

Fruchthendler Elementary School Proposal



FRUCHTHENDLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Proposal Description:

- Change K-5 to a K-6
- Immediate Needs: No renovations needed
- Long Term Plan: Additional classroom space may be desired for Music, if the multi-purpose room cannot accommodate it. Additional classrooms may be needed depending on the success of the program to attract TUSD Area students who do not attend TUSD schools

Integration Strategies:

Pairing and Clustering: Fruchthendler is geographically far from any other elementary school; Pairing or clustering it with another school to share a boundary is not feasible.

Boundaries: No boundary changes required; boundary changes would not increase integration

Magnet: Fruchthendler is not a magnet school, and the proposal would not significantly impact any surrounding magnet schools (the nearest magnet schools are more than five miles away).

Open Enrollment (supported by incentive transportation): Students living within the boundary of a Racially Concentrated school could attend Fruchthendler through open enrollment. For students whose enrollment would increase integration at Fruchthendler, the District would provide free transportation in the form of an express bus from a central location to Collier (perhaps combine 6th graders open enrolled to Fruchthendler with 7th and 8th graders open enrolled to Sabino, if Sabino is approved). An increase in non-Anglo students at Fruchthendler would move it towards the definition of an Integrated School

Proposal-specific strategies to promote integration and/or other USP activities: In 2014-15, Magee's student population was 46% Anglo, 13% African American, and 34% Latino). A reduction in Anglo student percentage and/or an increase in Latino student percentage would move Magee towards the definition of an Integrated School. Developing and offering enhanced ALE programs at Magee (AVID and/or partnerships with Sahuaro High School for AP or Dual-Credit courses) could operate to attract more Latino students to Magee, and to prepare African American and Latino students for success in core classes and Advanced Learning Experiences (ALEs).

Pros and Cons:

Pros:

- Increases enrollment at a school which is not racially concentrated
- Increase choice for parents and students in TUSD. By right, the students in these schools may still attend the middle school that currently serves them.
- May retain a large number of 5th grade students within TUSD who currently leave for surrounding districts or charters (over 80 students in the area do not attend TUSD 6th grades)
- May attract the large number of students in the TUSD boundary, 60% of whom do not currently attend TUSD schools
- Include multi-cultural and athletic after school programs to attract diverse students and to provide child-care for those taking an express bus
- Low cost
- Impacts on Magee are small (less than 10 students)

Cons:

- Prepare for 7th grade transition, versus 6th grade, into middle school
- Capacity may be limited for future growth (though enrollments are declining)
- No science lab for 6th graders, as they might have in middle school (use science cart)

Costs:

Construction: Immediate Needs \$30,000; Long Term Plan: \$0, depending on the program success in attracting new TUSD boundary students

Transportation: \$64,000 for an express bus (costs shared with Collier) (ride time 35 minutes)

Marketing: Included in overall School Choice marketing plan

Fruchthendler Evaluation:

Pos(+)	Neut.	Neg(-)	Criteria
	X		Demographics (i.e., race, ethnicity, exceptional ed., current and projected enrollment, current and projected development patterns, socio economic status, GATE and other)
	X		Targeted operating capacities
X			Current and planned instructional programs
	X		Effects on integration
	X		Student transportation
	X		Feeder patterns
X			Fiscal impacts

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT DESEGREGATION IMPACT ANALYSIS

Action: Fruchthendler as a K-6 School

Summary

Fruchthendler Elementary School is a K-5 school that serves the northwest area of TUSD just west of Sabino Creek and south toward Tanque Verde Road. This is an analysis of the racial-ethnic composition of Fruchthendler as a K-5 school, the impact of adding a 6th grade to that school, and estimated impacts of the proposed change to the District's obligations under the USP.

A. Analysis of the impact of the requested action on the District's obligation to desegregate.

Current K-5 Enrollment at Fruchthendler

As shown in the Table 1 there are approximately 350 students at Fruchthendler—50 to 60 students per grade. The racial-ethnic composition is 65% Anglo and 30% African American and Latino.

Based on 2010 census data, for the Fruchthendler Area, there are over 40 students per grade in the K-5 level who do not attend TUSD schools and over 80 who do not attend TUSD schools in the 6th grade (see the map below).

According to the current principal, the vast majority of Fruchthendler families choose to go outside of TUSD for middle school because: 1) there are two competitive middle school options within a mile of Fruchthendler (Esperero to the north and Basis to the west) and 2) the TUSD middle school (Magee) that Fruchthendler feeds into is four miles away and the opposite direction most parents travel to get to work. Then, when parents choose a non-TUSD school, they also tend to take their younger children from Fruchthendler to the adjoining elementary school in an effort to have all family members on the same district calendar.

Impact on Fruchthendler as a K-6 School

Based on typical transition rates from 5th grade to 6th grade for K-8 and K-6 schools, the change would add approximately 40 to 50 students to Fruchthendler, resulting in 2 small classes or 1 class and a combo class. However, with the strong potential to attract students who attend non-TUSD schools, the projections are based on adding 54 students in the 6th grade. Those impacts are shown in Table 1.

The school has two resource rooms (Speech, GATE, Special Ed and ELD), 1 classroom, two portables and a computer room. Not counting the portables, the school has a capacity of 440 as currently used and the capacity could be increased to 470 by scheduling resource programs to share rooms and the portables. Now, with 350 students, Fruchthendler is at 80% utilization; with the additional students and revised scheduling, it would increase to 85% utilization, an ideal utilization rate.

The change is expected to have very little impact on the racial ethnic composition of Fruchthendler because the population that would attend the 6th grade has essentially the same composition as the current K-5 population.

Table 1

Change Component

School (grades)	Anglo	Afr Am	Hisp	Nat Am	Asian-PI	Multi	Total
Continue at Fruchthendler (6 th)	36	1	14	0	1	2	54
	% 66%	2%	26%	0%	2%	4%	

Fruchthendler Impacts

School (grades)	Anglo	Afr Am	Hisp	Nat Am	Asian-PI	Multi	Total
Fruchthendler (current K-5)	228	20	83	1	5	12	349
	% 65%	6%	24%	0%	1%	3%	
Fruchthendler (projected K-6)	264	21	97	1	6	14	403
	% 66%	5%	24%	0%	1%	3%	

Impact of an Express Bus on Fruchthendler as a K-6 School

A survey of 5th graders in racially concentrated middle school areas indicated that 99 parents (29% of respondents) would be interested in having their children attend Fruchthendler if a 6th grade were added and if transportation were provided. If this were applied to all 7 grades that might be able to attend Fruchthendler (K-6), there would be close to 700 parents interested. For the purposes of this analysis, we have assumed there would be one bus with 30 students (approximately 4% of the potential indicated by the survey).

The results shown below indicate that the additional students from racially concentrated schools areas would move the school 4% to 5% closer to being integrated in two racial-ethnic categories.

Table 2

Change (grades)	Anglo	Afr Am	Hisp	Nat Am	Asian-PI	Multi	Total
Express Bus (K-6)	0	1	26	2	0	1	30
	% 0%	3%	87%	7%	0%	3%	

School (grades)	Anglo	Afr Am	Hisp	Nat Am	Asian-PI	Multi	Total
Fruchthendler (projected K-6)	264	21	97	1	6	14	403
	% 66%	5%	24%	0%	1%	3%	
Fruchthendler (projected K-6 w/ express bus)	264	22	123	3	6	15	433
	% 61%	5%	28%	1%	1%	3%	

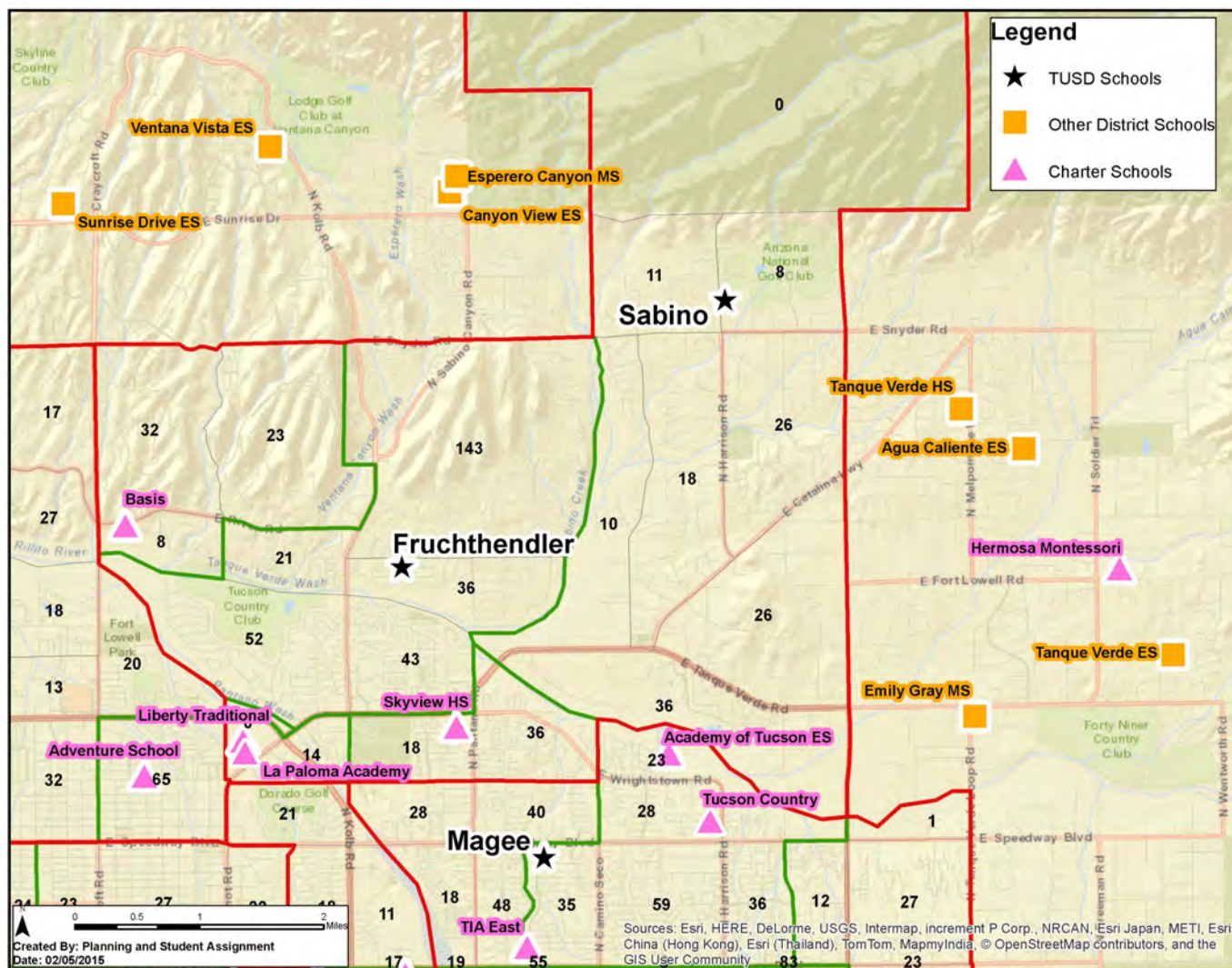
Impacts on Magee Middle School, Sabino High School and Other Schools

The impacts on Magee and other schools are reported separately in the Sabino DIA.

Map of the Area

The following shows the Sabino Area, outlined in red, and within it, the Fruchthendler Area, in green. The Fruchthendler K-5 Area is wholly within the Sabino HS Area. The Sabino HS Area also includes the Collier K-5 Area and portions of Bloom, Hudlow, and Whitmore. At the middle school level, it includes a large portion of Magee and, to a much lesser extent, Booth-Fickett.

The numbers within each area show the total number of middle-school-age students in 2010 who did not attend TUSD schools. The largest such number is in the area directly north of Fruchthendler.



Renovation Costs

- Immediate Needs: \$30,000
- Long Term Plan: \$0

Transportation Costs

- \$64,000 for an express bus (costs could be shared with Collier) (ride time 35 minutes)
- \$0 to add a Roskruge stop to an existing Fruchthendler route (ride time 1 hour)

B. Analysis of how the proposed change will impact the District's obligations under the USP

The District, Plaintiffs, and Special Master have identified 65 USP implementation activities, organized by the ten USP sections I-X. Below, the District analyzes the potential impact of the proposed grade configuration change on the District's obligations under each of the ten USP sections:

- 1. Compliance** No potential impact.
- 2. Student Assignment** The proposal itself will result in minimal potential impact to Fruchthendler itself, as shown in Section A above. However, an extremely low number of middle-school-aged students from the Fruchthendler area attend District schools for 6th through 8th grade. Retaining more of these students at Fruchthendler (students who now attend non-District schools) will offer additional opportunities to increase integration districtwide by broadening the pool of available students to which the District can more directly engage in marketing, outreach, and recruitment activities. As an ancillary measure, the District is proposing to develop ALE programs (AVID and/or partnerships with Sahuaro High School for pre-AP or Dual-Credit courses) at nearby Magee Middle School to increase its attractiveness to Latino students and families to increase integration at Magee.
- 3. Transportation** Positive impact if the express bus is added; students living within the boundary of a racially concentrated school, whose enrollment at Fruchthendler would improve integration, would receive free transportation to Fruchthendler via an express bus..
- 4. Admin/Cert Staff** No potential impact.
- 5. Quality of Education** Positive impact by the addition of AVID and AP programs at Magee to prepare African American and Latino students for success in core classes and Advanced Learning Experiences (ALEs) such as GATE and pre-AP classes...
- 6. Discipline** No potential impact.
- 7. Family and Community Engagement** Currently, many students and families living in the Fruchthendler area disengage from the District after 5th grade, frustrating efforts at family engagement, including: marketing, outreach, and recruitment; ALE, UHS, and

dual-language recruitment ; and sharing information about college, career, and other opportunities available through the District. Creating a K-6 school will likely improve family engagement and participation at Fruchthendler, translating to increased student retention, improvements in educational outcomes, reductions in disciplinary issues, and improved culture and climate.

8. **Extracurricular Activities** As the enrollment of Collier increases, so to do the opportunities to offer a wider variety of extracurricular activities which afford students opportunities to engage in interracial contact in positive settings of shared interest.
9. **Facilities and Technology** No potential impact.
10. **Accountability and Transparency** No potential impact.

C. Notes on the Above Demographic Analysis

- All of the projections are estimates based on current patterns of choice. There is little data on preferences for 6th grades in an elementary school. The exception is Drachman K-6 which has a 5th to 6th grade transition of 60% to 80%. The 5th to 6th transition rates at K-8 schools (50% to 80%) are similar.
- The above estimates are based on current TUSD students. Because K-8 capture rates (TUSD students/total school age population) are less than 60% in the subject areas, there is a potential to attract students who do not currently attend TUSD schools. For example, as shown in the table below, 75% of the Fruchthendler 5th graders in SY2013-14 did not attend TUSD schools in 6th grade the following year.

Transition of Fruchthendler 5 th Graders into 6 th Grade	
School	Enrollment
Not in TUSD	47
Dodge Magnet	4
Doolen	1
Fickett Magnet	1
Gridley	1
Magee	9

FRUCHTHENDLER K-6 PARENT SURVEY SUMMARY

Fruchthendler was historically a K-6 school. It is located in a very unique geographic location in the northeastern boundary of TUSD. Our families face distinct challenges for 6th grade based on the proximity of options available to the Fruchthendler neighborhood. With the advent of open enrollment, parents have more choices than ever before. One dilemma is the Catalina Foothills School District's middle school located ½ mile closer to Fruchthendler than the closest TUSD middle school (Magee Middle School). Traffic conditions amplify the ½ mile distance to Magee, resulting in a significantly longer travel time. Another dilemma is BASIS Charter School, which is a nationally ranked top-ten charter school. BASIS recently opened a middle school less than a mile from Fruchthendler. The dilemma is compounded further when Fruchthendler parents are challenged by having sibling students attending schools on different school calendars. The net effect is an additional loss of TUSD students to the Catalina Foothills School District, in the form of younger siblings.

A compilation of data revealed that over 90% of our current 57 fifth grade students expressed a desire or intent to remain at Fruchthendler if 6th grade was offered. 6th grade at Fruchthendler would be a viable alternative for families who are currently leaving the school district for other school choice options. Fruchthendler had over 20 parents and staff present at a recent school board meeting where the topic was once again discussed, continuing to reinforce our desire to grow our school. We polled our existing staff and discovered 100% of Fruchthendler's existing educational professionals support the 6th grade proposal. The faculty and staff were enthused at the prospect of extending the educational continuity that a 6th grade program would offer at Fruchthendler.

Parent-Link Phone Survey

Questions for parents of 5th graders who live in the attendance areas of Racially Concentrated middle schools, and who would be eligible for incentive transportation to Magee:

Magee Middle School is an eastside school with strong academics and an outstanding Odyssey of the Mind competition group. Would you be interested in free transportation to Magee Middle School?

Yes 140 No 240

Fruchthendler is a highly performing school on the eastside of Tucson. Would you be interested in free transportation to Fruchthendler Elementary School if sixth grade were added?

Yes 99 No 246

Collier is a tight-knit community of learners on the northeast side of Tucson. Would you be interested in free transportation to Collier if sixth grade were added?

Yes 82 No 244