

ARBOR HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY PTSA

www.savearborheights.com

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ARBOR HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY FACT SHEET

- Seattle School District proposes that the Arbor Heights Elementary program be eliminated and Pathfinder K-8 Alternative School be moved into the building.
- Arbor Heights Elementary is a quality neighborhood school closely resembling the ethnic makeup of Seattle.
- Closing Arbor Heights violates the District's stated goals to promote quality neighborhood schools. Other schools in the area offer a home for Pathfinder and better meet the District's closure criteria.

Arbor Heights Demographics

302 Students; 35% receive free/reduced lunch
58% White
14% Asian/Pacific Islander
10% African American
16% Latino
2% Native American

Seattle Demographics (2000 Census)

540,000 Residents
68% White
14% Asian/Pacific Islander
8% African America
6% Latino
2% Native American

Arbor Heights is a neighborhood school

- 90% of students live in the West Seattle South Cluster.
- 52% of students live in the Arbor Heights reference area (within walking distance) - only one school in the cluster (of 7 schools) has higher neighborhood attendance.
- 1/3 of Arbor Heights parents are PTSA members.
- Both kindergarten teachers attended Arbor Heights as children.
- 60% of school staff lives within 5 miles of Arbor Heights; many grew up in the neighborhood.
- Arbor Heights logs in well over 12,000 volunteer service hours each year by family and community members.
- Cost to bus 174 Arbor Heights students **not** currently needing District transportation away from their neighborhood school would increase District's busing costs by \$191,400 per year.¹

Arbor Heights' education is in demand

- In 2007-2008 school year AH was the first choice of 62.5% of students, 2nd highest rank in West Seattle South Cluster (7 schools); higher than the district average.
- Arbor Heights can support increased demand - staff have repeatedly sought to add a third kindergarten class (in 2004, 58 kindergarten families listed AH as first choice). The District has not chosen to fund a third class.
- Arbor Heights staff sought to expand the school to K-6 or K-8. District decided the school had insufficient space.

Classes at Arbor Heights are full

- Arbor Heights is 97.5% enrolled.
- Arbor Heights has been provided 12 regular education teachers by Seattle School District. Using the School District's goal of 23 children per K-3 elementary class and 25 children per 4-5 class for full enrollment, Arbor Heights capacity would be 284 without special education [Capacity Management Report]. Current regular enrollment at Arbor Heights is 277 regular students, only 7 students short of 100% enrollment.

Arbor Heights offers a quality education

- Arbor Heights is a Level 1 Academic program (highest level). Three of the four other school programs being eliminated are failing under No Child Left Behind (African American Academy, AS#1, Meany Middle School).

¹ Source – school data says 130 students use District transportation; District cost per student transported was \$1,100 in 2004 – Community Advisory Committee for Investing in Educational Excellence Final Report, February 10, 2006, Page 58 - <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/committeeforexc/final.pdf>

- Arbor Heights offers a model integration with special education programs. The two special education classrooms integrate well with the mainstream school, and pull out special education (IEP) program works so well that kids often don't even know they are in special education.
- Arbor Heights is a Seattle School District Flight School - an innovative partnership to increase family/community involvement and increase student achievement.

Other West Seattle South Cluster Schools Better Alternatives for Closure

- West Seattle Elementary draws only 36.1% attendance from their reference area; only 22.7% of families listed the school as first choice; and 42.34% of current Pathfinder students reside in West Seattle Elementary reference area – that would eliminate need to bus 150 students out of neighborhood, saving \$165,000 per year.
- Cooper Elementary draws only 29.5% attendance from their reference area; only 22% of families listed Cooper as first choice; and 15% of current Pathfinder students reside in Cooper reference area. Cooper is located on spacious greenbelt, which fits Pathfinder’s environmental education focus.
- Roxhill Elementary draws only 26.3% attendance from their reference area; only 17.2% of families listed Roxhill as first choice; 4% of current Pathfinder students resident in Roxhill reference area. Roxhill is adjacent to Longfellow Creek Trail’s beginning - Roxhill Bog, a recently unearthed 10,000-year-old peat bog that is the headwaters of Longfellow creek – a fit for Pathfinder’s environmental education focus.
- If Arbor Heights special education students are dispersed along with the general population (as recommended at other closed schools), more West Seattle schools would have capacity to hold Pathfinder. Seattle School District is calculating capacity by co-locating Arbor Heights special ed students with Pathfinder at Arbor Heights building.

First Choice of Schools - South West Seattle Cluster + Cooper

| School | 2007 First Choice |
|---|-------------------|
| Concord | 66.20% |
| Arbor Heights | 62.50% |
| Sanislo | 62.30% |
| Highland Park | 51.90% |
| Gatewood | 42.20% |
| West Seattle | 22.70% |
| Cooper | 22.00% |
| Roxhill | 17.20% |
| District Average | 60.40% |
| http://www.seattleschools.org/area/asiso/disprof/2007/DP07indsch.pdf page 14-15. | |

| School | 2007 Attendance from reference area | 2007-2008 enrollment | Capacity for Pathfinder | Student Turnover per year (Transfer out) |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Concord | 60.70% | 303 | Yes | 8% |
| Arbor Heights | 52.00% | 309 | Yes | 7% |
| Highland Park | 47.50% | 406 | Yes | 10% |
| West Seattle | 36.10% | 263 | Yes | 13% |
| Gatewood | 32.20% | 292 | Yes | 10% |
| Sanislo | 31.40% | 312 | no | 5% |
| Cooper | 29.50% | 268 | Yes | 14% |
| Roxhill | 26.30% | 243 | Yes | 20% |

Data on Arbor Heights from District's *Capacity Management: Superintendents' Preliminary Recommendations on Building Closure and Program Relocation*.

Data on all other schools from <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/asiso/disprof/2007/DP07indsch.pdf> page 14-15.