
2 Inglewood Schools Defy Odds, Achieve Excellence

■ **Education:** Students match, even exceed counterparts in wealthier areas. Principals win high praise.

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When researchers from the Los Angeles Unified School District went looking for success stories among elementary schools serving low-income minority areas, they ended up at two campuses in Inglewood where high test scores seemed to defy the odds.

Schools run by Principals Marjorie Thompson and Nancy Ichinaga have allowed minority children to match and even exceed their counterparts in wealthier areas.

With no extra money or fancy enrichment programs, they have geared their scarce resources to the youngest children, adopted program that focus on reading and

fostered an atmosphere that stresses academic excellence.

Bennett-Kew Elementary School's Ichinaga acts as the crossing guard because there is no money for one and she does not want her teachers spending their time doing the job.

At Thompson's William Kelso Elementary School, 35% of students are from welfare families. But their sixth-grade scores on state achievement tests are higher than scores at 96% of the California schools with similar student populations.

James Baker, a Los Angeles police officer, liked Kelso so much that he bypassed private schools for his two daughters. They did so

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