

ABC Unified School District School Consolidations and Reconfiguration



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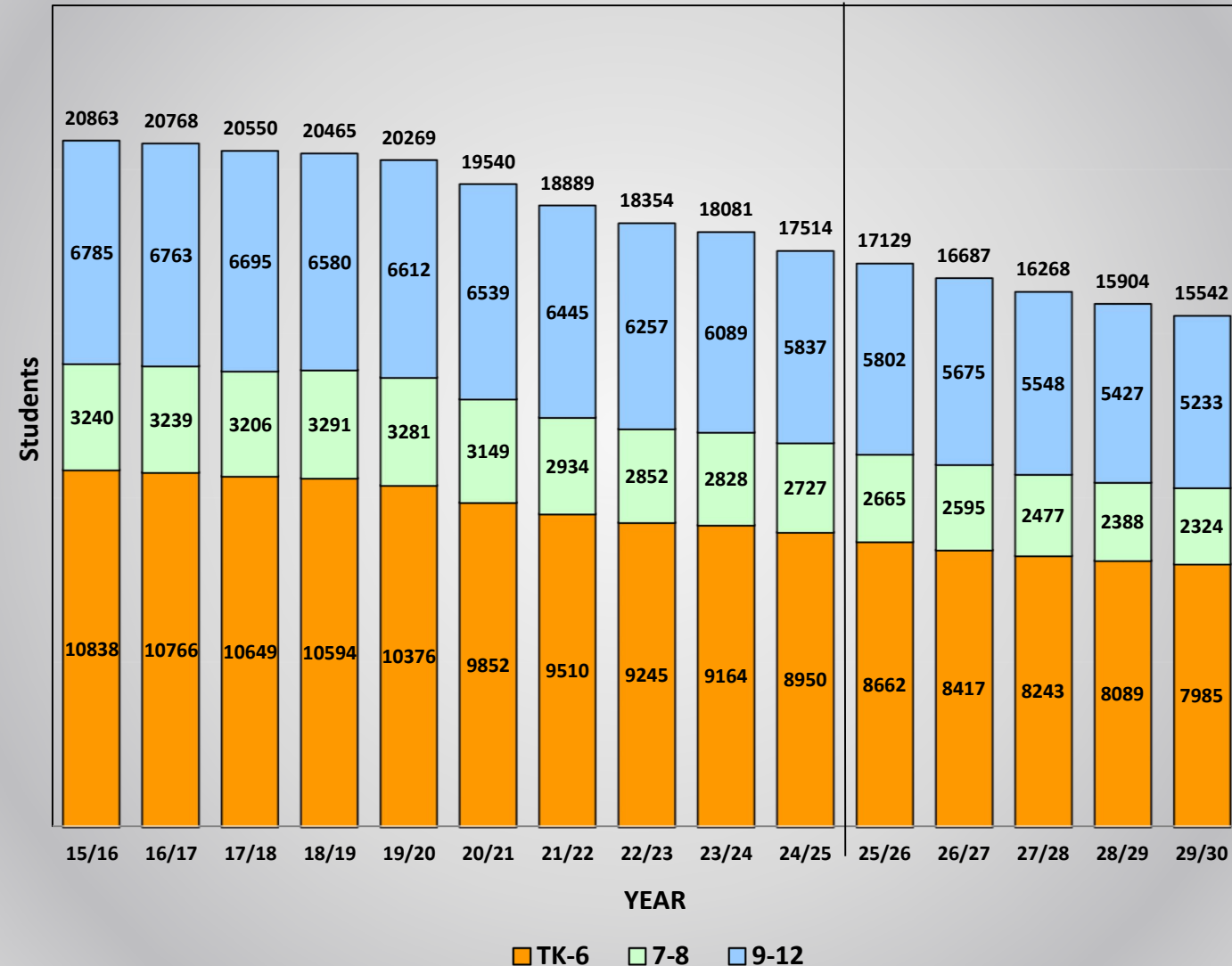
Conclusion

ABC Unified Enrollment History & Projections

The projections show a continuing decline in enrollment.

Enrollment dropped by 3,349 over past ten years and is projected to drop by 1,972 in the next 5 years.

10 Year Enrollment History &
5 Year Enrollment Projection

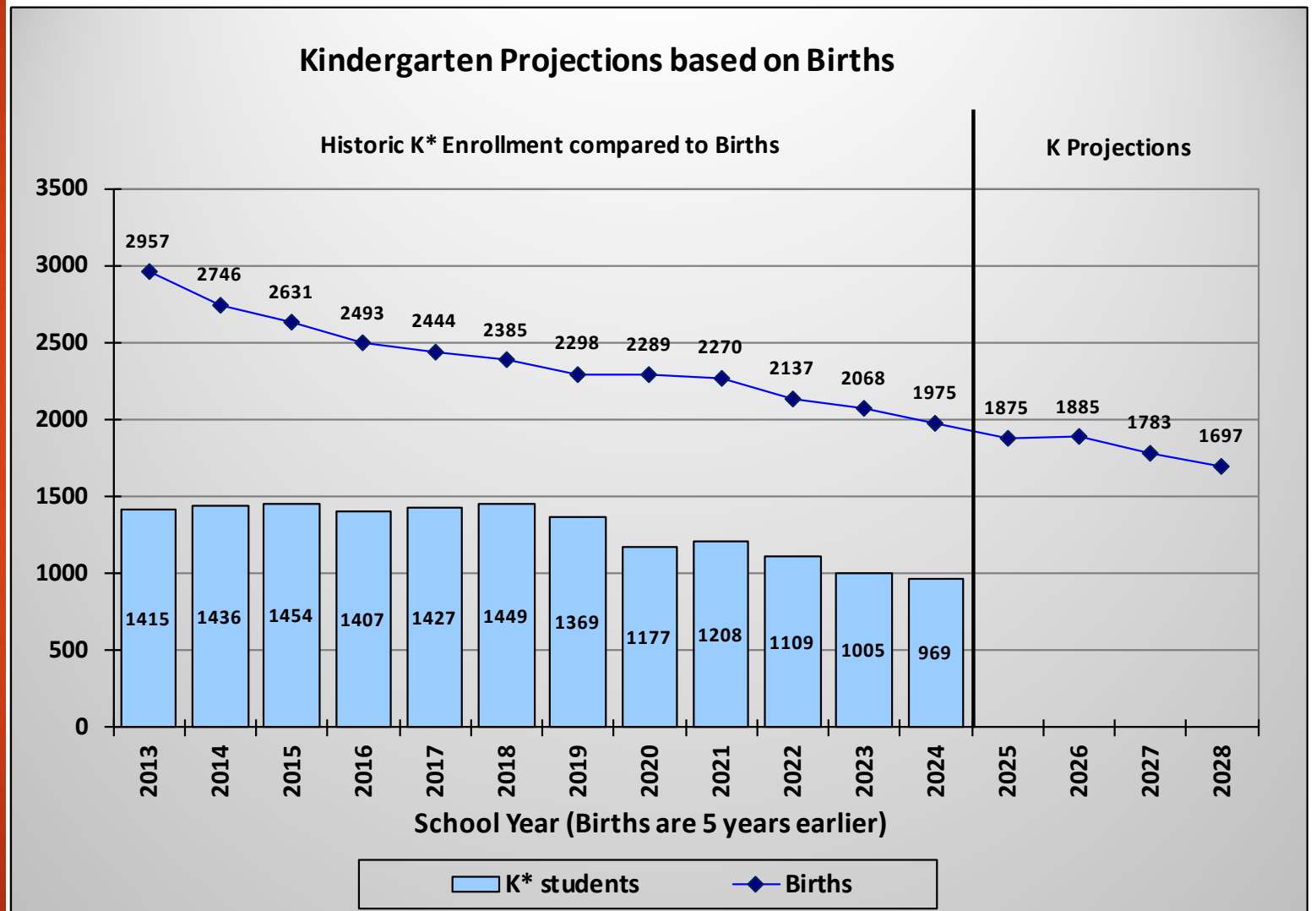


Birth Data

and

Kindergarten Trends

The number of births continue to drop each year.



*Kindergarten Totals may include some Transitional Kindergarten students for some of the past years to more accurately correlate a 12-month period of births to a 12-month period of enrollment.

ABC Unified 2020 Census and Enrollment Analysis

County: Los Angeles

District Code: 64212

<u>Housing Statistics</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Housing Units in District	32,313	33,155	842
Occupied Housing Units	31,343	32,404	1,061
Vacant Housing Units:	970	751	-219
Vacancy Rate:	3.00%	2.27%	-0.74%

Housing Yield Rates

Children per Housing Unit

<u>Grade</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Elementary	0.2955	0.2597	-0.0358
Middle	0.0974	0.0859	-0.0115
High	0.2224	0.1732	-0.0492
Total	0.6154	0.5189	-0.0965

Student Capture Rates

Percent of Children Enrolled

<u>Grade</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Elementary	112.0%	123.3%	11.3%
Middle	108.1%	117.9%	9.8%
High	100.6%	117.8%	17.2%
Total	107.2%	120.6%	13.3%

Enrollment

<u>Grade</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Elementary	10,370	10,376	6
Middle	3,300	3,281	-19
High	7,012	6,612	-400
Total	20,682	20,269	-413

Total Children

<u>Grade</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Elementary	9,261	8,416	-845
Middle	3,054	2,784	-270
High	6,972	5,613	-1,359
Total	19,287	16,813	-2,474

Census and
Enrollment

This historic data shows the number of students living in the community dropped from 2010 to 2020.

The district enrollment in 2020 was 120% of the number of students living in the boundaries.

It is not likely that marketing efforts will be able to stop the projected decline in enrollment.

State Enrollment Trends

California K-12 enrollment fell 6% over the last decade. Steeper declines are expected in the next 10 years.

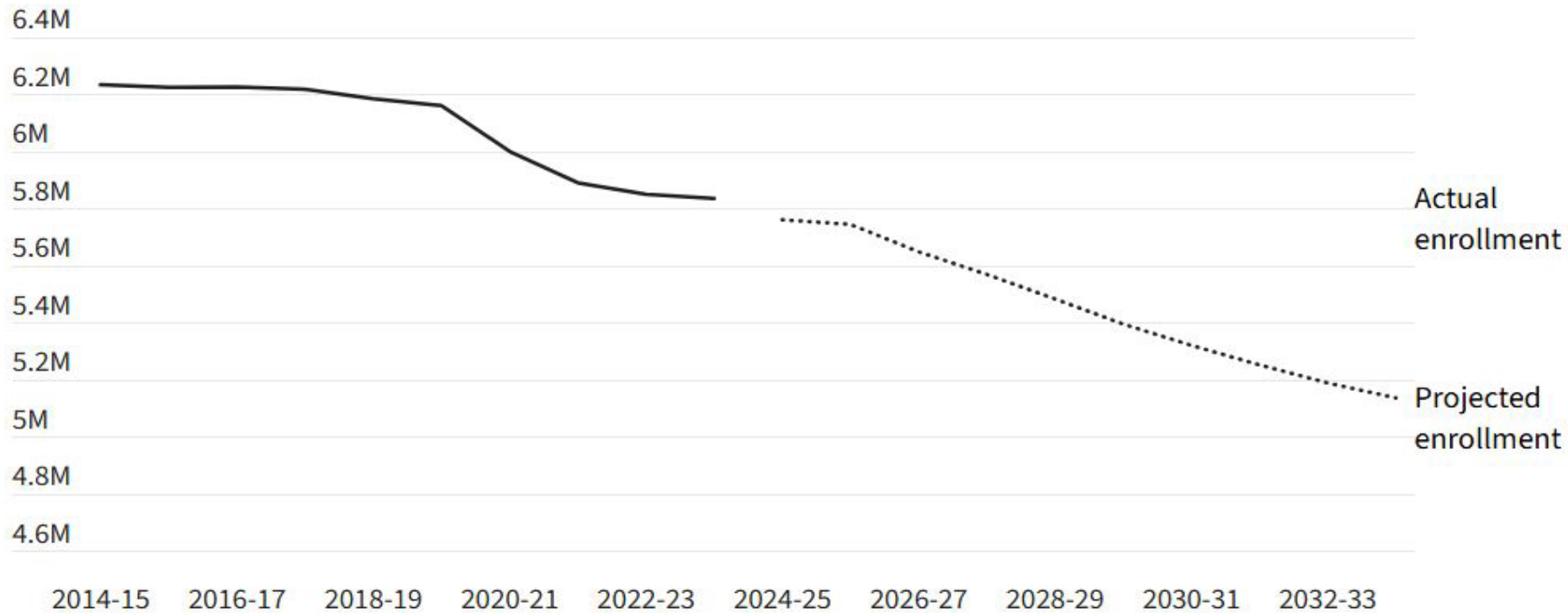
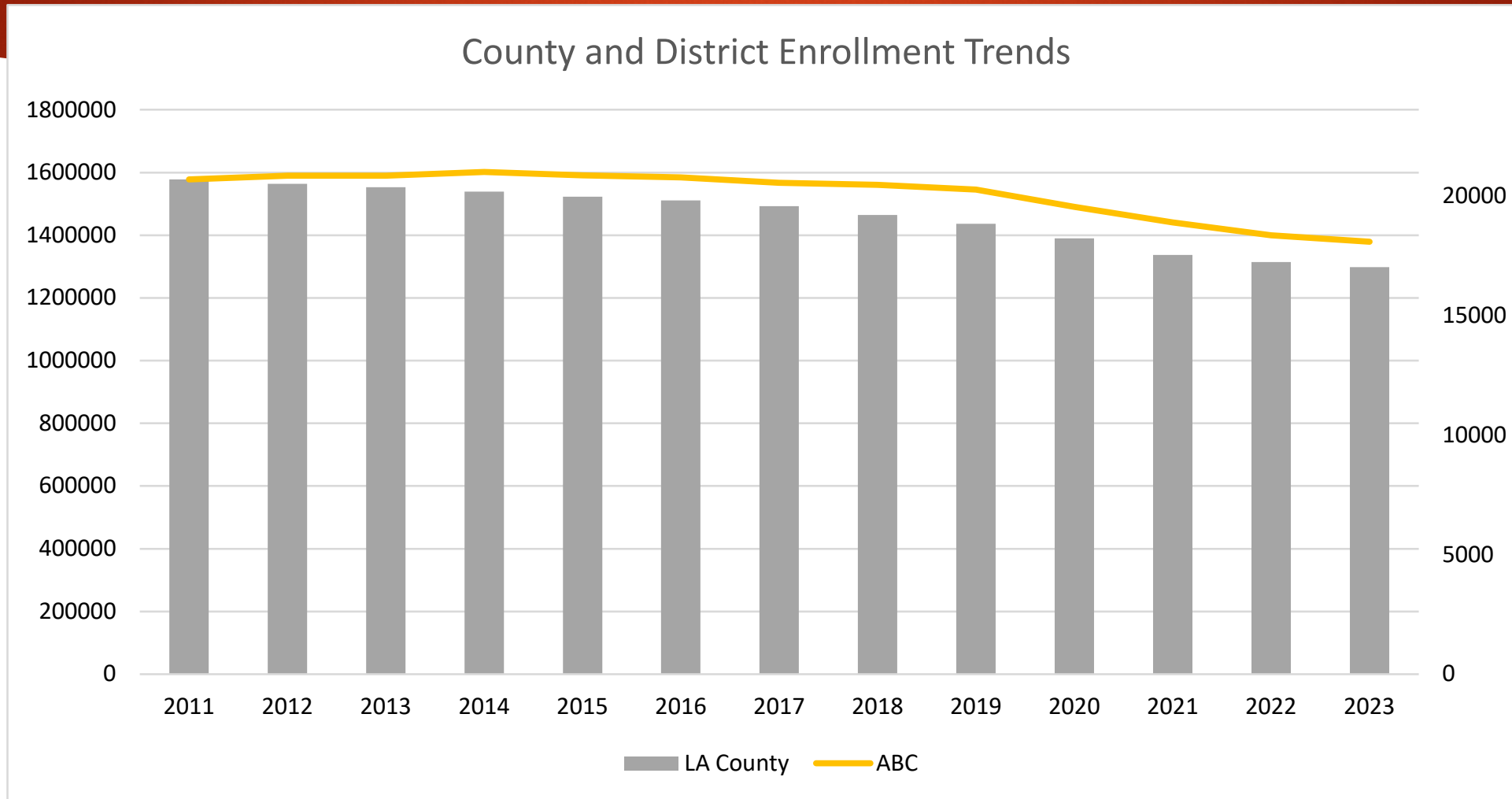


Chart: Erica Yee, CalMatters • Source: [California Dept. of Education](#) (actual); [Dept. of Finance](#) (projected)

Historic Enrollments (County and District)



Causes of Declining Enrollment & Impacts

- ▶ Demographic Shifts / Declining Births
- ▶ Economic Factors: Rising housing costs have resulted in lower yield rates

- ▶ Competition / Alternative Education

Typical Impacts of Declining Enrollment

- ▶ Combination Classes
- ▶ Loss of Specialized Programs
- ▶ Reduced Collaboration and Morale
- ▶ Budget Cuts
- ▶ Underutilization of Facilities
- ▶ Staff Reductions

Utilization Chart

The blue color coding shows schools with a current or projected utilization of less than 70%

ABC Unified							
School Closure Analysis					2029		Projected
	2024/25	District	Current	Space	Enrollment	Projected	Space
School	Enrollment	Capacity	Utilization	Available	Projection	Utilization	Available
Aloha Elem	299	533	56%	234	269	50%	264
Bragg Elem	599	728	82%	129	523	72%	205
Burbank Elem	425	562	76%	137	368	65%	194
Carver Elem	440	602	73%	162	449	75%	153
Cerritos Elem	610	676	90%	66	622	92%	54
Elliot Elem	422	561	75%	139	365	65%	196
Furgeson Elem	292	745	39%	453	183	25%	562
Gonsalves Elem	518	671	77%	153	490	73%	181
Hawaiian Elem	303	818	37%	515	193	24%	625
Juarez Elem	297	528	56%	231	222	42%	306
Kennedy Elem	400	556	72%	156	294	53%	262
Leal Elem	768	813	94%	45	643	79%	170
Melbourne Elem	339	801	42%	462	295	37%	506
Niemes Elem	634	720	88%	86	563	78%	157
Nixon Elem	678	785	86%	107	720	92%	65
Palms Elem	462	785	59%	323	434	55%	351
Stowers Elem	545	700	78%	155	439	63%	261
Willow Elem	345	810	43%	465	301	37%	509
Wittmann Elem	568	585	97%	17	526	90%	59
	8944	12979	69%	4035	7899		5080
Carmenita Middle	639	680	94%	41	510	75%	170
Fedde Middle	288	740	39%	452	199	27%	541
Haskell Middle	401	632	63%	231	386	61%	246
Ross Middle	523	680	77%	157	507	75%	173
Tetzlaff Middle	539	665	81%	126	472	71%	193
	2390	3397	70%	1007			1323
Artesia High	1340	1750	77%	410			
Cerritos High	1992	2205	90%	213			
Gahr High	1616	2025	80%	409			
Whitney High 7-12	1024	1020	100%	-4			
Tracy High (Cont)	138	350	39%	212			

Summary of data compiled by the School Facilities Capacities and Declining Enrollment Ad Hoc Board Advisory Committee

Reasons for School Closures

- Academic Enhancement
- Reallocation of Resources
- Long Term Sustainability
- Cost Efficiency

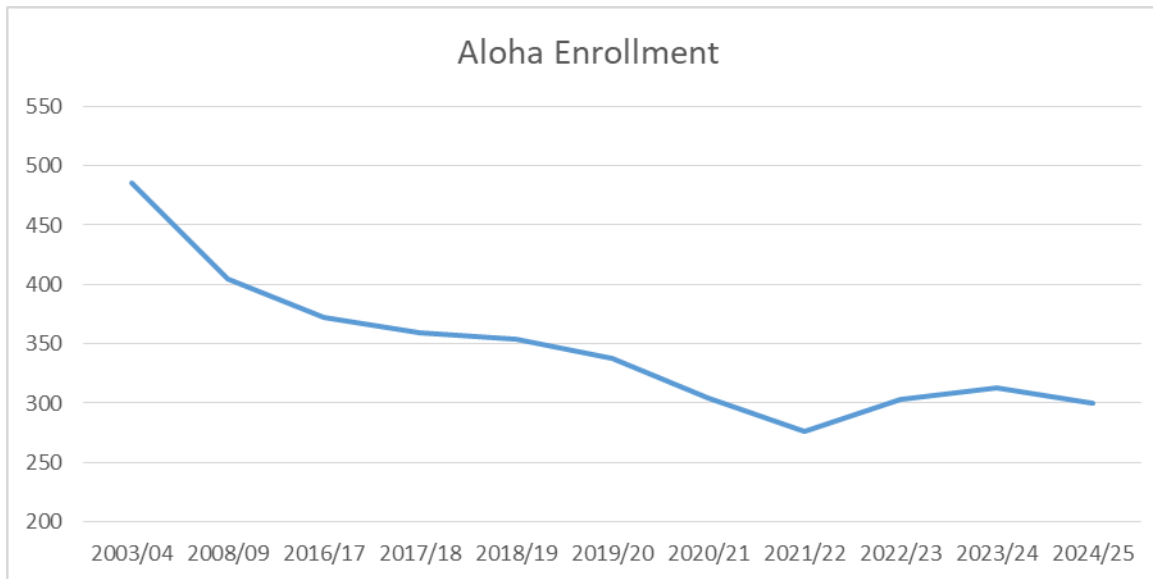
School Closure Recommendations

- The enrollment projections and capacity were analyzed by school and by high school attendance area.
- The area with the majority of the excess capacity was in the Artesia High attendance area. Gahr High attendance area had half as much space available and the Cerritos High attendance area had the least space available.
- The area with the largest enrollment decline by number was Gahr, then Cerritos and then Artesia.
- The area with the largest enrollment decline by percentage was pretty balanced at between 11 and 12% in each attendance area.
- The earliest these recommendation can be implemented is the 2026/27 school year to allow adequate time for the District to adopt the changes and plan for the changes.

Recommendation 1 – Close Aloha ES (Artesia High Attendance Area)

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Close Aloha Elementary and house students at Melbourne and Willow.



Aloha Enrollment	
Intradistrict (Inside ABC USD)	40
Interdistrict (Outside ABC USD)	16
Residence	244
Total	300

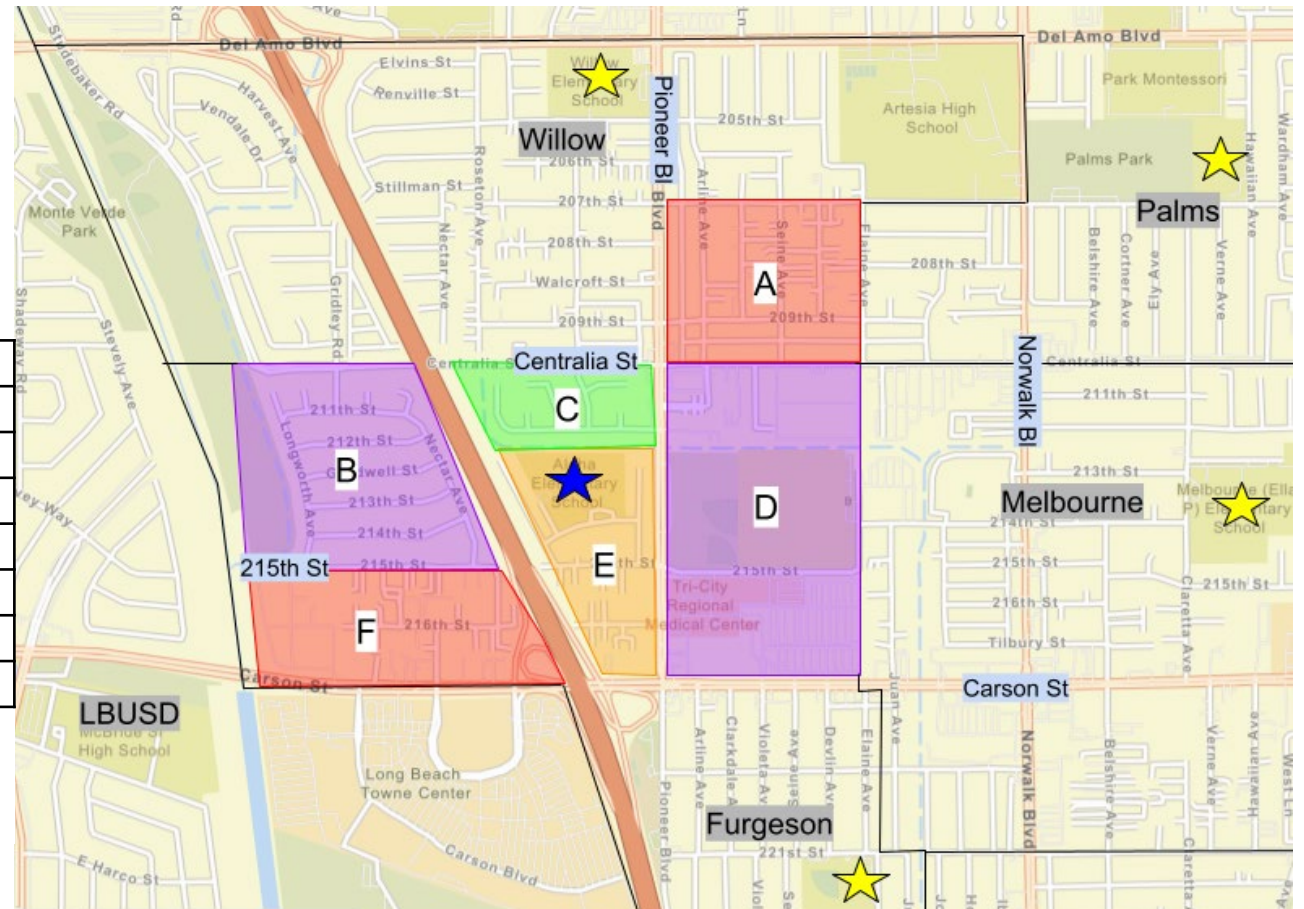
Recommendation 1 Close Aloha ES (Artesia)

Boundary Map

Area	Student Count	School	Bus Required
A	55	Willow	0
B	22	Willow	7
C	20	Willow	0
D	60	Melbourne	9
E	49	Willow	1
F	38	Willow	18
Total	244		35
Intradistrict	40		
Interdistrict	16		
Grand Total	300		

Students reassigned to:

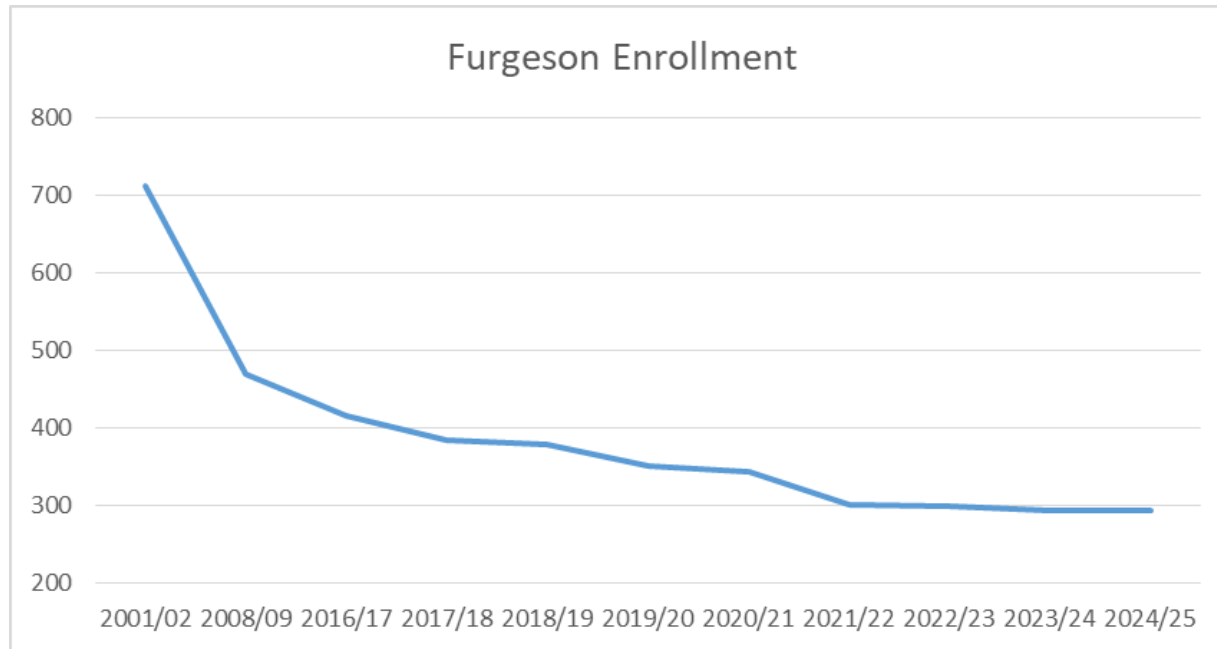
School	Inbound Count	Capacity
Melbourne	60	454
Willow	184	463



Recommendation 2 – Close Furgeson ES (Artesia High Attendance Area)

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Close Furgeson Elementary and house students at Hawaiian and Melbourne.



Furgeson Enrollment

Intradistrict (Inside ABC USD)	58
Interdistrict (Outside ABC USD)	10
Residence	225
Total	293

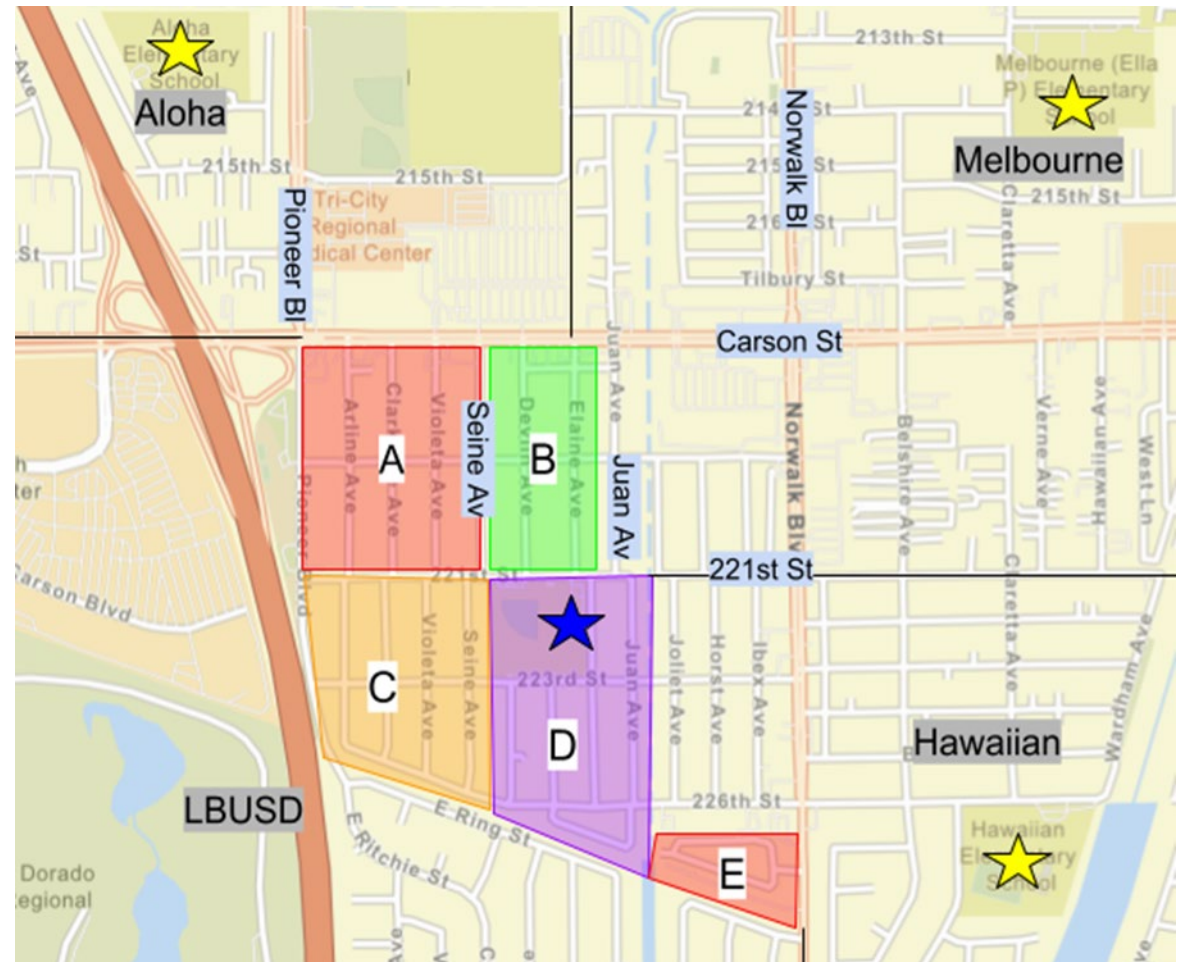
Recommendation 2 Close Furgeson ES (Artesia)

Boundary Map

Area	Student Count	School	Bus Required
A	67	Melbourne	36
B	42	Melbourne	17
C	70	Hawaiian	1
D	46	Hawaiian	0
E	0	Hawaiian	0
Total	225		54
Intradistrict	58		
Interdistrict	10		
Grand Total	293		

Students reassigned to:

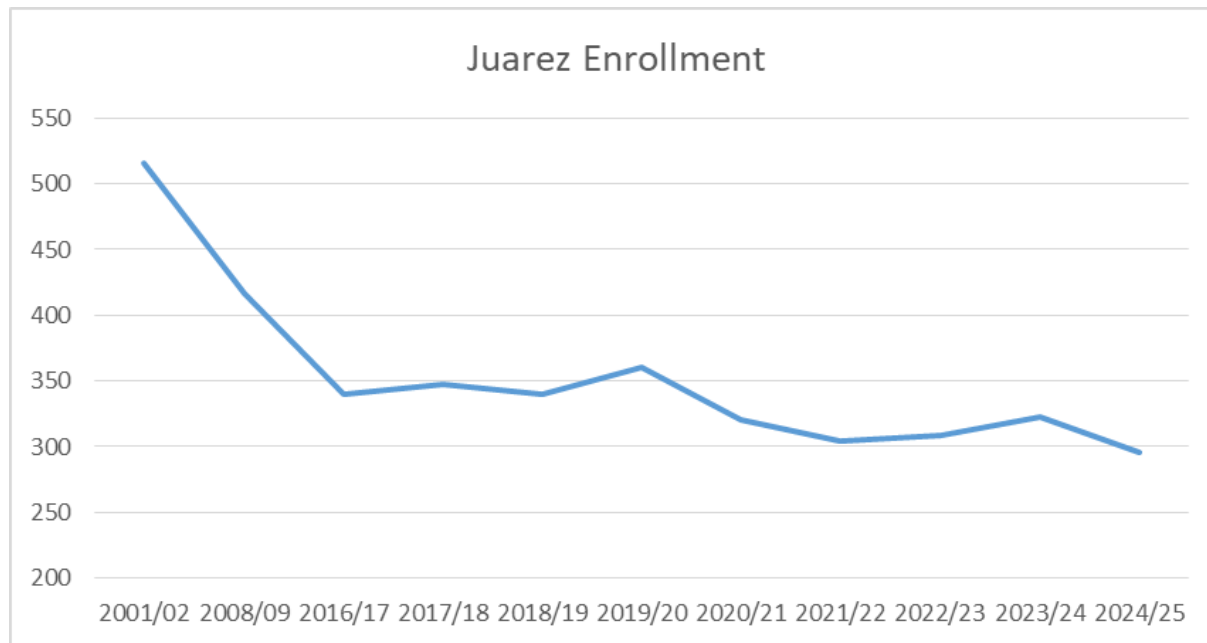
School	Inbound Count	Capacity
Hawaiian	116	510
Melbourne	109	454



Recommendation 3 – Close Juarez ES (Gahr High Attendance Area)

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Close Juarez Elementary and house students at Burbank and Kennedy.



Juarez Enrollment	
Intradistrict (Inside ABC USD)	73
Interdistrict (Outside ABC USD)	41
Residence	182
Total	296

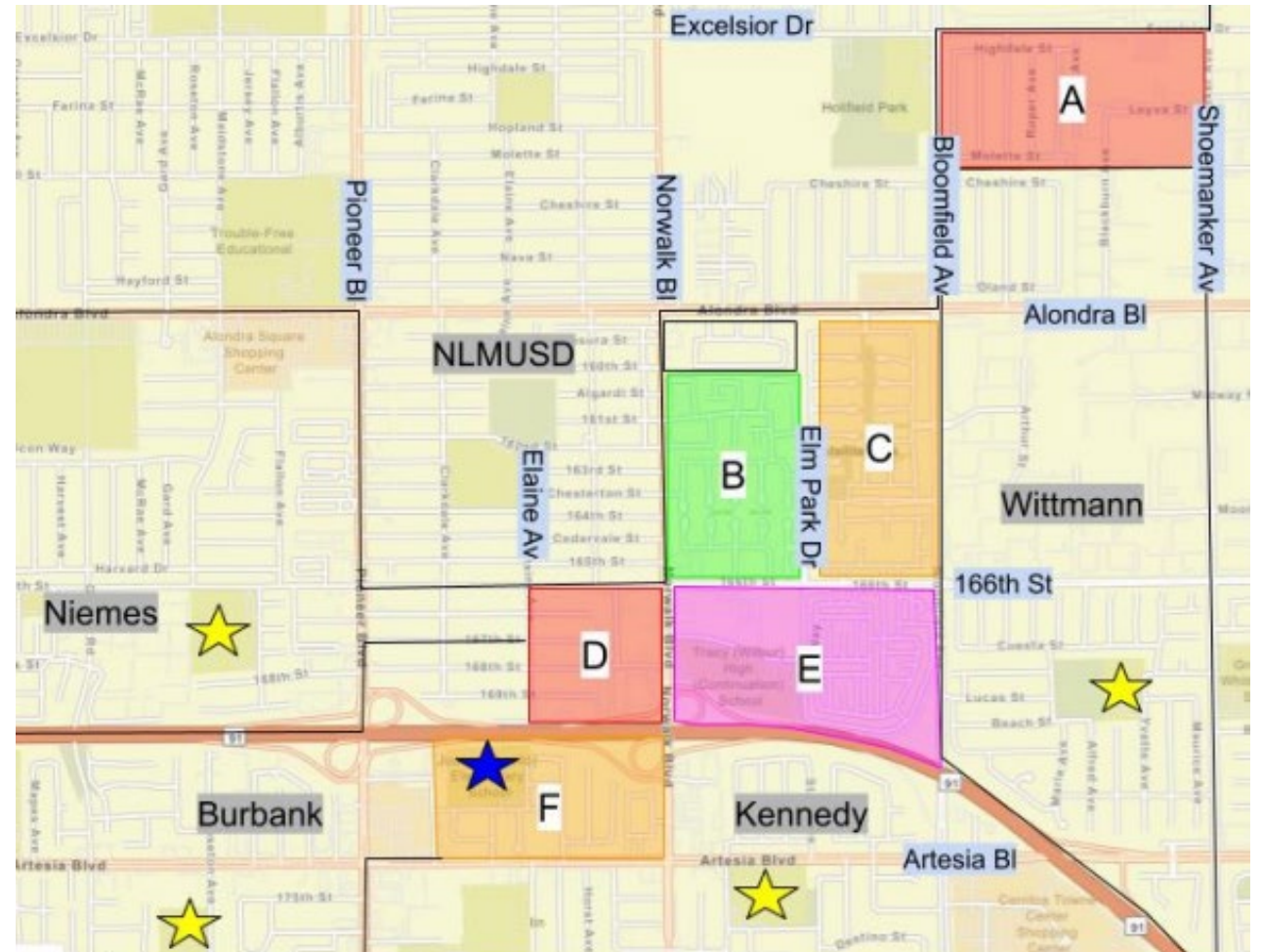
Recommendation 3 Close Juarez ES (Gahr)

Boundary Map

Area	Student Count	School	Bus Required
A	33	Kennedy	33
B	12	Kennedy	9
C	16	Kennedy	11
D	61	Burbank	33
E	53	Kennedy	21
F	7	Burbank	1
Total	182		108
Intradistrict	73		
Interdistrict	41		
Grand Total	296		

Students reassigned to:

School	Inbound Count	Capacity
Burbank	68	85
Kennedy	114	225



Recommendation 4 – Move 6th grade to Middle Schools

Key Benefits

- Broader Curriculum and Electives
- Enhanced Extracurricular Opportunities
- Developmentally Appropriate Environment
- Increased Independence and Responsibility
- Specialized Instruction and Support
- Leadership Development

2026-27						
	School	Total		6	7	8
25	Carmenita MS	603		182	186	235
26	Ross MS	764		240	271	253
27	Haskell MS	674		215	222	237
28	Fedde MS	750		242	250	258
29	Tetzlaff MS	635		205	190	240
35	Whitney MS	525		175	175	175
	Total	3,951		1,259	1,294	1,398

Impact to Elementary School of Grade 6 at Middle Schools

TK-5 Projections 2026/27

	School Attending	Projected Enrollement	TK	K	1	2	3	4	5
1 Aloha		216	21	27	27	27	35	42	37
3 Bragg		473	24	65	65	65	60	87	107
4 Burbank		333	26	50	50	50	54	54	49
6 Carver		340	33	49	49	49	46	47	67
7 Cerritos EL		455	28	62	62	62	66	88	87
8 Elliott		339	24	54	54	54	39	64	50
9 Furgeson		257	30	35	35	35	48	38	36
10 Gonsalves		360	24	46	46	46	67	58	73
11 Hawaiian		257	26	36	36	36	42	36	45
12 Juarez		227	24	28	28	28	31	43	45
13 Kennedy		351	44	54	54	54	42	56	47
14 Leal		551	23	74	74	74	89	111	106
15 Melbourne		309	24	52	52	52	56	27	46
16 Niemes		524	24	77	77	77	88	80	101
17 Nixon		490	23	69	69	69	79	98	83
18 Palms		343	24	51	51	51	47	55	64
19 Stowers		466	47	75	75	75	57	61	76
20 Willow		284	17	41	41	41	37	64	43
21 Wittmann		476	23	74	74	74	77	76	78
			TK	K	1	2	3	4	5
	Total	7051	509	1019	1020	1021	1063	1189	1245

Recommendation 5 – Close Stowers Elem (Cerritos High Attendance Area)

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Close Stowers ES and house students at Gonsalves and Cerritos ES.

This recommendation is contingent on the implementation of Recommendation 4, moving 6th grade to middle schools.

Stowers Enrollment

Intradistrict (Inside ABC USD)	128
Interdistrict (Outside ABC USD)	150
Residence	188
Total	466

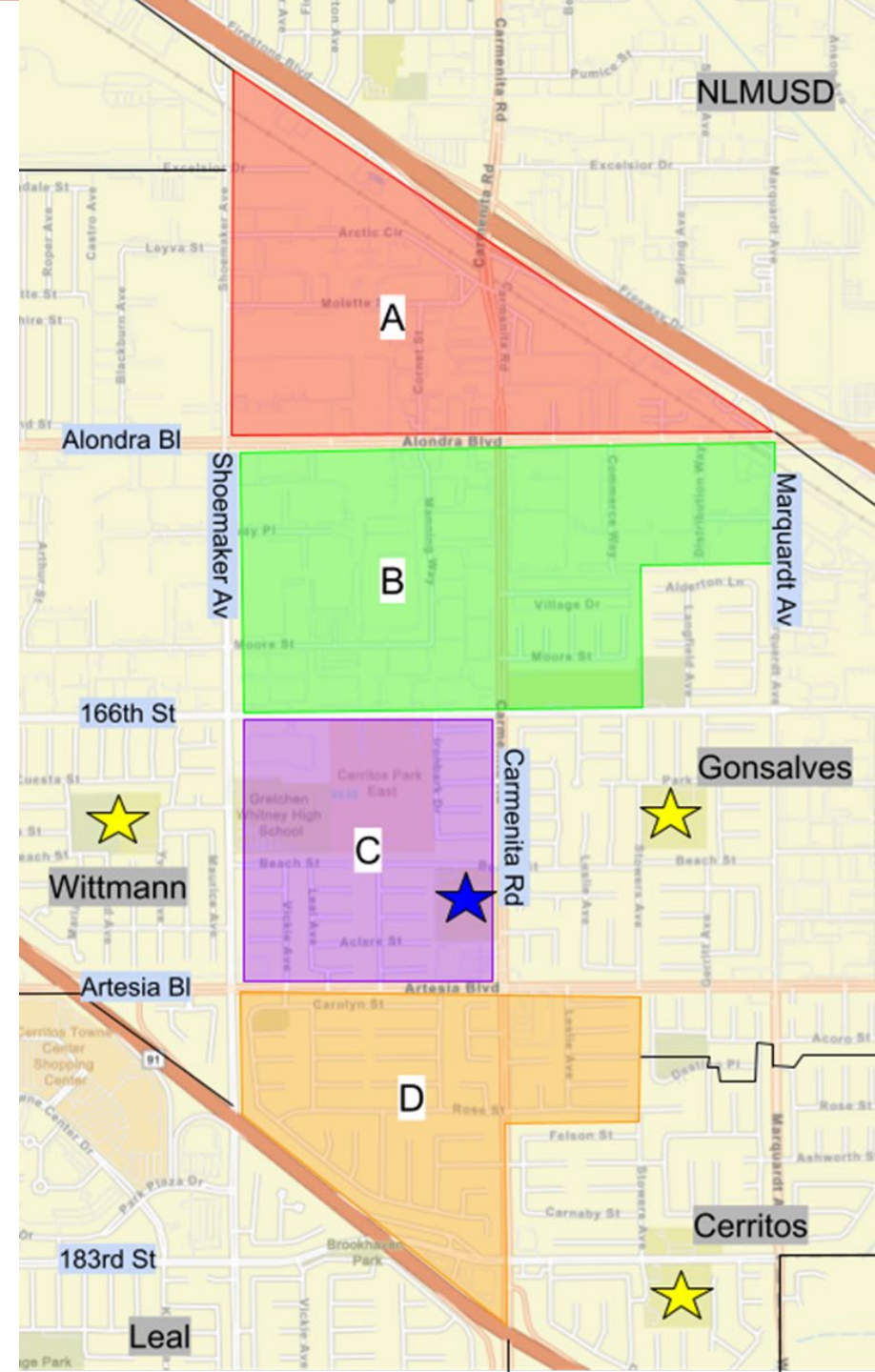
Recommendation 5 Close Stowers ES (Cerritos)

Boundary Map

Students reassigned to:

School	Inbound Count	Capacity
Cerritos	101	221
Gonsalves	87	311

Area	Student Count	School	Bus Required
A	0	Gonsalves	0
B	37	Gonsalves	0
C	50	Gonsalves	13
D	101	Cerritos	16
Total	188		29
Intradistrict	128		
Interdistrict	150		
Grand Total	466		



Recommendation 6 – Reconfigure Whitney High School

Add 6th grade to Whitney High and house the grade 6-8 students at Stowers ES to create Whitney Middle School.

In addition, allow 25 students per grade from outside the district to attend Whitney Middle and 50 students per grade from outside the district to attend Whitney High.

This results in an enrollment increase of up to 275 students.

Whitney Middle School - Proposed			
Grade	Residence	Permits	Total
6	175	25	200
7	175	25	200
8	175	25	200
Total MS	525	75	600
Whitney High School - Proposed			
9	175	50	225
10	175	50	225
11	175	50	225
12	175	50	225
Total HS	700	200	900

Guidelines for School Closure Studies: AB 1912

There are 9 factors to consider as part of the Equity Impact Analysis

- ▶ Condition of School Facilities
- ▶ Operating Costs/Associated Savings
- ▶ Capacity to Accommodate Excess Pupils
- ▶ Special Programs
- ▶ Environmental Factors
- ▶ Balance of Pupil Demographics
- ▶ Transportation Needs
- ▶ Aesthetics/Impact on Community
- ▶ Impact on Feeder School Patterns

Condition of School Facilities

As part of the information shared with the committee, all schools were identified as being in good condition.

In a review of the State School Building Program funding history, all schools were previously modernized.

Therefore, there are not any schools that are better candidates for closure due to the condition of the facilities.

Operating Costs/Associated Savings

The associated savings in closing a school are due to a net reduction in administrative staff.

Any closed school will result in approximately the same savings. The estimated savings is anticipated to be \$850,000 per school based on information shared with the committee.

The teachers and student support staff would be transferred with the students to their new school assignment.

Therefore, there is not any specific school that should be closed due to excessive operating costs.

Although, the net costs per student is higher at smaller schools than larger schools, the true savings to be achieved will be based on the number of schools closed.

This does result in the reality that closing smaller schools is more beneficial, as it would be possible to close more schools.

Capacity to Accommodate Excess Pupils

The existing capacity of the neighboring schools was used to determine the feasibility of closing a school.

If there is not space at the neighboring schools, then it creates additional hardships such as transportation or a shift in feeder patterns.

All receiving schools have sufficient capacity to house incoming students from the perspective neighboring schools

Special Programs

The proposed schools that are the best candidates for closure include special programs as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>Spec Ed</u>	<u>Head Start</u>	<u>Magnet</u>
Aloha	No	Yes	Yes
Furgeson	No	Yes	Yes
Juarez	Yes	No	No
Stowers	Yes	No	Yes

The special programs should be offered at the schools to where the students are being reassigned.

Environmental / Safety Factors

There were not any environmental or safety issues at any of the sites that result in a specific school being a top candidate for closure.

The schools that remain open should be safe and free of environmental hazards.

Balance of Pupil Demographics

The potential schools to close were not based on the demographics, but are based on the enrollments and the capacity and locations of neighboring schools.

The overall school demographics are not anticipated to change significantly as a result of the potential school closures.

Transportation Needs

Transportation will be provided to students free of charge following the current Board Policy.

Since the proposal is to close some of the smallest schools and transition the students to nearby neighboring schools, the additional transportation cost is minimal.

Aesthetics / Impact on Community

All of the schools in ABC have good aesthetic appearances.

The District should consider partnering with local agencies to convert closed schools into a community center or a sports complex.

The District should consider building affordable housing for employees using closed schools.

The District should consider retaining some closed schools for possible future change in enrollment trends.

Impact on Feeder School Patterns

Remaining elementary schools would continue to feed into their existing middle and high schools.

With the implementation of grade 6-8 middle schools, it is possible the middle school boundaries may need minor adjustments which could result in some new feeder patterns.

Community / Staff Surveys

- ▶ Surveys were conducted in March to get input from the families and staff.
- ▶ Over 1,400 responses were provided of which 83% lived in the district.
- ▶ Most of the respondents have 1 or 2 children in the district. 11.7% had 3 or more and 1.3% did not have children in the district.
- ▶ Responses came in from all of the schools.
- ▶ Key feedback included preserving programs, reduce administration costs, merge under enrolled schools.
- ▶ Concerns included larger class sizes, impacts on programs, social emotional impacts.
- ▶ Factors to consider: enrollment trends, distance to other schools, programs offered.

Transition Plan / Other Considerations

1. Provide support to parents in making an informed decision. Impacted families should be given priority to select the schools that their students may be transferred to. The District can also provide transportation and counseling support to impacted students and families.
2. Develop a plan to welcome students/families at receiving schools.
3. Develop a plan to support impacted teachers, administrators, and classified staff.
4. Establish a transition committee.
5. Redraw the boundaries of the schools.
6. Revisit the school of choice policy and consider capping enrollment at other schools to limit transfers.

Conclusion

While the closure or consolidation of schools due to declining enrollment is an unfortunate and often difficult decision, it may be necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the ABC Unified School District. The Board of Education must carefully evaluate the educational, emotional, social and financial implications of such closures, and make informed decisions that prioritize the long-term well-being of students and communities. It is crucial, however, that the District involve all educational partners to ensure that any decision made is in the best interest of students, parents, staff, and the community of the ABC Unified School District.