

Resource Alignment Initiative Community Sessions Cycle 2

Location

- Willie Brown Middle School, 2055 Silver Ave, San Francisco, CA

Date and Time

- May 2, 2024, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

This document summarizes the questions asked during the second round of community sessions for the event held at Sunset Elementary School. The community session aimed to provide information and support community members in responding to the second survey for the second draft of criteria and metrics.

If you would like to learn more about this initiative, please visit [SFUSD.edu/RAI](https://sfusd.edu/RAI) and see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

If you have questions about the Resource Alignment Initiative, you can send an email to [familylink.sfusd.edu/](mailto:familylink@sfusd.edu).

Format of Community Session

The community session included the following:

- Shared feedback from Cycle 1 through the survey results and the input gathered during the in-person community sessions.
- Developed a shared understanding of how the Central Office will use community input in the decision-making process.
- Prepared attendees to provide input on Survey #2. Received and responded to clarifying questions.
- Time to complete Survey #2. Received and responded to clarifying questions.

We will continue to work directly with our community throughout this process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

Summary of Discussion and Questions

Attendees

- 56 Community Member Participants

Clarifying Questions About Why SFUSD is Aligning Resources

- Q: There's data on feedback from Willie Brown Cycle 1—how can we find that?
 - A: We will post it to the Resource Alignment Initiative website.
- Q: You said that number of schools is a district question? Please explain what that means.
 - A: To fully understand that question, there's so much information you'd need to have to make that decision. You might say "don't close MY school", but (not understand the big picture). So that's a staff responsibility.
- Q: I know you can't tell us how many schools, but what's the target capacity you're trying to reach so we don't do this every 10 years.
 - A: We're committed to having buildings at 90-95% capacity. Are we going to lock ourselves into just serving 49K students? A legit concern. We've also heard "what are we doing to recruit students?" Valid. At this point we're trying to serve our current students.
- Q: What % of the District will be impacted by this process?
 - A: For sure there will be communities and populations that will be impacted more. But EVERYONE will be impacted somehow... you might be a welcoming school, for example.
- Q: What's driving this entire thing is financials. My question is what's the gap we're trying to solve for.
 - A: What's truly driving this is it's not a budget question. It's a quality of education question. We're not meeting our commitment. We're diluting our resources. It's a valid question: if you're asking how many schools... It depends on how we're solving the puzzle.
- Q: How will transportation be affected? What's the percentage of underprivileged students. (Gives example of transportation from the Sunset.)
 - A: What we're trying to do carefully is not develop a "desert". For example if a school is very far away from other schools, that school will probably get a point for not closing. But in SF, we have a lot of schools so there aren't many deserts. But there might be. The idea that low enrollment means a school isn't functioning... this is where WE have failed. Now, you bring up "are we going to move a whole group of children across town?" No. But will there be some movement? Yes.



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- A: To clarify, the framing of everything we're talking about is around equity, excellence, and effective use of resources. Right now our district isn't equitable, and isn't using resources as effectively as possible. So even if you have a school that's full capacity, we still have to maintain those buildings, provide transportation, SNS... all these things, and on top of this we don't have resources to staff libraries like we'd like to, after school, transportation, etc. So really the framing of this is around improving student outcomes and experience, and supporting our educators to be more successful, to have stronger connections with families. The financial stuff... really what the board and leadership is doing is trying to improve math, literacy, CC outcomes. I'm a parent in this district too. This is a beautiful facility, but not all our facilities look like this but they should!
- Q: Taking it back to what you said about equity...how can we say that and close schools while also building another school in Mission Bay? We're taking from our kids to go to another school? Also you said you don't have a list, but that rumor is coming from somewhere... Malcom X has been on a list in the past.
 - A: One of our commitments is to have a balanced portfolio, not disproportionately impacting one community more than another. Mission Bay was in planning for a very long time. You need schools in neighborhoods.
 - A: There is no list. Right now there is not equity in our system. And we're not seeing the outcomes we want to see for our students.
- Q: Is there any stat data around people who were raised in small vs. big schools?
 - A: I don't know about data on small v big schools, but in our commitments, we're committed to having small, medium, and large schools. We've heard that as a priority from the community.