

**Master Plan Strategies Update:  
Review of Board Direction from  
September 8, 2009 Board Meeting  
and Topic 1 – Magnet Schools**

**Community Workshop  
September 15, 2009**

# Summary

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## ***Summary of Board's Direction from the September 8th meeting:***

- AUSD Board gave Superintendent Vital approval to begin drafting the proposed Master Plan based on the direction they gave on August 25<sup>th</sup>
- Master Plan topics will be addressed in:
  - Community workshops running from September through November
  - The AUSD website ([www.alameda.k12.ca.us](http://www.alameda.k12.ca.us))
  - Discussions led by Public Education Volunteers throughout the community
- The final Master Plan will be considered for adoption by the Board on December 8<sup>th</sup>

# **Magnet School Facts**

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## ***Magnet Schools:***

- Are part of the public school system
- Operate under the same administration as any other public school in the district
- Can be applied across an entire school site or as a “school within a school” where only a portion of students at a school are enrolled in the program
- Implemented at the elementary, middle and high school levels

# Magnet Schools

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## *Advantages:*

- Distinguish themselves from traditional public schools by offering alternative, specialized curriculum and instruction
- Enhances the education experiences of students by offering additional opportunities that cater to student interests
- Do not exist within the normal school zone boundaries. This lack of boundary allows the school to accept students from across the district promoting school choice and great student body diversity
- Two examples of magnet schools follow

# **Magnet Schools**

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## ***Example 1: River Glen Elementary and Middle School***

- Serves approximately 538 students from grades K-8 from all zones in San Jose Unified School District
- Dual Language Immersion (Spanish and English) focus
- Students are initially taught only in Spanish. The Proportions shift grade-to-grade so that by the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades, students are taught half in Spanish and half in English. Students complete all coursework in the language used to teach the class
- Accolades include: California Distinguished School; No Child Left Behind California Title 1 Academic Achievement Award; Magnet School of Excellence by the Magnet Schools of America. The school is also widely studied by district, state and federal officials, university students and professors

# **Magnet Schools**

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## ***Example 2: Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies***

- Serves approximately 1627 students from grades 6-12 from all zones in LAUSD
- College preparatory focus
- Students are given flexibility in coursework (reflecting the use of the word “Center” over the word “School”), including the option to take electives surpassing the core requirements (reflecting the idea of enrichment)
- Accolades include: one of the highest API rankings in LAUSD; California Distinguished School and National Blue Ribbon School

# Other Considerations

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## *Keep in Mind:*

- Family:
  - Possibility of children in a family going to different schools
  - Transportation challenges with attending non-neighborhood magnet schools
  - Ability of student to adjust to new environment (new schedule or magnet theme)
- Community / District / School:
  - Need magnet school community engagement to sustain
  - Depending on theme, may require more specialized resources than other schools in the district (teachers with knowledge of / materials to support theme, training and professional development)
- Clarification of the Application Process:
  - How to recruit and enroll students in magnet programs?
  - Application process or random drawing? What should those processes look like?

# **Tell Us What YOU Think**

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## ***Feedback:***

We want your feedback and ideas about the AUSD potential magnet strategy tonight. Feedback can be provided at upcoming conversations with PEV's and through the magnet survey found on the AUSD website and in paper versions at this community meeting and in the Superintendent's Office. Please complete the survey and tell your friends and neighbors about it as well.

For your information, examples of some of the survey questions follow:



# Tell Us What YOU Think

## Survey snapshot:

### MAGNET SCHOOL SURVEY

Please let us know your opinions on the following questions.

\*\*You can also fill out this survey on the AUSD website at [www.alameda.k12.ca.us](http://www.alameda.k12.ca.us) or in the Superintendent's office at 2200 Central Avenue.

#### 1. SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

This type of magnet could focus on the visual and/or performing arts generally or could more specifically target music, painting, theatre, etc. All curriculum would be interdisciplinary, connecting the arts to core subjects like English and math. Students would learn arts skills and concepts and complete arts-based projects.

	No Interest	Curious but need more information	Interested depending on details	Very Interested depending on details
Elementary School				
Middle School				
High School				

#### 2. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL

This magnet school could target science and/or technology broadly or could highlight specific areas such as biology, engineering, chemistry, etc. In addition to offering more in-depth science and technology classes, the general curriculum could be more interdisciplinary with social science and English, etc. Infused with references to science and technology. In addition to traditional work, students would learn extensive science and technology-based skills and concepts and produce science and technology-based projects.

	No Interest	Curious but need more information	Interested depending on details	Very Interested depending on details
Elementary School				
Middle School				
High School				

# Become a PEV

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## *How to become a Public Education Volunteer:*

- PEV's are parents and community members who will gather feedback on the Master Plan components through hosting small gatherings at homes, coffee shops, places of worship, or other local venues
- Trainings for PEV's:
  - September 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM at the Alameda Multicultural Center (Longfellow Education Center – 500 Pacific Avenue)
  - September 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Haight Elementary School (2025 Santa Clara Avenue)
- Remember to sign up! Give AUSD the feedback to reform by leading community group discussions about all Master Plan strategies
- E-mail [community-outreach@alameda.k12.ca.us](mailto:community-outreach@alameda.k12.ca.us) or call 337-7000 x7275 to become a volunteer