
AUSD Master Plan

What we've heard
and our plans to keep listening



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Board of Education six guiding principles will shape the Master Plan and guide our decisions:

1. All students have the ability to achieve academic and personal success
2. Teachers will challenge and support all students to reach their highest academic and personal potential
3. Administrators have the knowledge, leadership skills, and ability to ensure student success
4. Parental involvement and community engagement are integral to student success
5. Accountability, transparency, and trust are necessary at all levels of the organization
6. Allocation of funds will support our vision, mission, and guiding principles

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Feedback from the August 18th workshop:

Community members ranked the priorities we presented that emerged from previous workshops:

1. Neighborhood Schools
2. Enrichment and Specialized Programs
3. Small Class Sizes
4. Priority Consideration for Alameda students' educational needs
5. Flexible Spaces for differing educational activities

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Neighborhood Elementary Schools are a high priority for Alameda

Community Members and the Board asked AUSD staff to:

- Share results of the Facilities Master Plan upon completion to look at demographics and boundaries
- Be transparent about facilities use and projections
- Investigate elementary grade configurations such as K-6

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So far there is a strong desire to examine options for secondary schools

Community Members and the Board asked AUSD staff to:

- Investigate possible grade configurations and specialized programs for middle and high schools
- Investigate consolidation or restructuring schools
- Share the connection between Program Improvement under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and charter options or District-led restructuring (Chipman and Wood)
- Examine best use of facilities

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Ensure equity, access, and sustainability of enrichment and specialized programs

Community Members and the Board want AUSD staff to:

- Look at opening a magnet program in the west end
- Assess the fiscal sustainability of a new program
- Be transparent about what programs are offered so that parents can make informed choices about all schools

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Investigate changing class size as a way of increasing funding stability

Community Members and the Board asked AUSD staff to:

- Look at increasing class size to 22:1 *
- Look at keeping 20:1 ratio for Title 1 schools

* Requires negotiation with the Alameda Education Association (AEA)

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Alameda students have priority now; transfers only attend under-enrolled schools

Community Members and the Board asked AUSD staff to:

- Look at filling all available seats using interdistrict transfers to increase enrollment at under-enrolled sites

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Alameda wants to keep flexible spaces at school sites

Community Members and the Board asked AUSD staff to:

- Be transparent about facilities use and projections
- Investigate collaboration with partners such as the City of Alameda to increase access to Technology, Libraries, and Recreation and Parks facilities
- Keep flexible space at schools (i.e., daycare, media centers, reading intervention, etc)

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Other approaches recommended to ensure quality education and fiscal sustainability in Alameda

- **Restructure the District Office**

Look at streamlining the District Office and investigate the use of technology to assist in this effort

- **Look at fewer school days**

Look at work furloughs and decreasing the school days in the academic year *

* Requires negotiation with the Alameda Education Association (AEA)

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Participants suggested increasing and diversifying fundraising efforts

- Look at Federal funding streams such as “Race to the Top” and other dollars for Science and Technology Programs
- Look at charging fees for specialized programs and services when the AUSD facilities are used by groups

Participants suggested other ways to communicate and engage families and the community

- Roadshow presentation at each school
- “Good News” sharing
- Reach out to pre-K population
- Online surveys

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We'll keep listening, but we need everyone's help. Here is how you can participate:

- You can become a Public Education Volunteer and help conduct the community Listening Campaign
- You can also give feedback on the district website and on the district's Facebook page
- You can attend the BOE Community Workshops and give additional feedback on the Master Plan

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Who are Public Education Volunteers and what do they do?

Public Education Volunteers:

- Are Alameda residents who volunteer to gather feedback on Master Plan components
- Host small gatherings at homes, coffee shops, places of worship, or other local venues
- Participate in a 2-hour training on September 24, 2009 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Haight Elementary School

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How to become a Public Education Volunteer

Public Education Volunteers:

- Register on the AUSD website www.alameda.k12.ca.us
- Register at the Board meetings (August 25 and September 8) or the Board Community Workshop (September 15)
- You can call the Community Engagement hotline 510-337-7275
- Register at your school with the main office

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What other ways can we comment on the emerging Master Plan?

- **Go to www.alameda.k12.ca.us** to answer upcoming survey questions and provide feedback on draft Master Plan components
- **Go to the AUSD Facebook page** – anyone can post comments there and get status updates on the Master Plan

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You can attend the Board Community Workshop and give additional feedback

- **September 15 Possible Topics:** magnet schools, district wide programs, school site programs, collaboration with community partners
- **September 29 Possible Topics:** fiscal update on program costs, Chipman Middle School charter conversion, program improvement
- **October 6 Possible Topics:** district office accountability system, technology use, furloughs, decreasing school days
- **October 20 Possible Topics:** Public Education Volunteers report on community feedback, Facilities Master Plan update, interdistrict transfers, grade configurations, secondary restructure
- **November 3 Possible Topics:** final Public Education Volunteers report, parcel tax, maximizing fundraising efforts