

May 3, 2002  
San Francisco  
Parents Advocating School Accountability  
www.pasasf.org

## **Yee's Proposed SFUSD Split Would Segregate Districts**

San Francisco Supervisor Leland Yee, 12<sup>th</sup> District Democratic nominee for state Assembly, has proposed dividing San Francisco Unified School District into separate school districts, essentially creating a white/Asian district and a separate Latino/African-American district.

Yee's proposed predominantly white/Asian school district, west of Twin Peaks and incorporating the sprawling Richmond and Sunset neighborhoods, would contain all of the existing school district's 10 top-scoring elementary schools, four of the top five middle schools and four of the top five high schools, based on the state's Academic Performance Index. (See rankings below. Note: Seventh-ranked Claire Lilienthal Elementary has two campuses, one in Yee's proposed westside district, the other unclear in the Yee plan.)

Ironically, Yee himself was accused several years ago of using a friend's address to get his children into prestigious Hoover Middle School, which would fall in his proposed westside school district, when he lived in the Mission District, in his proposed eastside school district. The incident was reported in the Oct. 30, 1996, San Francisco Examiner (Venise Wagner, "Yee Not Afraid to Ask Tough Questions").

Yee's proposed westside district would encompass predominantly white and Asian neighborhoods. Many of the city's predominantly African-American and Latino neighborhoods – including the Mission District, Bayview/Hunters Point and probably Visitacion Valley – fall in his proposed eastside school district. It was not clear where dividing lines north of Golden Gate Park and south of Interstate 280 would fall.

The May 2 San Francisco Examiner, which disclosed the Yee proposal, did not quote any supporters of the concept.

Yee made the proposal in response to widespread outrage among Sunset District neighbors of San Francisco's popular Lincoln High School whose children were not assigned to Lincoln for fall 2002.

Lincoln, which had far more applicants than seats, is actually not among the top five high schools based on test scores. It ranks No. 6 in the district, behind Lowell, School of the Arts, Gateway, Leadership and Washington. All but Leadership would definitely fall in Yee's proposed western district. It was not clear in which district Leadership would land.

San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent Arlene Ackerman reacted strongly to Yee's proposal. "It is ironic that some of the proponents of this proposal to segregate our schools by race and ethnicity are among those who have benefitted from the civil rights movement," she told

the Examiner. “I am confident that this community will not allow people with political agendas to turn back 50 years of progress to a time before the 1954 ‘Brown v. Topeka Board of Education’ decision.”

Ackerman invoked Lincoln High School’s namesake in her comments, adding: “It is most unfortunate that this debate and proposal most directly involve a school named after a president who fought hard to keep our country from dividing over race.”

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### **SFUSD’s top 10 elementary schools ranked by API (number after address is API score)**

1. Clarendon Alternative 500 Clarendon Ave. (Midtown Terrace\*) 878
2. Alamo 250 23rd Ave. (Richmond District\*) 866
3. Lawton 1570 31st Ave. (Sunset District\*) 861
4. Robert Louis Stevenson 2051 34<sup>th</sup> Ave. (Sunset District\*) 828
4. Jefferson 1725 Irving St. (Sunset District\*) 828
6. Alice Fong Yu Alternative 1541 12th Ave. (Inner Sunset\*) 827
7. C. Lilienthal Alternative 3950 Sacramento St. (Inner Richmond\*) and 3630 Divisadero St. (Marina\*\*) 826
8. West Portal 5 Lenox Way (West Portal\*) 823
9. Argonne Alternative 680 18th Ave. (Richmond District\*) 819
10. Commodore Sloat 50 Darien Way (Balboa Terrace\*) 813

\* This address lies in Yee’s proposed westside district.

\*\* It’s unclear whether this address would lie in Yee’s proposed eastside or westside district.

### **Top 5 middle schools ranked by API (excluding K-8s)**

1. Presidio 450 30th Ave. (Richmond District\*) 830
2. Herbert Hoover 2290 14th Ave. (Sunset District\*) 800
3. A.P. Giannini 3151 Ortega St. (Sunset District\*) 796
4. Marina 3500 Fillmore St. (Marina District\*\*) 744
5. Roosevelt 460 Arguello Blvd. (Richmond District\*) 734

\* This address lies in Yee’s proposed westside district.

\*\* It’s unclear whether this address would lie in Yee’s proposed eastside or westside district.

### **Top 5 high schools ranked by API**

1. Lowell 1101 Eucalyptus Drive (Sunset District\*) 941
2. School of the Arts 700 Font Blvd. (Parkmerced/Sunset\*\*\*) 739
3. Leadership Charter 300 Seneca Ave. (Mission Terrace\*\*) 711
4. Gateway Charter 1350 Seventh Ave. (Inner Sunset\*) 698
5. George Washington 600 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. (Richmond District\*) 694

- \* This address is west of Twin Peaks, in Yee's proposed westside district.
- \*\* It's unclear whether this address would lie in Yee's proposed eastside or westside district.
- \*\*\* School of the Arts is moving for fall 2002 to the current McAteer High School campus – also west of Twin Peaks and thus presumably in Yee's proposed westside district.

To follow online discussion of Yee's proposal and other issues, go to the sfschools e-group:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sfschools/> (free registration is required)

For more information on Leland Yee, go to [www.pasasf.org](http://www.pasasf.org). PASA is an advocacy organization and our press releases reflect our point of view. Our material is reported and written in accordance with professional standards for accuracy. Any problems called to our attention will be corrected or responded to publicly as appropriate.