

This is a document designed to answer questions received after the January 25 San Marcos Community meeting. A second meeting will be held at San Marcos Elementary on Tuesday, February 21st at 5:30PM to gather additional feedback. Parents will be given the opportunity to share their questions and concerns in small groups. We encourage all parents to attend.

CAPACITY & DEMOGRAPHICS

Has the district looked into why enrollment is decreasing? **Yes. Chandler Unified regularly monitors school enrollment. While there are many reasons why families select a certain school which include but are not limited to proximity to home/work/daycare and offered programs, when neighborhoods age and mature, the number of school age children that live in a school's boundary decreases which results in decreased school enrollment over time.**

What role did the demographics play in deciding which low-enrollment schools would be considered for repurposing? **Demographic data was shared with the committee as they requested. However, it is not a data point that is considered when looking at repurposing. Data considered includes historical and future enrollment trends and the age and operational conditions of facilities.**

If enrollment was a major factor in repurposing SM, was the school boundary and size of SM family, housing, community considered in research data? **School boundaries are always a consideration when looking at enrollment trends.**

Why compare SM to other schools when SM community is a lot smaller in residents? **With the fact that there are fewer residents living in the school boundary, there are fewer school aged children who can possibly attend San Marcos. This results in lower enrollment and means San Marcos students may not be afforded the same educational opportunities that are typically offered at similar schools with higher enrollments.**

Because the school had 10 less students this year than last year, that justifies a whole community and the children's future? **We understand this data point may be a bit confusing. What the net loss of 10 students means is that enrollment at San Marcos has leveled to below 400 students because there are fewer school-aged children residing in the boundary for San Marcos.**

With the "Decline" of enrollment as you say then why are classrooms still 25+ students to 1 teacher when the optimal class size is 15-20 students to 1 teacher so that any student that is having an issue has that opportunity for 1 on 1 help to bring that student up instead of passing them on. **Chandler Unified Schools currently staffs all schools at a 24:1/student to teacher ratio which includes San Marcos. While some schools' ratio may fluctuate due to boundary enrollment, districtwide it is a challenge to maintain school operations when enrollment and class sizes decrease over time.**

What is the % capacity that is considered acceptable? Taking into account that San Marcos is at 46%. What is the total capacity? **The optimal enrollment for elementary schools is 500 students or above.**

What is the demographic of 2021? The demographic/ethnicity data for San Maros for both 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 is below:

Ethnicity/Gender	2021-2022	2022-2023
Male	49%	49.9%
Female	51%	51.1%
Hispanic	82.1%	83.9%
White	4.5%	4.7%
Asian	1.1%	0.9%
Black	7.6%	5.6%
Multiple	2.2%	1.8%
Pacific Islander	1.1%	0.9%
Native	1.4%	2.3%

In the data they show, a flat trend is observed, but what about the rest of the schools can we see it? And the change year over year? The five year enrollment trend chart data, that was shared in the first presentation, provides an overview of the increase or decrease by school. This data can be found on the chart shared in the January 25 presentation. It is also below.



CUSD Enrollment Change Year over Year Detail

This chart is sorted by School Type followed by Enrollment Change for the **CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR**
Rank #1 indicates Largest Enrollment Loss progressing to Largest Enrollment Gain

SCHOOL TYPE	RANK	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	5-YR AVG
ELEMENTARY	1 FULTON ELEMENTARY	-2.58%	-2.43%	-25.20%	0.91%	-10.78%	(Rank 1) -8.01%
	2 CTA - HUMPHREY	3.52%	-6.43%	-26.06%	7.92%	-10.63%	(Rank 5) -6.33%
	3 AUXIER ELEMENTARY	6.94%	-4.48%	-24.78%	0.66%	-10.03%	(Rank 4) -6.34%
	4 PATTERSON ELEMENTARY	7.10%	-0.37%	-22.21%	9.04%	-6.74%	(Rank 17) -2.64%
	5 SHUMWAY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY	2.55%	4.02%	-21.88%	22.59%	-6.72%	(Rank 24) 0.11%
	6 NAVARRETE ELEMENTARY	0.14%	-7.78%	-22.39%	5.25%	-6.71%	(Rank 6) -6.30%
	7 BOLOGNA ELEMENTARY	1.40%	-7.50%	-24.50%	10.31%	-6.56%	(Rank 7) -5.37%
	8 JACOBSON ELEMENTARY	1.32%	1.52%	-30.84%	11.46%	-6.53%	(Rank 8) -4.61%
	9 RIGGS ELEMENTARY	-0.20%	0.20%	-13.97%	5.84%	-5.52%	(Rank 16) -2.73%
	10 BASHA ELEMENTARY	-8.05%	6.41%	-23.05%	24.81%	-4.43%	(Rank 21) -0.86%
	11 HALEY ELEMENTARY	2.73%	-3.98%	-26.16%	9.63%	-4.41%	(Rank 9) -4.44%
	12 ANDERSEN ELEMENTARY	-1.53%	-2.41%	-25.93%	13.33%	-2.73%	(Rank 13) -3.85%
	13 SANTAN ELEMENTARY	-7.05%	-2.49%	-20.66%	15.76%	-2.50%	(Rank 14) -3.39%
	14 CARLSON ELEMENTARY	-3.22%	-4.93%	-20.08%	8.27%	-1.35%	(Rank 12) -4.26%
	15 TARWATER ELEMENTARY	-7.93%	-0.72%	-24.10%	28.25%	-1.24%	(Rank 19) -1.15%
	16 CTA - INDEPENDENCE	4.99%	2.38%	-45.97%	71.17%	-1.08%	(Rank 29) 6.30%
	17 CTA - GOODMAN	2.32%	-0.27%	-32.93%	29.74%	-0.92%	(Rank 23) -0.41%
	18 SAN MARCOS ELEMENTARY	-3.18%	-1.38%	-21.05%	-10.22%	0.25%	(Rank 2) -7.12%
	19 HULL ELEMENTARY	-3.99%	-7.26%	-23.32%	2.09%	0.37%	(Rank 3) -6.42%
	20 HARTFORD ELEMENTARY	3.68%	7.24%	-21.12%	20.00%	2.34%	(Rank 26) 2.43%
	21 FRYE ELEMENTARY	2.15%	0.16%	-14.84%	7.39%	2.65%	(Rank 22) -0.50%
	22 GALVESTON ELEMENTARY	-9.28%	-2.60%	-18.51%	5.68%	2.69%	(Rank 11) -4.40%
	23 CONLEY ELEMENTARY	-1.12%	-1.56%	-25.04%	36.66%	4.07%	(Rank 27) 2.60%
	24 KNOX GIFTED ACADEMY	0.73%	0.58%	-48.26%	82.35%	5.38%	(Rank 30) 8.16%
	25 RYAN ELEMENTARY	-4.60%	-3.78%	-24.90%	5.59%	5.63%	(Rank 10) -4.41%
	26 HANCOCK ELEMENTARY	-3.63%	-2.68%	-28.75%	24.56%	5.92%	(Rank 20) -0.92%
	27 SANBORN ELEMENTARY	-6.73%	4.17%	-28.09%	8.80%	6.51%	(Rank 15) -3.07%
	28 CTA - LIBERTY	2.44%	1.93%	-23.47%	33.52%	6.56%	(Rank 28) 4.20%
	29 CTA - FREEDOM	-6.47%	6.45%	-23.95%	6.64%	8.36%	(Rank 18) -1.79%
	30 RICE ELEMENTARY	0.00%	2.24%	-17.98%	7.56%	8.95%	(Rank 25) 0.15%
	31 WEINBERG GIFTED ACADEMY			100.00%	100.00%	26.21%	(Rank 31) 63.10%

Why was the pre-k #s not counted in the capacity percentage? If you're saying 35 classrooms X 24 students the pre-k classes are part of the 35 classrooms, so shouldn't the pre-k # be factored into the

capacity percentage. Preschool and PreK programs are separate from K-12. These programs are established based on need. As is the case with K-6 enrollment, there are fewer preschool and PreK aged children living in proximity to San Marcos. The demand for preschool at San Marcos has declined as well. K-6 enrollment is what schools districts are funded on and therefore the most consistent data point districts have to determine future trends.

How has housing and real estate prices and availability affected the decline in enrollment? As neighborhoods mature and age over time, fewer school age children reside in the neighborhood to sustain enrollment at their neighborhood school. This challenge is then heightened by the increased cost of homes as well as the decreased availability of housing. This is a trend seen across Arizona not just in Chandler.

Has the committee studied and know the culture of the people, students, family that the school serves? The school is meeting the educational needs of the students and much more. The committee did receive data and information from the school presentations that provided them with the culture and backgrounds of students and families that are connected with the San Marcos campus.

What are the exact percentage of the past years title 1 enrollments? Chandler currently operates nine elementary schools that qualify for Title 1 services. You can find information on their capacity via our website: [Open Enrollment Capacity / Open Enrollment Capacity by School \(cusd80.com\)](https://cusd80.com/Open-Enrollment-Capacity)

Is there anything us parents can do to attract more students to school? Why is there 554 student who reside within our boundaries, but only 359 attend the actual school? Better opportunities & classes at other schools? Is there something we could do for that? Current data indicates that 250 San Marcos eligible students attend an alternate CUSD school. Additionally, we know that there are students within the San Marcos boundary who attend a school outside the district which include other public schools, charter schools, and/or private schools. With the density of schools in the north part of CUSD there exist more options for families that require less travel time; essentially families have more schools to choose from. The challenge with adding new programming is that it may not increase enrollment in an attendance area that has so many school options and has matured over time leading to a decline in school age children.

Since most boundary transfers come from Frye, and it's the closest school and likely to take in many students of San Marcos closes? Has research been done into why parents choose here vs. t here? What is the demographic of those students? The demographic profile of Frye Elementary is like San Marcos, however their enrollment has consistently trended above 500 students. There exist a variety of reasons as to why parents choose alternate schools within the district including programming, proximity to employment or daycare, etc.

Wouldn't it be important to have a school in the Historic District or Chandler to support the growing Chandler community? **Chandler Unified currently has five schools that serve the historic and downtown centers of Chandler.**

What is CUSD doing to understand why community residents don't choose San Marcos? **We continuously survey families through our open enrollment process; however, there are many reasons why parents choose alternate schools in the district including programming, proximity to employment or daycare, etc.**

BOUNDARIES

How are current boundaries drawn and how does it affect our school? **School boundaries are developed through a collaborative process with community and parent input then approved by the Governing Board. Surrounding school enrollment along with transportation considerations are analyzed to determine school boundaries that meet the needs of the community and are sustainable over time.**

Is there a map showing the possibility of what the NEW school boundaries would be? If the possibility of San Marcos closes, then someone is working on options of what the new boundaries would be. Show us so that we as parents can have this knowledge and can make the best choice for our students. **No official decision has been made on repurposing. For that reason, we do not have proposed boundary changes at this time. However, school boundaries are part of the process if the decision is made to repurpose a school. Additionally, CUSD is committed to timely and constant communication regarding any possible change which would include community input on potential boundary changes. When it comes to school options, open enrollment to any CUSD elementary school is available for all families. If you choose to attend a school on open enrollment, you must provide transportation.**

If the school is repurposed, how will the boundaries be redrawn so the San Marcos surrounding community can remain together to provide community supports? **If the decision is made to repurpose San Marcos, your home address determines the new school your student will attend.**

TRANSPORTATION

If school is shut down, how will students who go to San Marcos get transportation to other school nearby? Bus? **Transportation via school bus is provided for all students who qualify. Currently district Governing Board policy EEAA provides the following guidance:**

Grades kindergarten (K) through six (6). Students who reside more than one (1) mile from school may be eligible for transportation. Transportation will not be provided to students who reside one (1) mile or less from school, unless the District determines that transportation is warranted for safety reasons due to hazardous walking route conditions.

Can we assume a guarantee that children will be transported without boundary exceptions? What about children who walk or parents that drop off? What if it is a longer distance? **Transportation is provided to students if they live within their assigned school boundary. If a family chooses to open enroll at a school other than their boundary school, families must provide their own transportation.**

SPANISH: Tendrá que usar el autobús escolar? Y si es sí, ¿cuál sería la ruta? **Translation:** Will she have to use the school bus? And if yes, what would be the route? **Families are not required to utilize district transportation if they have other means to get their child to and from school. At this time no boundary decisions/bus route changes have been discussed because no decision has been made on the proposed repurposing of San Marcos.**

With students being provided transportation to new boundaries, how long will this last? Will transportation be long term? **At this time no boundary decisions/bus route changes have been discussed because no decision has been made on the proposed repurposing of San Marcos. Students who qualify for transportation services at their boundary school will continue to receive these services until they no longer attend the school or move outside of the boundary for which they qualify for transportation.**

My children like to attend after school activities, will you provide transportation after activities if they are forced to go to another school? **Transportation for extra-curricular activities is not typically provided.**

If there is a nationwide school bus driver shortage, and the district is struggling to staff current bus routes, how are parents supposed to rely on the school to provide transportation to neighboring schools once these 400 plus students need to be transported? **While Chandler Unified has been affected by the shortage of bus drivers, as is the case with districts in Arizona and across the country, all CUSD bus routes have been and will continue to be maintained in accordance with our district transportation policy.**

What do you expect those parents with no vehicles to do when they can't get their children to school? **Transportation is provided to students if they live within their assigned school boundary.**

What happens to these students if transportation becomes an issue, and parents do not have a means of transportation how will they get to school? What happens if a child becomes ill who will bring that child home if parents don't have a vehicle? **In the event of a student illness or challenge that may**

require the child to be transported back home, our school sites work with the parents to ensure that appropriate transportation is secured.

San Marcos parents walk to conferences. So, even though the students receive transportation to their new schools, how will the parents get to conferences? As with all our schools, parents arrange their own transportation to and from the schools for conferences. If families are unable to get to school for such an event, CUSD staff can work with you to find other ways to communicate the information.

SERVICES

Can there be a guarantee that schools that are at capacity with kids who require an IEP can get in? Special Education services are guaranteed at a student's boundary school. If there is an Open Enrollment request to attend a school outside of your child's boundary school, then further consideration of the school's capacity to effectively serve the students' needs will be conducted before any approval or denial is made.

What will happen to those services? All services that are currently provided to San Marcos students will remain at San Marcos while students are in attendance and/or while the school remains a PK-6 school campus. If the decision is made to repurpose the campus and have students transition to other campuses in the future, then any or all services (Special Education, English Language Development, Title I, etc.) will follow the student to their new boundary school.

If they have to wait to receive services till a school opens up more capacity? Do the children lose those minutes granted to them? There is no anticipated loss of required service minutes for students who transition to alternate schools. Students who qualify for special education services continue to receive those services at either their boundary school or a school approved through the open enrollment process.

San Marcos is a title 1 school and close to services in downtown Chandler. This community deserves more support than average. How will these supports be maintained/increased if moved to a new location? **Many of the surrounding schools, that may potentially serve as possible transition schools, are near downtown Chandler and receive support through the same social service organizations as San Marcos.**

Would the children that receive assistance because English is their second language still receive the same level of assistance in another school? **All services that are currently provided to San Marcos students will remain at San Marcos while students are in attendance and/or while the school remains a PK-6 campus. Students who qualify for English Language Development services will continue to receive those services at either their boundary school or a school approved through the open enrollment process.**

I understand you plan to follow federal law by providing special education services. How do you intend to support parents in meeting the needs of their students if they cannot arrange transportation to the extra meetings that special education requires? Will the district provide transportation to these meetings? **As with all our schools, parents arrange their own transportation to and from the schools for conferences. If families are unable to get to school for such an event, CUSD staff can work with you to find other ways to communicate the information.**

My child is in a sped program what school will he be attending? **If the decision is made to repurpose San Marcos Elementary, new school boundaries would be developed and approved by the school Governing Board. All Chandler Unified elementary schools provide the necessary staffing and resources to service special education students as required by their IEP.**

SPANISH: Porque no mejor pensamos en ampliar y seguir con programas ej education especial pps. Este programa solo esta hasta preeskol. **Translation:** Why don't we think about expanding and continuing with programs eg special education pps. This program is only up to preschool. **Special Education services are offered at each elementary school. Preschool is programmatic and dependent upon the surrounding population and interest in preschool.**

OTHER SCHOOL OPTIONS

If San Marcos closes, what are the feeder schools that will be available to our students for enrollment? **Potential schools that may be considered include Bologna, Conley, Frye, Hartford, and/or Galveston Elementary. Additionally, the opportunity exists for all families to apply for Open Enrollment to an**

alternate school outside of their boundary school based on the capacity of the school to serve the student's needs.

If San Marcos get repurposed will students be individually placed in surrounding schools or will parents have to register students? If the decision is made to repurpose San Marcos, families will be notified of their new assigned school and the student file will automatically transfer to the new school. Families will not have to re-register at the new boundary school.

If Fulton is the #1 school with decreased enrollment, were they considered for "repurposing". Or is the community they are in drove that decision? While all CUSD campuses have been affected by decreased enrollment, the Fulton Elementary campus continues to maintain an enrollment above 600 students. School enrollment below 500 was the driving consideration in this process.

What level of education are the proposed schools to send students to in comparison to SM? All elementary schools in Chandler Unified serve students from grades kindergarten through sixth grade.

Are all the Chandler schools for K-6 on the same teaching level for each grade? I would be concerned if my child fell behind if she wasn't up to the same learning level and she possibly falls behind. All elementary schools in Chandler Unified provide consistent and rigorous instruction and student support involving services such as Special Education, English Language Development as well as a focus on the core content areas of reading, writing, math, science, and social science. Additionally, all elementary schools provide the necessary intervention support should students require additional help with their learning.

Will the other schools have enough staff to accommodate all the new students? Chandler Unified works to maintain a 24:1 student-teacher ratio in all schools. As students transition among schools, staffing is shifted accordingly to ensure that the needs of all students are met.

If my child is entering 6th grade in the year 2024-2025, will he stay in another school permanently (until Jr. High)? If the decision is made to repurpose San Marcos Elementary in 2024-2025, students who are entering 6th grade that year will attend their new assigned boundary elementary school. They will then attend their assigned junior high the following year as is the typical process.

Will there be enough openings at other schools nearby for students coming in? Very few of our elementary schools are currently operating at full capacity and have space to accommodate increased enrollment through the transition of students from other schools.

What would be the student to teacher ratio if you are moving students to any of the 4 schools that are in proximity to San Marcos? Chandler Unified works to maintain a 24:1 student to teacher ratio in all its classrooms. Depending upon overall school enrollment this ratio may increase or decrease.

If San Marcos closes and the students are dispersed to other schools, how will the academic gap be addressed? All Chandler Unified elementary schools provide the necessary support and intervention to ensure that any learning gaps are addressed with extra learning support structures such as small group instruction, targeted tutoring, etc.

STAFF & FAMILIES

How do you really plan to help support the staff parents and children? Will your promises be kept? We understand that the decision to repurpose a campus is difficult and may raise about what supports will be provided throughout the process. Again, no decision has been made. However, with any potential transition, CUSD is committed to providing students, families and staff with the necessary supports and assurances that services will continue at their new school.

What would happen to staff if it closes? If the decision is made to repurpose San Marcos, both certified and support staff will be provided opportunity to transition to other CUSD school sites where additional staffing may be needed some of which may be schools where the San Marcos students would transition to. The repurposing of a school in Chandler Unified does not mean that staff will lose their jobs.

What will be done for the parents that don't speak English when it comes to parent teacher conference? All Chandler Unified Schools provide the necessary translation services, during parent/teacher conference or other scheduled meetings/events.

What adjustments will be made to facilitate the communication between parents and the district with questions and concerns regarding this matter? The community meeting that will be held on Tuesday, February 21st will provide small group opportunities for parents to share their feedback and further questions or concerns regarding the three recommendations presented at the first meeting. Professional translation services will be provided for each small group. We encourage all parents to attend.

When will I know my kids new school? Once the Governing Board makes a decision on San Marcos, new boundaries will need to be drawn and students will then be assigned to their new boundary school. As soon as that happens, CUSD is committed to timely communication of all necessary information.

COVID IMPACT

How did Covid affect numbers? And have they looked to see how the community is recovering from the pandemic? All Chandler schools and their enrollment were impacted by the pandemic. While most of

our students returned to school campuses or have selected to remain online through Chandler Online Academy, our elementary campuses have seen a decrease in enrollment following the pandemic.

Why close or repurpose San Marcos when by the 24-25 and 25-26 School years the babies born during the pandemic will be starting their pre-k and k year? Elementary enrollment is declining district wide and birth rates are on the decline across Arizona and the country resulting in fewer school-aged students living in the school boundary.

How could possibly be made an appropriate estimate of the enrollment statistic up to the year 2030 so soon after covid? The company we use to estimate future enrollment and school demographic trends make use of local, state, and national trends when creating projections for future planning.

OTHER

Why is the overall goal "continued rigor"? The goal for Chandler Unified is to provide all students with strong instruction and social-emotional support to support to strengthen both student character and learning. CUSD's mission is to educate the whole child which includes more than just academics.

Is SM losing money? With the rapid decline in enrollment over the last five years, the cost to staff and operate San Marcos is greater than the funds received for its' student enrollment. In Arizona, school districts (including CUSD) are funded based on student enrollment.

How can we stop SM from closing? We want to reiterate that no decision to repurpose San Marcos has been made. The final decision rests with the school Governing Board with guidance and advisement from district administration, along with input from staff, students, families, and the community. We encourage all parents to be engaged in the process and provide the necessary input and feedback as we hold meetings and make decisions.

Why doesn't the committee come up with new ideas or new programs for attract new students to enroll in San Marcos? With many of our neighborhood schools that age and mature, the number of school age children who live in the boundary decreases and therefore the draw for new students is less. There is no guarantee that new programming will attract new students.

How will the parent community continue to be included and involved? Parent input and feedback is critical to this process as we look at the future for the San Marcos campus. We encourage parents to attend all community meetings and provide their input and feedback in the meetings as requested. The second parent meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21st and parents will be provided opportunity to share questions and concerns in small groups. Professional translation services will be provided.

Can the next meeting have a professional translator? Yes, we will utilize our professional translation services to assist at the next community meeting held on Tuesday, February 21st at 5:30PM at San Marcos Elementary.

Based on the pros and cons, would it be safe to assume or you can clarify that repurposing is not selling the acreage for high density condos? Can you clarify that? Chandler Unified Schools has no intention of selling the school campus or land to accommodate further development outside of future district needs. If the decision is made to repurpose San Marcos, any future usage of the campus would be to support educational needs of the district with feedback from the San Marcos community.

What is San Marcos going to become? If the decision is made to repurpose San Marcos Elementary, further parent and community input would be gathered to determine future usage of the San Marcos campus to serve the community interests and needs.

What are the space utilization ideas that would be better for the community than an elementary school? If the decision is made to repurpose San Marcos, any future usage of the campus would be to support educational needs of the district with feedback from the San Marcos community.

Also is CUSD partnering with the city to use this site as a homeless shelter or rehab center. As a neighborhood leader, this neighborhood is a family oriented neighborhood which will impact all the children in this area. No. If the decision is made to repurpose San Marcos, any future usage of the campus would be to support educational needs of the district with feedback from the San Marcos community.

If the decision is made to repurpose the school, when will be the last year? While no decision has been made, if the Governing Board does decide to repurpose San Marcos, repurposing would be effective no sooner than the 2024-2025 school year.

Is there a possibility of this land be sold to a developer? If no, why not? No. Any future repurpose efforts would be to meet further educational needs of the district.

*if San Marcos was renovated to be used for different programs, would it be able to be used as a school again if there began to be a problem of overcrowding at the other schools students would be sent to? If the decision is made to repurpose the San Marcos campus for an alternate use, the San Marcos community would be engaged in further conversation and feedback with the district to determine community needs and potential alternate usage for the San Marcos campus.

*possibility of having a Headstart classrooms on campus? Head Start preschools already operate on selected Chandler Unified campuses based on the demographic and census data pulled by the Head Start organization. Head Start is not a part of the Chandler Unified School District but rather they use allocated space to support their programming.

*what would be the deciding factors that would lead to choosing one of the districts administrator recommendations? The Space Utilization Committee will present the facts, findings, and feedback to the Governing Board who will use that information to make a decision.

What has been done to attract more students to San Marcos? CUSD continuously markets its schools and programs. However, as stated in the answers above there are many factors that determine what school a family chooses for their child. Major factors include an increase in home prices, a decrease in birth rates, and more educational options available to families.

Have you considered upgrading the facilities? Upgrading the facilities does not address the challenge of decreased student enrollment that is a result of aging neighborhoods, decreased birth rates, increased home prices, and a growing number of school options available to families. With the density of schools in the north part of CUSD there exist more options for families that require less travel time; essentially families have more schools to choose from.