

Hart-Ransom Union School District

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School

3930 Shoemake Avenue
Modesto, CA 95358
Phone: (209) 523-9979
Fax: (209) 523-0588
www.stan-co.k12.ca.us/
hart-ransom



Grades Kindergarten through Eight

Barbara Dompe, Principal
bdompe@stan-co.k12.ca.us

2001-2002 School Accountability Report Card

Board of Trustees

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Principal's Message

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School is located in rural Modesto, California and serves students in grades kindergarten through eight. In 1995, Hart-Ransom School was recognized by the State of California as a Distinguished School, and our mission continues to be that we, as a school community, help to encourage all students to reach their potential.

The statistics that are given in this School Accountability Report Card speak for themselves. Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School has a strong Academic Performance Index. However, the staff is dedicated to continue to seek ways that will ensure that all students access the curriculum and master the Standards adopted by the State of California.

The fields and almond orchards surrounding the school grounds symbolize the agrarian climate of the school community. Many Hart-Ransom students are grandchildren of Hart-Ransom graduates. The community is proud of the school's longtime legacy of strong academic achievements, high standards for excellence and on-going commitment to the success of all its youth.

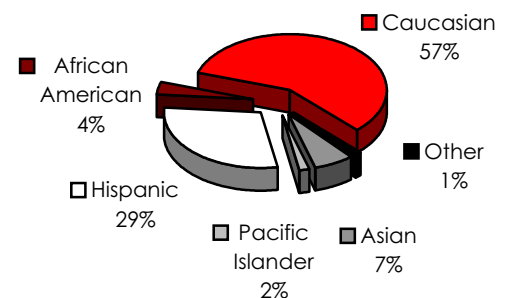
Community & School Profile

Hart-Ransom Union School District is located on the beautiful west side of Modesto, California. The district consists of one traditional kindergarten through eighth grade campus and one Charter School that serves the needs of the local home-schooling community.

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School has 28 classrooms, a computer lab, a library, a staff lounge, a school office, a district office, a cafeteria/multipurpose room, four storage rooms and a maintenance shed. For recreation, there is a kindergarten playground, a primary playground, and an upper-grade playground/athletic field.

During the 2001-2002 school year, 671 students were enrolled in grades kindergarten through eight, at Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School.

Ethnicity



District Mission Statement

The Hart-Ransom Union School District recognizes the uniqueness and worth of each child, is committed to the individual success of its community's youth, and will ensure a quality education that fosters the developmental skills and attitudes necessary for life-long learning through a positive and safe learning environment in partnership with home and community.

Discipline & Climate for Learning

Students at Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School are guided by specific rules and classroom expectations that promote respect, cooperation, courtesy, and acceptance of others. The school's discipline philosophy promotes a safe school, and a safe classroom environment. The goal of Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School's discipline program is to provide students with opportunities to learn self-discipline through a system of consistent rewards and consequences for their behavior.

Parents and students are informed of discipline policies at the beginning of each school year through classroom orientation and individual student handbooks. The district annually provides a Student Conduct Code for each of its sites, which is supplemented by a set of behavioral standards developed by Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School.

In addition, Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School distributes a weekly newsletter to inform students and parents of school policy and current events. Students in grades five through eight can participate in a Conflict Management Program, which assists all grade levels in working out problems using a peer-to-peer resolution system. The principal makes regular classroom visits to encourage students to follow school rules and policies.

Extracurricular Activities

Students are encouraged to participate in the school's additional academic and extracurricular activities. Considered an integral part of the educational program, these school-wide and classroom incentives promote positive attitudes, encourage achievement, and aid in the prevention of behavior problems. Extracurricular activities, clubs, and programs include:

- Track & Field
- Basketball
- Football
- Yearbook
- Pancake Breakfast
- Visiting Author Day
- Speech Contests
- Peers as Leaders (PALs)
- Outdoor Education
- Volleyball
- Band
- Dances
- Math Superbowl
- Science Olympiad
- Spelling Bee
- Student Council
- Music Festivals
- Bar-B-Qs

Student Recognition

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School adopted the "Character First" education program, which recognizes students in grades kindergarten through six, who demonstrate specific character traits such as cooperation, responsibility, perseverance, caring, and motivation.

At the end of each trimester, students in grades six through eight, who achieve a 3.0 or better grade point average, are recognized for academic achievement in an Honor Roll program.

Students in grades six through eight also may participate in the Renaissance Program. This program rewards students who have achieved academic success. Students who have perfect attendance for the year also are recognized. Students are given a certificate and pen; their names are displayed in the weekly newsletter.

The Soar Into Tomorrow program is an incentive program for grades six through eight that rewards and encourages students' positive behavior and school spirit. Teachers award recognition cards to deserving students, who are then eligible for weekly prizes.

Class Size

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School maintained a school wide average class size of 24.7 students and a pupil-to-teacher ratio of 20:1 in grades K-3 for the 2001-2002 school year.

In 1996, the state legislature approved implementation of the Class Size Reduction (CSR) program that provides funding to hire additional teachers to assist schools to maintain appropriate class size. Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School implemented CSR for grades K-3 in 1997. At the beginning of the 2001-2002 school year, all of the K-3 classrooms participated in this program.

Class Size Distribution

Number of Classrooms by Size

	Avg.			1-20			21-32		
	00	01	02	00	01	02	00	01	02
Kind.	20	17	19	2	3	3	1	0	0
1st	20	17	19	3	4	3	0	0	0
2nd	19	18	19	2	4	4	0	0	0
3rd	20	20	20	3	3	4	0	0	0
4th	28	29	32	0	0	0	3	2	2
5th	28	28	29	0	0	0	4	3	2
6th	27	29	26	0	0	0	2	3	3
K-3rd	19	n/a	18	3	0	1	0	0	0
3rd-4th	n/a	28	n/a	0	0	0	0	1	0
4th-8th	n/a	n/a	31	0	0	0	0	0	1

School Enrollment & Attendance

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School's enrollment at the beginning of the 2001-2002 year was 671 students. School districts receive financial support from the state based on how many students attend each day. Attendance is critical to academic achievement, and regular daily attendance is a priority at Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School. Student attendance is carefully monitored to identify those students exhibiting excessive absences. The actual attendance rate for Hart-Ransom Union School District for the 2001-2002 school year was 95%.

Attendance, tardy, and truancy policies are clearly stated and consistently enforced. Parents are advised of their responsibility to notify the school when and why their children are absent. The school monitors student attendance closely and reports excess unexcused absences to designated authorities.

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School works hard to reduce absences through the following measures:

- Written notification to parents after three absences/unexcused tardies
- Written notification of parent conference with principal/ designee after seven absences/unexcused tardies
- Referral to the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) after ten absences/unexcused tardies

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School District uses the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) which is run by the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department. Students are referred to SARB when they have irregular attendance and/or behavior problems in school and when the normal avenues of classroom, school and district counseling services are not effective. The members of the SARB, the referred students and their parents/guardians meet to evaluate the student's situation and find solutions to alleviate circumstances that contribute to attendance and/or behavior problems.

The school participates in a Drug Awareness and Resistance Education (DARE) program to educate students and to prevent drug use. The school works with a DARE Officer to promote school attendance as a deterrent for drug use.

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School expelled one student during the past three years. Expulsions occur when required by law or when all other alternatives are exhausted. The suspensions table below illustrates total cases, as well as the percentage of total enrollment (suspensions divided by total enrollment).

	Suspensions		
	00	01	02
Suspensions (#)	47	68	80
Suspensions (%)	6%	10%	12%
Expulsions (#)	0	1	0
Expulsions (%)	0%	0.1%	0%

Textbooks & Instructional Materials

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School administration ensures that sufficient and up-to-date textbooks and instructional materials are available to students to support the school's instructional program. All textbooks and instructional materials used within the school are aligned with the California State Content Standards and Frameworks. Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School follows the State Instructional Materials Adoption Cycle, which adopts instructional materials in each curricular area within a seven-year cycle.

During the 2001-2002 school year, state approved math textbooks were purchased. Reading/ Language Arts textbooks will be purchased for the 2002-2003 school year. Hart-Ransom has also implemented an Accelerated Reader program for the 2002-2003 school year.

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School's library is stocked with a variety of books, and a large collection of video and audiotapes that are directly related to curricular areas of study. The library has ten computer work stations. Students visit the library and the computer lab on a regular basis; both are open during lunch and before school. The library is staffed by a part-time library-media clerk.

Technology

The Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School District has implemented a Use of Technology Plan to bring students, teachers and the school up to date with modern technology. It is important that students become life-long learners in an increasingly complex and information-driven world. The Hart-Ransom Union School District is committed to providing its students with these necessary skills. The school recognizes that technology must be integrated across the curriculum. Integrating technology enables students to develop the critical thinking and problem solving skills that result in independent and discriminate thinkers and learners.

The computer lab is staffed by a full-time computer teacher and has 32 networked computers. Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School has a minimum of two to three computers with Internet access in each classroom. Students in sixth grade visit the computer lab twice a week. Students in seventh and eighth grades attend a daily computer class. Other grades visit the computer lab on an as-needed basis.

	Computer Resources		
	00	01	02
Computers	85	90	113
Students per computer	8.4	7.4	5.9
Classrooms connected to Internet	26	27	32

Student Achievement & Testing

Various district, school-wide, and classroom assessments are given in an effort to measure and improve student achievement. These assessments are designed to measure student progress and the effectiveness of the academic program.

Standardized State Testing

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School participates in California's mandatory Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (STAR), which utilizes the Stanford Achievement Test Series (SAT-9), and the California Standards Assessments. The SAT-9 measures achievement based on student comparison; the California Standards Test aids in determining the level of individual student comprehension and knowledge of skills required by the California Content Standards for each grade or course.

SAT-9 Results																					
2000, 2001, 2002																					
% At or Above the 50th Percentile																					
Grade	2			3			4			5			6			7			8		
	00	01	02	00	01	02	00	01	02	00	01	02	00	01	02	00	01	02	00	01	02
Reading																					
Hart-Ransom Elementary	36	57	49	59	38	48	60	58	44	46	57	58	67	56	65	56	71	55	80	73	70
Hart-Ransom Union School District	47	55	49	56	47	54	58	60	50	50	60	59	64	59	67	59	67	60	76	73	70
Stanislaus County	49	50	51	43	44	45	45	45	47	44	45	45	46	47	48	48	48	47	52	51	49
California	49	51	54	44	46	47	45	47	49	44	45	47	46	47	48	46	48	48	49	50	49
Math																					
Hart-Ransom Elementary	42	54	68	75	46	64	65	68	56	45	61	75	65	66	75	70	71	59	76	74	73
Hart-Ransom Union School District	44	55	56	69	48	63	60	66	60	45	63	72	63	67	73	70	68	61	70	72	71
Stanislaus County	57	57	59	56	57	59	53	54	56	51	55	55	56	59	62	51	52	53	53	52	49
California	57	58	62	56	59	62	51	54	58	50	54	57	55	57	60	48	50	52	48	49	50
Language																					
Hart-Ransom Elementary	49	67	68	76	39	59	67	64	57	47	61	76	64	64	76	69	76	69	73	68	76
Hart-Ransom Union School District	53	60	59	64	49	60	66	64	60	50	64	74	62	64	75	69	69	66	68	70	74
Stanislaus County	50	50	52	44	47	48	50	52	53	49	50	52	52	54	56	55	56	56	51	53	52
California	52	53	55	48	51	53	51	54	57	50	53	55	52	54	56	54	56	57	51	52	52
Spelling																					
Hart-Ransom Elementary	45	52	56	63	52	59	54	54	37	41	60	56	44	46	64	56	59	60	49	47	48
Hart-Ransom Union School District	52	50	44	54	50	56	54	50	46	46	60	56	44	52	63	58	57	62	47	47	46
Stanislaus County	45	47	49	42	45	49	40	43	46	42	46	50	42	43	47	47	48	48	36	37	37
California	50	53	56	46	51	54	43	46	59	45	49	52	44	46	49	47	49	51	37	38	40

SAT-9 Subgroup Results														
2002														
% At or Above 50th Percentile														
Gender	Reading							Math						
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Male	50	50	39	52	57	54	67	74	66	47	70	74	62	74
Female	48	46	50	64	71	57	73	60	63	66	79	76	57	73
Socioeconomic Status														
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (SED)	33	37	43	45	65	44	47	64	65	43	85	76	44	53
Non SED	57	54	44	65	65	59	77	70	64	59	73	75	64	80

Academic Performance Index

The Academic Performance Index (API) is one of three components of the Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA) passed in 1999. The API measures school performance, sets academic growth targets, and monitors growth over time based on SAT-9 results. If a school meets its growth targets, including subgroup targets, it may be eligible to receive monetary and non-monetary awards.

The percent tested is calculated by dividing the number of students tested by enrollment in grades tested as indicated in the October CBEDS School Information Form. The API scale is 200-1000; calculations include scores for students in the district who took the test the prior school year. Rankings are presented in deciles (high of 10, low of 1), each of which contains 10% of all schools. The growth target is equal to 5% of the difference between the 2000 API and the interim Statewide Performance Target of 800.

API School Results						
Base			Growth			
	1999	2000	2001		1999-00	2000-01
Percent Tested	100	100	100	Percent Tested	100	99
API Score	732	743	739	API Growth Score	743	742
Growth Target	3	3	3	Actual Growth	11	-1
Statewide Rank	8	7	7	Eligible for Awards	No	No
Similar Schools Rank	6	5	4	Eligible for II/USP	No	No
Subgroups						
<u>Hispanic or Latino</u>						
Base API Score	651	635	635	API Growth Score	635	658
Growth Target	2	2	2	Actual Growth	-16	23
<u>Caucasian</u>						
Base API Score	770	780	780	API Growth Score	780	773
Growth Target	2	2	2	Actual Growth	10	-7
<u>Socioeconomically Disadvantaged</u>						
Base API Score	645	639	639	API Growth Score	639	659
Growth Target	2	2	2	Actual Growth	-6	20

Only numerically significant subgroups for each reporting period are required to be presented in this report card. Numerically significant subgroups are comprised of (1) at least 100 students with valid test scores or (2) at least 15% of the school population tested and contains at least 30 students with valid scores.

California Standards Results

% of Students Scoring at Advanced (A) and Proficient (P) Levels

2002

English/Language Arts

Grade	2		3		4		5		6		7		8			
	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P		
Hart-Ransom Elementary	3	28	11	28	6	27	8	27	2	33	8	38	14	39		
Stanislaus County	6	21	8	21	10	23	6	20	6	21	5	25	8	22		
California	9	23	11	23	14	22	9	22	9	22	7	26	10	22		
Subgroups																
Gender	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
	3	32	10	29	4	11	6	20	3	19	9	36	15	36		
	3	23	14	27	10	48	10	33	2	44	7	41	12	41		
Socioeconomic Status	Disadvantaged (SED)		Non SED		Disadvantaged (SED)		Non SED		Disadvantaged (SED)		Non SED		Disadvantaged (SED)		Non SED	
	0	23	15	20	0	23	0	20	0	26	0	36	0	26		
	4	30	9	33	8	28	11	30	3	25	10	42	18	43		

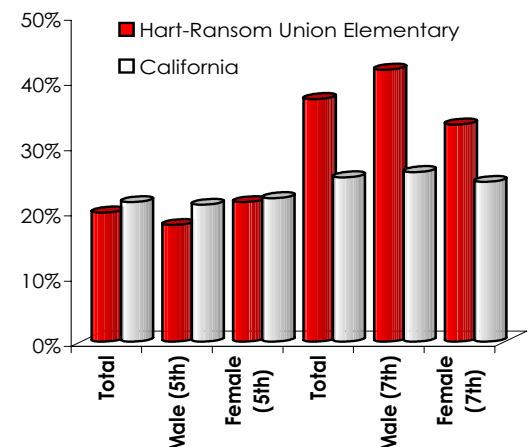
The Immediate Intervention/Underperforming School's Program and the Governor's Performance Award Program are the two remaining components of the PSAA Act. Due to specific criteria, including API and SAT-9 results, Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School did not qualify to participate in either program for the 2001-2002 year.

Physical Fitness

In the spring of each year, Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School is required by the state to administer a physical fitness test to all students in fifth and seventh grades. The physical fitness test is a standardized evaluation that tracks the development of high-quality fitness programs and assists students in establishing physical activity as part of their daily lives. Results of student performance are compared to other students' performance statewide.

The physical fitness test measures each student's ability to perform fitness tasks in six major areas. Students are provided several options to perform tasks in each area. Students that either meet or exceed the standards in all six fitness areas are considered to be physically fit or in the 'Healthy Fitness Zone' (HFZ). The chart below shows the most current data available, which is the 2000-2001 school year.

Students In Healthy Fitness Zone



Training & Curriculum Improvement

All training and curriculum development at Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School revolves around the California State Content Standards and Frameworks. Teachers align classroom curriculum to ensure that all students either meet or exceed state proficiency levels.

The School Leadership Team is comprised of teachers from each grade level cohort. The team is responsible for school improvement. The school's curriculum guides align with the state standards, district goals, and the statewide assessment program.

In 1999, Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School began a student enrichment program. All students in grades one through eight participated in a variety of enrichment classes including art, physical education, music, computers and Spanish.

Teacher Assignment

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School District recruits and employs qualified credentialed teachers. For the 2001-2002 school year, Hart-Ransom Elementary School had 35 fully credentialed teachers who met all credential requirements in accordance with State of California guidelines.

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School supports efforts made by teachers and other certificated school staff in attaining additional education and training through local colleges and universities for their personal growth as well as for the benefit of the school. During the 2001-2002 school year, certificated staff consisted of 36 employees, including administrators; 83 percent held 30+ additional units beyond their bachelor's degree, and 6 percent held advanced graduate degrees.

Teacher Credential Status			
	2000	2001	2002
Fully Credentialed	36	35	35
Emergency Credentials	0	2	2
Waiver	1	1	1
Total Teachers	37	38	36
Average Years Teaching	11.0	11.8	12
Average Years in District	8.3	9.0	9.0

Substitute Teachers

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School hires qualified substitutes from the Stanislaus County Office of Education. On the rare occasion when a substitute is not available, a credentialed staff member will take the role of a substitute.

Minimum Days & Instructional Minutes

During the 2001-2002 school year, Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School offered 184 days of instruction comprised of 173 regular days and eleven minimum days. All instructional days either met or exceeded the daily instructional minute requirements specified in the California Education Code.

Instructional Minutes by Grade Level		
	Minutes Required	Actual Minutes
Kindergarten	36,000	39,600
1st-3rd	50,400	55,000
4th-5th	54,000	55,000
6th-8th	54,000	58,400

Quality of Instruction & Leadership

Leadership at Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School is a responsibility shared between district administration, the principal, instructional staff, students, and parents. The district's emphasis is on a well-balanced and rigorous core curriculum at all grade levels. Instructional programs are aligned with state and district standards.

Staff members and parents participate on various committees that make decisions regarding the priorities and direction of the educational plan to ensure instructional programs are consistent with students' needs and comply with district goals. These committees/teams include:

- School Site Council
- English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC)
- School-wide Leadership Team

The School Site Council, consisting of school staff and parents, is a major governing body that meets regularly to address programs and components that make up the school, to discuss the effectiveness and appropriateness of the various programs and components relative to the goals of the school, and to act as a communication liaison between the community, the school, and the Board of Trustees.

For the past three years, Barbara Dompe has been principal of Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School. Prior to this position she was an assistant principal for two years and a teacher for 17 years.

The district provides time and resources for collaboration, planning, and professional development for all staff. Two BTSA (Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment) facilitators work with beginning and veteran teachers in improving their skills and addressing the California Standards for the Teaching Profession.

Teachers who need support can receive help through the Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) Program. This program utilizes exemplary teachers to assist permanent and beginning teachers in the areas of subject matter knowledge and teaching strategies.

School Facilities & Safety

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School provides a safe, clean environment for students, staff, and volunteers. A team of three full-time custodians ensures classrooms, restrooms, and campus grounds are kept clean and safe. A scheduled maintenance program is administered by Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School District to ensure that all classrooms and facilities are well maintained. The school perimeter is securely fenced on all sides. When students are present on school grounds during attendance hours, there is appropriate adult supervision. During lunch recess, yard supervisors ensure students' safety. During recesses, certificated staff monitor students. All visitors must sign in at the school office and wear a visitor's pass while on campus.

The safety of students and staff is a primary concern of Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School. The School Safety Committee is made up of teachers, administration and the school counselor; the committee reviews and annually revises the safety plan. The school is in compliance with all laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to hazardous materials and state earthquake standards. The school's disaster preparedness plan includes steps for ensuring student and staff safety during a disaster. Fire drills are conducted monthly; earthquake drills and lockdown alerts are conducted twice a year.

The Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School District site is in the process of expanding. The district recently purchased the surrounding land in order to make additions to the facilities in multiple stages. In addition, during the 2001-2002 year, the school rewired fiber optic lines to improve connectivity for the entire school.

Teacher Evaluation & Professional Development

Formal observations of teachers are used to help teachers to self-evaluate and to implement best teaching practices. The primary goal of teacher evaluations is to increase student achievement.

The criteria for evaluations include instructional process, learning environments, organization and planning, professional preparation, and policies and procedures.

The district provides professional development opportunities in the area of classroom assessments and lesson design, in order to improve student achievement. In 2001-2002, the district provided three formal staff development days.

During the 2001-2002 school year, twenty-one teachers participated in the Intel "Teach To The Future" grant program.

Counseling & Other Support Services

A primary goal of Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School is to assist students in their social and personal development, as well as in their academic development. The school counselor provides special help for students who experience academic or social problems. The school offers qualified personnel to provide counseling and support services. The part-time counselors are devoted to helping students deal with problems and reach positive goals.

Counseling and Support Services Staff

	Number of Staff	Full-time Equivalent
Counselor	1	0.6
Instructional Aides	4	3.0
Resource Specialist	1	1.0
Psychologist	1	0.25
Nurse	1	0.4
Miller-Unruh Teacher	1	1.0
Speech/Language Specialist	1	0.6
Library-Media Clerk	1	0.8
Technology Coordinator	1	1.0
English Language Teacher	1	1.0

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School provides a Health and Careers class for grades seven and eight. This class is designed to help students make healthy choices.

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School offers multiple programs for student tutoring. For students in first through fourth grades, the school has organized a parent-volunteer reading program. For students in grades four and five, an after-school math program has been implemented in the third trimester. The school has a Buddy Program in which intermediate students work with younger students to provide additional tutoring.

Parent & Community Involvement

Parents and the community are very supportive of the education program at Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School. The school encourages parents to volunteer for classroom and school activities. Parents and community members are invited to help in the classroom, in the library, at school activities, on the playground, and as mentors and tutors. The Rotary Read In is a partnership in which local Rotary members volunteer time to read to students.

Parents are encouraged to participate in the Hart-Ransom Parent-Teacher Club, which is an active and integral part of the Hart-Ransom community. The purpose of the Parent-Teacher Club is to act as a fund-raising arm for the school, to create a financial surplus for unforeseen needs, to help build school spirit, and to provide communication between parents, school staff, and the community. The annual membership fee is \$5.00 per family. A membership drive is held at the beginning of each school year.

Contact Information

Parents, who wish to participate in Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School's leadership teams, school committees, school activities, or in volunteer work, may contact the main office at (209) 523-9979.

Expenditures & Services Funded

Hart-Ransom Union School District spent an average of \$4,988 to educate each student (based on 2000-2001 audited financial statements). The figures shown in the following table reflect the direct cost of educational services, per ADA, excluding food services, facilities acquisition and construction, and certain other expenditures. This annual comparison calculation is required by law.

Current Expense of Education Per Student*

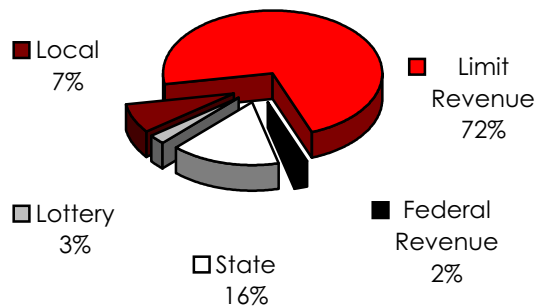
Hart-Ransom Union	Statewide Average	
	All Unified Districts	All Districts
\$4,988	\$6,092	\$6,360

*Ed-Data and California Department of Education, School Fiscal Services Division - J-200 Reports.

In addition to general fund state funding, Hart-Ransom Union School District receives state and federal funding for the following categorical, special education, and support programs:

- Title I, Part A - Low Income and Neglected
- Title II - Eisenhower
- Title IV - Safe and Drug Free Schools
- Title VI - Innovative Strategies and Class Size Reduction
- K-12 Student Improvement Program (SIP)
- Economic Impact Aid (EIA)
- Miller-Unruh Reading
- Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) (Grades 4-8)

District Revenue Sources



District Expenditures

