training.

- Purchasing School Wide Information System ([SWIS](#)) which is a data entry software to track Office Disciplinary Referrals (ODRs), helped the staff to make decisions on preventing and decreasing ODRs.
- PBIS fidelity training with Michael Figueroa, who assisted them in evaluating their PBIS efforts and overall Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS) practices.
- A mentoring initiative, in which all students were assigned to small groups with one staff member (classified and certificated), and scheduled regular blocks of time in which pre-selected topics were discussed which included empathy, self-awareness, etc. was created. This also built relationships in order to create a positive culture on their campus.
- The staff created a student leadership group through Sandy Hook Promise's model which is called; [SAVE](#) (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Promise Club.
  - Numerous leadership training sessions and planning meetings were developed for the SAVE Promise Club.
  - The SAVE Promise Club organized activities and events for the students. One such event was organizing a kindness week filled with activities for all students.
- [Brief Intervention Therapy](#) was applied to students who used or possessed drugs while on campus. This alternative means of correction was guided by the counseling staff and supported beyond group substance counseling support.