



ALUM ROCK UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Subject: Response to Adelante 1 & 2 Parent & Community Letter Regarding School Consolidation

Dear Adelante 1 & 2 Families and Community Members,

Thank you for your collective letter expressing your deep care for your children and the future of Adelante. I share your commitment to ensuring that this transition is successful and that the academic excellence and cultural vibrance of Adelante's Spanish dual language immersion model continues for all Alum Rock families - especially our students. Like you, my primary goal is to maintain a school environment that families have valued over the years at Adelante - I was one of the founding members of Adelante and want to see it thrive as much as anyone.

I also understand that this transition - and any school consolidation - is difficult and that it raises many questions for all involved. I want to reiterate that I am committed to providing clarity through this consolidation process. Over the last few months, my administration and I have attended Cafecitos, staff meetings, student meetings, and other meetings to help provide answers and information on many of the concerns raised in your letter. I encourage all parents, students, and staff to continue engaging in our meetings, as you have with your letter. I also encourage everyone to follow regular updates and review the Adelante Merger webpage, which will contain the most up-to-date information on the transition.

My administration and I carefully reviewed your letter and thoughtfully considered each concern raised. I also shared the letter and your requests with our Board of Trustees.

I understand that each point in the letter is a demand. However, I can only commit to providing you with clear information about the transition with the information I have. In my response below, I aim to provide detailed information for each point made. Some of my responses align to meet your specific demands, in other responses, I can only provide information.

Below are my specific responses to each point:

1. School Structure and Staffing

1. **Class Sizes:** We will adhere to the contractual class-size caps outlined in the Alum Rock Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. Those sizes for bilingual classes are: TK (20), K-3 (24), 4-8 (30), with a permissible overage of up to 3 students per class.

Sandra Garcia, Interim Superintendent

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2. **Credentialed Educators & Class Support:** We will follow the current process, which includes a credentialed teacher in each classroom. Any school can use school site funding for targeted student interventions through a budget allocation within the School Site Council.
3. **Counseling & Wellness:** Adelante will receive counselor services consistent with District staffing formulas - counselor allocations are determined annually based on enrollment and student need. Given fiscal realities, Wellness Center staffing and services will also be aligned with District student-to-staff ratios. We will continue to monitor student needs and adjust support as appropriate.
4. **Expansion of SEL Services:** Social-emotional learning and mental health supports will continue to be embedded throughout the instructional day through classroom-based SEL practices, counseling services, wellness center programming, and targeted interventions for students requiring additional support. Adelante will continue to use the MTSS framework to identify student needs and provide tiered academic, behavioral, and social-emotional supports.
5. **Administrators:** The formula for site administrator allocation is 1 Principal per school site. An Assistant Principal is added at 500 student enrollment, and an additional Assistant Principal at/above 750 student enrollment. This formula will be used to assign site administrators to Adelante and all middle schools in the District.
6. **Yard Duty and Traffic Guards:** Regarding supervision, all sites have yard duty staff during drop-off, recess, lunch, and dismissal. Additionally, all sites receive 1 hour of lunch coverage for every 75 students enrolled. Regarding traffic guards, they are managed by the City of San Jose's School Safety and Education Unit, and requests are processed every October. We will be requesting a crossing walk guard at Fischer.
7. **Transition Support:** We are committed to providing intentional support throughout the consolidation process. The Adelante 1 and Adelante 2 counselors are already collaborating to assess student needs and coordinate appropriate supports. In addition, staff from both sites have been brought together for structured collaboration opportunities to build relationships, align practices, and support a smooth transition for students. Furthermore, a district-led transition committee, comprising members from both schools, has been meeting since August 2025 to collaborate on logistics for the merger of the two schools. The District's Hearts of Alum Rock transition team has also developed age-appropriate lesson plans that will be implemented with students to help them process the transition, build connections, and strengthen a sense of belonging. These supports will continue throughout the transition period and be adjusted as needed based on student and family feedback.
8. **Gathering Feedback:** The Adelante Transition Committee was formed for this exact purpose and is the primary means for gathering and responding to feedback on the transition. The group comprises staff and parents from both school sites, and the Committee members are working to collect feedback from their respective school communities to respond to input from students, staff, and parents.

2. Facilities and Operations

1. **Drop-Off, Pick-Up, Unauthorized Parking, and Parking:** We are working to install a front double-lane drop-off driveway in front of the school, which will be ready for the start of the school year. We are also planning to install a fire lane and are exploring how to use it as an additional drop-off area. In addition, we will be requesting a crosswalk guard from the City of San Jose's Police School Safety and Education Unit. Regarding unauthorized parking, the City of San Jose has an ordinance to limit oversized and

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live-in vehicles near schools, parks, and other sensitive areas. This would include the new Adelante campus. We will coordinate with them in instances of unauthorized parking by oversized and live-in vehicles near campus. The city has created an Oversized and Lived-In Vehicle Enforcement (OLIVE) webpage with details:

<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/transportation/parking/vehicle-abatement/oversized-and-lived-in-vehicle-enforcement>

Regarding parking, we are working to expand the parking lot at the Fischer facility to accommodate staff and visitors. We have also spoken with the City of San Jose Public Library to explore the use of the Hillview Branch parking lot.

- 2. Revised Start/End Times:** Our school staff will release the finalized school schedule once it is approved. At this time, the schedule is not finalized, but we are interested in revising it to ease congestion. However, I do want to inform you that modifying the schedule to accommodate separate Elementary and Middle School drop-offs may impact families with students in both grade levels, since we only have staff coverage 12 minutes before the start time.
- 3. Fencing and Campus Boundaries:** Currently, the entire perimeter of the new Adelante is fenced to keep unauthorized visitors out. When school begins, and we know how campus is used, we may be able to explore additional options for additional campus fencing.
- 4. Supervised Areas & Extreme Weather:** We are exploring a staggered lunch schedule to ensure that we can seat all students in the cafeteria and the extended patio during their lunch periods. Additional details will be available when the school schedule is finalized and shared.
- 5. Dangerous Construction Conditions:** We plan to have all major construction completed before students return to campus. However, like any project, this one may face delays, and some work may need to be done during the school year. However, student safety will come first, and we will do our best to ensure this work does not impact student learning or safety by completing work outside of school hours.
- 6. Parking Spaces:** Currently, we are expanding the existing parking lot to accommodate the growth at the new Adelante. With this update, the new Adelante facility provides more parking spaces than each Adelante individually, but fewer than the Adelantes together. We are exploring adding additional parking areas as needed in the future. We have also spoken with the City of San Jose Public Library to see if we can use the Hillview Branch parking lot.

3. Engagement and Accountability

- 1. Workshops and Trainings:** We will continue to uphold the traditions that families hold dear at Adelante, including events. Events like “Leyendo Bajo Las Estrellas” are a beautiful example of bringing families and students together to work on academically oriented activities. We want to continue this. We have also heard interest in having additional programs for parent workshops and training. We will work with the School Linked Services team to identify workshops and trainings from local community members - including the San Jose Hillview Branch library to bring additional programming workshops to the school and community.
- 2. Families Leaving Adelante:** We are working to address parent concerns based on feedback from our community meetings and responses to our Intent to Return Form. We want to ensure that all of our students who are currently enrolled in Adelante I and Adelante II come together at the new Adelante. We’ve worked under a strategic communications plan to communicate information through regular written updates, in-person Cafecitos, physical information at school, surveys on our intent to return, and

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personal phone calls to parents to answer questions they may still have, among other actions. We will continue to address the risks identified by parents as we enter the new facility.

- 3. Parent and Grandparent Involvement:** Our policy for volunteers at Adelante will remain a cornerstone of the Adelante culture, provided all safety and background clearances are maintained. Our school district has adopted Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6020 (Parent Involvement) to meaningfully involve parents/guardians and family members in district and school activities at all grade levels; in advisory, decision-making, and advocacy roles; and in activities to support learning at home.
- 4. Financial Cost & Report:** We will provide the financial impact for consolidation once we have accounted for all expenditures. Since we are just starting the process of consolidating Adelante I and II, we do not have the information to share at this time. The LCFF calculator provided by FCMAT calculates total revenue for the District and does not disaggregate the information by school site. We can share the details of where the \$500K savings are coming from once it is board-approved.

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns about the transition and for asking for this information. I value your input and want to remain a partner with you in this transition. I firmly believe that, working together, we can ensure that the spirit of academic excellence and the vibrancy of Adelante's Spanish dual-language immersion continue.

I look forward to our continued partnership in this transition.

Sincerely,



Sandra García
Interim Superintendent, Alum Rock Union School District

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