



School Leadership

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Alameda Area Transition Facts

- Discussion Origin
 - Successful passage of Bond issue opened up the opportunity for a potential 6th grade transition in the Alameda area
 - D'Evelyn 6th grade transition inspired the conversation
 - Alameda DAG (Design Advisory Group) supports a potential 6-12 at Alameda International
 - Recognition that there are substantive different experiences for 6th grade students in the Alameda Area compared to 6th grade students district-wide

- Earliest the 6th grade students could attend Alameda International is August 2021

- Construction funding is available now. There are no guarantees of this opportunity in the future

- There is no one best configuration for students. However, we do know that students do better with fewer transitions between schools. Our K-6/7-12 model provided for one transition. The K-5/ 6-12 model still provides only one transition

- Transitioning 6th grade students to middle school will expand their opportunities and aligns with the rest of the district's 6th grade students
 - Expanded elective opportunities including daily band/orchestra/PE
 - Increased mental health supports
 - This shift creates broader options for acceleration and greater elective opportunities.
 - Content specific highly qualified teachers

- Stakeholder voice will be heard and considered through a transparent process

- Alameda International will be designed and remodeled to accommodate 6th grade students' learning needs if the community chooses this option

- This potential transition aligns with the IB middle years programming for grades 6 - 10

- Number of students that elect to choice out of Alameda in order to attend 6th grade in a 6-8 middle school model
 - 18-19 - Alameda area 32 students
 - 19-20 - Alameda area 68 students

- The decision to move forward will be based on 66% or greater stakeholder support as measured by a survey to be administered in February/March

- Each school will make the survey available to staff and families. It will be available in multiple languages.

- If we move forward:
 - The transition will be supported by a Coordinator with experience in the most recent 6th grade transition
 - There will be a Transition Advisory Committee made up of the principals and family and staff representatives from each Alameda Area school. [Transition Advisory Committee Description](#)
 - The transition process will take a year and will involve stakeholders' input about "how" the transition occurs

Frequently Asked Questions:

- How would moving the 6th grade students impact Dual Language?
 - *Dual Language is open to all students in Alameda's feeder Dual Language program located at Emory. Dual Language is also offered at Alameda International.*
- How will we keep 6th graders safe amongst high school students?
 - *Student safety is a high priority for Alameda International administration and staff. We follow district safety guidelines.*
 - *The 6th grade core classes will be located on the first floor of the new B wing. High school classes will be located on the 3rd floor of the new B wing and the current A wing. Alameda's School Resource Officer and Campus Security are located on the first floor in the B wing in the same proximity as the 6th grade students.*
 - *The sixth grade students will have their own counselors and assistant principals. They will have a lunch period with 7th grade students. Their electives will not be with high school students.*
 - *Alameda will also have additional Campus Security with the addition of a 6th grade class.*
- Will 6th/7th/8th students interact with 9th - 12th students?
 - *As described above, the middle school students will have core classes and electives separate from high school students,*
 - *There is a whole school program called Sources of Strength that is student led. Students are nominated and participate in supervised whole school culture activities, such as anti-bullying, kindness campaign, Thanking Others campaign, etc. Parent permission is required for these activities.*
 - *Alameda has had great success with 11th and 12th grade students helping with the MS Science Fair. This is an example of when high school students would interact with middle school students.*
- How are Middle School students able or not able to be a part of dances, homecoming, prom, etc?
 - *Middle School students participate in our Pep Assemblies but are not able to participate in High School dances or prom. However, we do conduct activities, such as dances, and field day that are only for Middle School students. They also have their own Student Government and clubs.*
 - *These types of questions are what the Transition Advisory Committee addresses during the year prior to the students transitioning.*
- Why is this option being considered if in other areas of Jeffco test scores dropped in the initial year of transition?
 - *Jeffco Leadership is confident that the drop in scores is correlated to the first year of transition and reflects what researchers call an implementation dip resulting from new structures or programming in their early stages.*
 - *Alameda is fortunate to offer the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program which is a whole school IB program designed specifically for students in grades 6-10 to prepare them for the IB Diploma Program or Career Program in grades 11-12. As an IB school, Alameda is required to offer a greater variety of courses for grades 6-8 such as World Language than is typical in traditional middle schools.*
 - *To ensure a smooth transition, we look forward to working closely with our elementary colleagues to plan a positive and effective transition.*
- *What is a DAG Committee?*

- *Design Advisory Group (DAG) is comprised of the principal, architect, district construction staff, and representative staff and community members to advise the construction project. Every Jeffco school with a major construction project has a DAG to advise the architects on the design of the project.*
- What is the potential impact if this creates low enrollment elementary schools?
 - *Currently 4 of 5 elementary schools in the Alameda area have high enrollment, and this will not be a concern. The one school with lower enrollment is currently growing and adding preschool classrooms to support future enrollment.*
- Does this prevent students from attending Outdoor Lab School?
 - *6th grade students will attend Outdoor Lab School during their 6th grade year regardless if they are in an elementary school or at Alameda International.*
- What will happen to our current 6th grade teachers?
 - *Schools must follow the JCEA Article 12 which refers to the process of displacement. 6th grade teachers are part of the staff at the elementary school and, as per Article 12, displacement decisions will be based on the educational needs in the building.*
 - *[Click Link for further Information](#)*
- Does the transition have to happen in one year? Could we use the Chatfield or D'Evelyn model and transition over a 2 year period where families can choose to have their children stay at the elementary school or transition to Alameda International the first year?
 - *This could be a consideration and a question on the survey. We want to hear your thoughts on this question.*
- Is choice still an option for my student(s)? Am I still able to use Enroll Jeffco to have my student(s) attend another school?
 - *Yes. Regardless of whether the Alameda Area changes grade configuration or not, you will be able to access the choice enrollment process if you want to apply to another school.*