

Fairfax Elementary School District

[1500 South Fairfax Rd.](#)

Bakersfield, CA 93307-3151

Phone (661) 366-7221

<http://www.fairfax.k12.ca.us>

2 Elementary Schools

1 Middle School

Enrollment 1,789

Mission Statement

Making the difference.

District Profile

Fairfax School District was formed May 6, 1891. In its first year, 1891-1892 the average daily attendance was 8 pupils. The school was destroyed by fire in 1929, right after Christmas Vacation. Approximately 100 pupils and 3 teachers had just gathered on the first day back at school when the fire broke out. The cause of the fire was traced to a defective brick chimney resulting from a dynamite blast set off nearby in oil exploration activity.

Fairfax remained a small rural school until the late 1930's when it tripled in size going from an average daily attendance of 102 in 1934-35 to 312 in 1938-39. This rapid growth came as a result of many farm laborers coming into the area during the depression years. At times the student population would double overnight due to the seasonal influxes of migrant families. Large tents would be put up and temporary teachers were hired, as needed. School bus service began in 1936 when an old Reo bus was purchased from the Kern County High School District.

An earthquake in 1952 rendered Fairfax School unfit for occupancy. This led to the construction of the present Fairfax School.

By the 1960s the average daily attendance for the District was 807. Currently the average daily attendance for the District nears 2000. Fairfax became a grade 4 – 8 school in 1999. In 2005 it became a grade 6-8 school and was renamed Fairfax Middle School.

The Virginia Avenue School opened in January, 1953, with eight classrooms and the present cafeteria. Virginia Avenue became a k-4 school in 1999 and a K-2 school in 2005. Shirley Lane Elementary School opened in 2005. Six classrooms were added in 2006 to accommodate the rapid growth in the district. Shirley Lane Elementary is a grade 3-5 school.