



Sun Valley Middle School

Board District 6 (Martinez) | Local District 2 (Pena-Sanchez)

Sun Valley Middle School (Lee).....APPROVED

RATIONALE

- Sun Valley Middle School proposes to implement a new small school approach to empower their students and prepare them for high school, college, and careers. Two new academies will be developed at the school – a Social Justice Academy and Environmental Science Academy – and both will implement the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program.
- The instructional program includes several research-based and student-focused strategies such as data-driven instruction, personalized instruction, academic vocabulary across grade levels, Cornell note-taking lessons, thinking maps, project-based learning, and culturally relevant instruction.
- The plan includes several innovative ideas including regular office hours for staff and an enrichment/intervention block that still gives underperforming students access to electives. Faculty will be given unique opportunities for professional development, such as participation at the TED Conference.
- Youth Policy Institute (YPI) has been identified as a close partner of the school to provide critical support in performance data analysis, curriculum development and implementation, professional development, wrap around services, and parent education.
- While academic achievement is the primary focus of the plan, the school envisions itself as a true community school, where services are available for all students and families. The school plans to integrate academics, social services, youth and community development to create a healthier community.

NEXT STEPS

- Approval is contingent upon the enactment by UTLA of all waivers requested by the design team.
- Further details regarding upcoming support activities including, but not limited to scheduling follow-up parent meetings, dates of upcoming workshops, implementation support over the summer, etc., will be communicated to the team by the PSC Team in the coming weeks.