

How PUSD Schools Compare

Across California, a very small but growing number of public schools with higher-percentages of low-income students than Altadena have closed their academic achievement gaps and are consistently achieving top 1/3rd in California academic proficiencies – every year and in every grade and subject.

An independent study of PUSD management practices, published by order of a ballot measure approved by Pasadena, Altadena, and Sierra Madre voters, provided over 100 recommendations for closing PUSD's chronic academic achievement gaps of 30-50 percentile points by school, grade, and subject. The PUSD Board and Administration treated all of these as an unwanted imposition, rendering their implementation unrecognizable.

PUSD is also surrounded by 7 of the 29 California school districts recognized for consistently exceeding academic expectations: Arcadia, Glendale, La Canada, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena, and Temple City.

Urgency and Attention to Detail

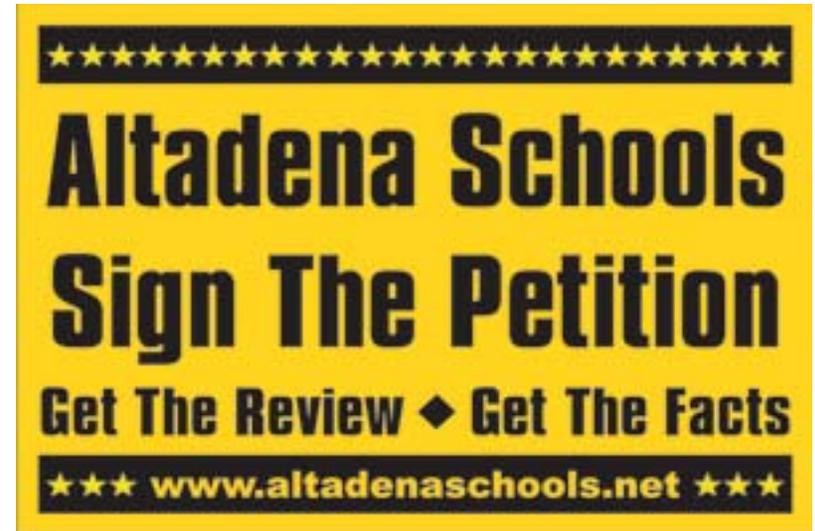
Studies of best practices show that in order to bring students to 100% grade-level academic proficiency, schools must pay close attention to detail and have a strong sense of urgency to correct each child's learning flat spot as it emerges.

In California public schools, this attention to detail and sense of urgency typically costs the same or less per child than what PUSD spends per child.

Spending

Although PUSD spends far more per student than the CA average, it is among California's academic bottom 1/3rd. 8 of the top 20 CA unified school districts spend less per student than the CA average. Most of PUSD's top demographic comparables spend the same or less than PUSD, yet all realize considerably more value from their investment.

Altadena Schools Closing the Gap



Altadenans for Quality Education Goals:

- Permanently Close the Achievement Gap
- 100% Grade-Level Academic Proficiency
- Rank among Top 33% of all California Districts
- Rank Among Top 10 Comparable California Districts
- Responsive to Students, Parents and Community
- Educational Best Practices
- Quality Education for All

www.AltadenaSchools.net

Who We Are

Altadenans for Quality Education is an organization of local citizens who have banded together to close the chronically large academic achievement gap between our low-income demographic majority and the middle-class students in our public schools. This gap has become morally, economically, and socially unacceptable for many Altadenans.

Our volunteers include residents from throughout Altadena, extending from west to east and north to south, including public and private school parents, local educators, university professors, concerned citizens, civic activists, local elected leaders, newspaper columnists, and television personalities. Our volunteers are representative of Altadena's political, ethnic, racial, and socio-economic diversity.

Our Goal

Our goal has two parts: to advise Altadena voters of the size of the academic achievement gap in our public schools and the proven methods for closing the gap; and to collect 7,000 signatures on a petition to the Los Angeles County Office of Education to confirm the feasibility of separating Altadena's schools from Pasadena. If successful, Altadena would have its own unified school district and board of education.

We believe that an Altadena Unified School District is the best chance for meeting Altadena's longstanding expectations for its students, particularly in regards to permanently closing Altadena's very large achievement gap.

The Possibilities

Temple City, Monrovia and, La Canada were each once part of the Pasadena Unified School District. By breaking away, each began charting the course that has ensured their continued success and achievements as among the highest achieving districts in California. The time has arrived for Altadena to chart the course of the possible.

What People Are Saying:

We also share the frustration of some Altadenans with the PUSD – the feeling that small can be beautiful, the understanding that some entities just need to be shaken up for shaking's sake. We'd bet there would be some real advantages for a small system for the town Just taking a look at the possibilities of a breakup can't possibly hurt – and could result in a better system.

Opinion, Pasadena Star News

The feasibility study is intended to confirm the potential viability of an Altadena Unified, before the question is put to the voters. I don't believe PUSD corruption or incompetence would be a central focus of that study, but I could see how such a discovery could be an unintended outcome.

PUSD Parent

My children went through PUSD (Franklin, Loma Alta, Eliot, Muir). It doesn't make sense that Altadena can't have better schools. Parent involvement makes a difference. Closing of Altadena schools is totally unacceptable.

Altadena Resident

I wish . . . the Altadena secession effort the best of luck, as I do sincere Charter School efforts I have seen.

Scott Phelps, Vice President
Pasadena Board of Education

How You Can Help

Can you circulate the petition among your friends, neighbors, place of worship or local school? We need 100 volunteers to each collect 20 signatures to finish signature collection in 2008. Download the petition or volunteer today at **www.AltadenaSchools.net**. Every signature puts our effort a step closer to closing the academic achievement gap.