



MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent

To: Parents of pupils attending Bancroft Elementary School, Teachers, Administrators, and the Parent Advisory Committees

From: Dr. Adam Clark, Superintendent; Dr. Wendi Aghily, Chief of Pupil Services & Special Education; Ms. Samatha Allen, Chief of Educational Services

Subject: Bancroft's Two Way Dual Immersion Program—Request for a Pause/Proposition 58 Request

Date: March 4, 2026

We are writing to address the Two Way Dual Immersion (TWDI) Program at Bancroft Elementary School (Bancroft). This written determination addresses: 1) the request to “pause” the transition of the TWDI from Bancroft to Woodside Elementary School (Woodside); and 2) the request for a “new” language acquisition program at Bancroft pursuant to Board Policy & Administrative Regulation 6174: Education for English Learners.

In summary, the District's initial decision to relocate the TWDI from Bancroft to Woodside was based on multiple factors—including but not limited to years of community input regarding the feeder pattern from Bancroft to Foothill Middle School (Foothill) to Northgate High School (Northgate), District-wide community support for providing dual language immersion programs as outlined in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), creating sustainable feeder patterns and facility capacity issues. On January 30, 2026, the District received a petition from 498 community members/parents to pause the transition for kindergarten for the 2026-27 school year. Between January 30, 2026, and today's date, the District has been reassessing this decision by again considering community and stakeholder input, holding multiple meetings and evaluating enrollment numbers, costs, and space issues. On February 26, 2026, the District received parental requests pursuant to Education Code § 310/5 C.C.R § 11311 (Parent Requests to Establish a Language Acquisition Program), implementing Proposition 58, hereinafter referred to as “Prop. 58 Requests,” for a “new” dual language immersion program at Bancroft.

As the factors for assessing the request to pause and the new Prop. 58 Requests are substantially similar and given the significant community engagement, the District is issuing a simultaneous written determination so that stakeholders do not have to wait the 60 days outlined in 5 C.C.R § 11311, thereby allowing families and staff to make informed decisions for the 2026-27 school year. As fully outlined below, after careful consideration of the community's input and multiple factors (cost, space and enrollment patterns), the District finds that relocating the TWDI from

from Bancroft to Woodside, starting with kindergarten students for the 2026-27 school year, is necessary, and correspondingly, viable option is not to maintain/restart a TWDI program at Bancroft.

A. 2022-26: Community Input

Facility Space

Bancroft has one of the highest student enrollment numbers in the District, which has resulted in facilities and space issues. For example, if a Bancroft resident requires a special day class, the student cannot attend their neighborhood school. In addition, the school has lost flex space and has even had to give up outdoor space for additional buildings for afterschool care. Since 2013-14 school year, Bancroft’s enrollment has grown from ~502 students to ~686 in 2024-25 school year. On the other hand, Woodside (which is 1.8 miles from Bancroft) had, for the 2024-25 school year, ~260 students, with capacity for ~560.

The feeder pattern from Bancroft to Foothill and Northgate has resulted in the need for a lottery system for students, as more students seek to attend Foothill and Northgate than facility space allows. The following provides a summary of the percent of students accepted:

Foothill Middle School Transfer Requests								
School Year	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
Percent Accepted	111/67 60%	92/36 39%	105/75 71.4%	61/41 67%	109/61 56%	122/53 43.4%	109/48 44%	122/50 40.9%

Northgate Transfer Requests								
School Year	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
Percent Accepted	142/78 55%	105/66 63%	143/70 68.01%	111/89 80%	147/98 67%	167/114 68.3%	173/46 26.6%	159/38 24%

In contrast, the feeder pattern from Woodside to Oak Grove Middle School (Oak Grove) and then to either Mt. Diablo High School (Mt. Diablo) or Ygnacio Valley High School (Ygnacio Valley), has capacity for additional students.

Community Input

The District has received community input regarding programming at Bancroft and the cohort split. Over the years, parents have expressed significant concerns with the splitting of cohorts as students transition from Bancroft to Foothill and then to Northgate. The Board and District leadership have received numerous demands for the District to address the feeder pattern and “cohort splits.” For example, during the 2024-25 school year, the District received the following types of public comments:

- 1/8/25 Board Comment: “Please, I ask you to keep our cohort together! Please resolve and eliminate the very skewed Bancroft split feeder pattern so that ALL of the Bancroft residence area, including the small 10-15% that is currently split off, can in fact continue their MDUSD matriculation with their cohort together to senior graduation without having to go through the stressful process of requesting a cohort intradistrict transfer.”
- 1/8/25 Board Comment: “Please solve the Bancroft Split issue so 10-12 students a year, less than 10% of the Bancroft graduating class, aren’t forced to break away from their friends[.]”
- 1/8/25 Board Comment: “As a resident of the Walnut Creek-Carriage Square neighborhood, I am writing to request your support in resolving a long-standing issue impacting a small group of students from Bancroft Elementary School. Specifically, I am seeking a permanent solution to the enrollment anomaly that prevents students in our neighborhood from automatically matriculating to Foothill Middle School and Northgate High School alongside their Bancroft classmates.”
- 1/22/25 Board Comment: “We ask to reach an amicable solution for our current students and a more definite path for the students to come. Please fix our schools feeding pattern so all Bancroft students who reside in Bancroft’s boundaries are included.”
- 1/22/25 Board Comment: “We request that the Bancroft split within MDUSD be fixed so that children with Bancroft as their home/assigned elementary school be kept together in the same cohort through progression to Foothill Middle and then to Northgate High School. Our children are forming strong bonds with others in their cohort that are assigned to Foothill and Northgate and it is important for their collective development to remain together in the same cohort. Children affected by the Bancroft split that were granted an intra-district transfer to Foothill Middle are especially impacted as they will be forced to switch to a brand new cohort at an

extremely vulnerable age if they are sent to a different high school than others in their cohort.”

- 2/12/25 Board Comment: “In the meantime all my child's middle school families have been informed of the Northgate informational evening which we knew nothing. Please fix the split so other families are not going through this process.”
- 2/26/25 Board Comment: “Respectfully, I ask that you maintain the Bancroft/Foothill/Northgate cohort and allow the children to complete their final four years with the peers they have been with for the past decade.”
- 2/26/25 Board Comment: “I am asking for your help to find a solution to keep the Bancroft, Foothill cohort group together at Northgate this year. The broken split feeder pattern at Bancroft Elementary needs to be fixed again.”

Based on this community input and facility space issues, District staff have been monitoring enrollment capacity and deliberating about potential solutions. Accordingly, in January 2026, District leadership consulted with the Principals of Woodside and Bancroft about the relocation of the TWDI program. On January 28, 2026, District leadership met with Bancroft staff regarding this transition and informed parents of the phased transition from Bancroft to Woodside of the TWDI. Immediately, the District received requests to “pause” this transition and to allow students to enroll in TWDI for 2026-27 at the kindergarten level (there is no current TK TWDI at Bancroft).

B. January 2026 through March 2026–Community Input and Consideration of Request to Pause

The following outlines the community engagement based on the request to “pause” the transition, which is substantially the same as starting a new TWDI program at Bancroft:

1. On January 29, 2026, Bancroft’s Principal created a google form for parents to submit questions, which was posted on ParentSquare.
2. On January 30, 2026, the District received and considered a letter entitled: “Sign on Letter Requesting Pause of the Immediate Phase Out of TWDI Program at Bancroft Elementary School,” which 498 individuals signed.
3. On February 2, 2026 Bancroft’s Principal posted responses to community questions in a [Question & Answer \(Q&A\) Format](#).

4. On February 9, 2026, Bancroft's Principal posted additional responses to questions.
5. On February 10, 2026, Superintendent Clark, Dr. Wendi Aghily, the Chief of Pupil Services & Special Education, Ms. Allen, the Chief of Educational Services and Board Trustee Lawrence met with the Bancroft Parent Faculty Club (PFC) to provide information and answer questions. Staff outlined the following considerations: 1) enrollment considerations; 2) student achievement; 3) staffing availability; and 4) facilities and services. The Parents' main request was to "pause" the transition of the TWDI.
6. On February 11, 2026, the Board of Education held a meeting and staff provided a presentation on [Dual Language Updates](#). During this meeting, District staff and Board members considered ~13 public comments, requesting to pause and/or maintain the TWDI at Bancroft. One of the main concerns voiced was the impact on families with siblings, resulting in siblings being separated and creating difficulties with respect to pick-up and drop-off. Trustee Lawrence specifically asked staff about the impact of "pausing" this transition.
7. On February 19, 2026, the [District English Learner Advisory Committee](#) held a meeting, which Bancroft families attended, including a District [presentation](#) and time for community input.
8. In response to these concerns, on February 19, 2026, Dr. Clark provided a follow-up letter, addressing community concerns and outlining the factors leading to this transition: An analysis of program composition—Bancroft residents overwhelmingly chose the Structured English-Only Program; Student achievement—English Language Learner performance is declining; Enrollment & Facilities—a lack of flex spaces and relocation of special day classes & numerous requests for the District to address the cohort split; and Fiscal issues—the District is concerned about current deficit spending.
9. On February 20, 2026, the District received and considered an email from Parents of Bancroft TWDI, which included two attachments: 1) "Why Eliminating the District's Highest-Performing Spanish/English Program Would Be a Mistake" and 2) "Mount Diablo Unified School District's Two-Way Dual Immersion Program at Bancroft Elementary: Claims vs. Facts."

10. On February 23, 2026, Dr. Clark held a listening session at the Bancroft Multipurpose room to hear from participants of the program as well as community members. MDUSD staff who attended were Dr. Aghily, Ms. Allen, Ms. Erin DeMartini, Director of Elementary Support, the Chief of Human Resources Ryan Sheehy, and Ms. Kathryn Fireman, Director of the Multilingual Education Department and Board Trustee Linda Mayo. At this meeting, parents proposed continuing the program at Bancroft with only Bancroft residents as a self-contained model.
11. On February 25, 2026, the Board of Education held a meeting and 20 parents spoke about the TWDI at Bancroft.
12. On February 26, 2026, the District received a request providing as follows: “As of February 27, 2026, we have collected 37 written parent requests for incoming TK [transitional kindergarten] & K students.”
13. On March 3, 2026, the District received an updated request, with 42 signatures. Of note, two requests were duplicates, thereby the total number of requests is 40.

C. Required Actions for Parent Request to Establish an English Language Acquisition Program

1. Threshold Determination: For the purpose of this analysis, the District assumes that the requirements of Education Code § 310 have been satisfied, in terms of the submission of a sufficient number of parental requests for a language acquisition program.

This letter serves to notify the relevant groups of the request for TWDI at Bancroft. 5 C.C.R. § 11311 provides that a District must provide a written response “when the parents of 30 pupils or more enrolled in a school, or when the parents of 20 pupils or more in the same grade level enrolled in a school, request the same or substantially similar type of a language acquisition program.” The District has assessed the signatures which included: 1) ~24 requests from Bancroft residents (~15 for kindergarten students for the 2026-27 school year; ~9 for TK students for the 2026-27 school year); 2) ~16 requests from non-Bancroft residents (~11 for kindergarten students for the 2026-27 school year; ~5 for TK students for the 2026-27 school year); and 3) Only ~13 are from students currently enrolled at Bancroft, who are Bancroft

residents. While not individually submitted, the District assumes that they have been truthfully and accurately submitted. For the purpose of this analysis, the District assumes that the threshold for making this request is satisfied.

2. Cost & Resource Analysis: In determining the feasibility of pausing and/or creating a new TWDI at Bancroft, the District considered monetary costs, impact of creating sustainable enrollment patterns, and viability of operating a TWDI for Bancroft residents only, while operating a TWDI open District-wide at Woodside.¹

In reaching a decision on the request to pause/request for a “new” TWDI, the District assessed fiscal needs, along with non-monetary and intangible costs.

Program Cost

The current TWDI model at Bancroft functions through a two-teacher partner model—meaning that one teacher provides instruction to the students in English, while the other teacher provides instruction in Spanish. Each grade level has a teacher holding a Bilingual Cross-Cultural Language Academic Development (BCLAD) credential. This model results in both teachers instructing about 50 to 60 students per school year. The program requires a total of 12 teachers per year, including six with BCLAD credential, which costs about \$125,000 - \$150,000 per teacher, depending on years of experience and graduate degrees. The cost of materials and professional development are nominal as the District currently has several English Language Acquisition programs and materials which can be shared.² A hidden cost is that due to a lack of BCLAD teachers, the District has been hiring international teachers, which results in the requirement to provide a Teacher Induction Support Program (TISP). In other words, hiring BCLAD teachers is challenging, and thus, the partner model requires fewer BCLAD teachers, resulting in the District being able to serve twice the number of students.

¹5 C.C.R. § 11311(h)(2) provides: “Identify costs and resources necessary to implement any new language acquisition program, including but not limited to certificated teachers with the appropriate authorizations, necessary instructional materials, pertinent professional development for the proposed program, and opportunities for parent and community engagement to support the proposed program goals.”

²ELA programs are at Holbrook Learning Academy; Meadow Holmes Elementary; Ygnacio Valley Elementary; Cambridge Elementary; and Shore Acres Elementary.

Sustainable Feeder Patterns

Currently, Northgate and Foothill are operating at maximum capacity. The District has established enrollment capacity limits based on facility space and staffing. As outlined above, the District continually has to reject transfer requests to Foothill and Northgate. For example, in the 2025-26 school year, 72 students were rejected from Foothill, while 121 were rejected from Northgate. In contrast, Ygnacio Valley and Mt. Diablo have accepted 100% of their transfer requests, as has Oak Grove.

Many of the transfer requests come from Bancroft families who applied to Bancroft through an interdistrict or intradistrict transfer to participate in the TWDI program, and who later seek cohort priority placement in the Foothill/Northgate feeder pattern. As discussed, for years, the District has received impassioned pleas to address the cohort split issue.

Accordingly, relocating the TWDI program to Woodside addresses the community feedback. The Prop. 58 Requests are from families who have students who are pre-enrolled for TK or kindergarten. Almost half the Prop. 58 Requests come from families, who reside outside of the Bancroft attendance area. The transition to Woodside will ensure that students who chose TWDI will have the opportunity to remain with their cohorts as they transition to middle and high school. In addition, as Woodside has facility space, the District is able to grow the TWDI to additional families. In this respect, transitioning the program addresses these long-term feeder pattern issues.

Viability of Operating a TWDI at Woodside and Bancroft

Given all the input, the District considered the possibility of limiting the TWDI program to Bancroft residents, thereby having one classroom at Bancroft and two classrooms at Woodside. However, the Bancroft program is not sustainable with only Bancroft residents, as not enough residents chose the TWDI. Bancroft community residents overwhelmingly enroll in the English-only program; only 32.7% of Bancroft community members enroll in TWDI. Similarly, the Prop. 58 Requests only included ~14 Bancroft residents for kindergarten for the 2026-27 school year, ~9 Bancroft residents for TK. The District's fiscal obligation is to have sizes as close to their maximum capacity (31 students), in order to reduce the cost of additional full-time employees.

To date, twenty students have pre-enrolled for the TWDI program at Woodside. Accordingly, the Woodside program can fully absorb the Prop. 58 Requests from Bancroft. The Woodside

Program could then operate with two partner teachers, while simultaneously addressing the feeder pattern issues, ensuring cohorts the ability to remain together and opening up space at Bancroft. Moreover, while Woodside can fully absorb the Bancroft students seeking TWDI, allowing Bancroft to continue to absorb non-residents is no longer sustainable. It has resulted in vulnerable populations (such as students with special needs) being forced out and has caused an untenable bottleneck at the middle and high school levels, which families have been demanding that the District remedy.

3. Written Determination: The District finds that it is not a viable option to implement the requested language acquisition program at Bancroft and emphasizes that the Woodside program is an alternate option.³

We want to acknowledge the strong engagement and thoughtful feedback shared. In weighing this decision, we carefully considered the concerns Bancroft families raised alongside the ongoing concerns the broader community expressed regarding addressing feeder patterns and ensuring equitable use of space across District schools. We specifically considered the option of having a TWDI program at Bancroft for residents only.

Based on the above factors, the District finds that beginning to operate a “new” TWDI for TK and K at Bancroft is not viable because: 1) Bancroft does not have enough residents to fill a TWDI program at either the kindergarten or TK level; 2) operating two TWDI programs at Woodside and Bancroft is not fiscally prudent as one school can serve all the student; 3) relocating the program to Woodside addresses the longstanding feeder problem for middle and high school, creating a sustainable feeder pattern; 4) relocating the program will address facility space issues at Bancroft and provides an opportunity to open up special day classes for students with disabilities who have been forced out due to space issues; and 5) relocating the TWDI program to Woodside addresses the overarching issue of disparate uses of facility spaces across the District, thereby creating a new feeder pattern that will be better serve the District families as a whole.

Next Steps

At Board meetings, families expressed concerns with TK and K students not being in the same school as their older siblings while the program is phased out at Bancroft. For example, if a

³⁵ C.C.R. § 11311(h)(3) provides: “Determine, within 60 calendar days of reaching a threshold described in subdivision (h), whether it is possible to implement the requested language acquisition program; and provide notice, in writing, to parents of pupils attending the school, the school’s teachers, and administrators, of its determination[.]”

family chooses to enroll their kindergarten child in TWDI at Woodside, then that child would be separated from his/her siblings. The District notes that families frequently have to drop different age siblings off at different schools. However, the District understands that the goal is to have elementary school age children be at the same school as their siblings. Accordingly, based on the the community input, the District considered not doing a phased transition, but instead moving the entirety of the TWDI program to Woodside—grades K through fifth. In light of the years of feedback on splitting cohorts, the District believed that doing a phased transition was better for families. In addition, given the concern that families may need to do two drop-offs and pickups, the District selected Woodside due to its proximity to Bancroft and as it currently provides a no cost before and afterschool program for students (CARES).

We remain committed to supporting students, families, and staff throughout this transition. Over the coming months, we will continue to work to address your concerns with the shift by exploring options for transportation and ensuring that school schedules allow for families who wish to enroll students at Bancroft and Woodside can successfully do so.

Thank you for your continued partnership and engagement.