

Whittier Union High School District  
Whittier, California

July 2006

**DISTRICT OVERVIEW AND FACILITY  
IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

**Information**

The seven secondary schools of the Whittier Union High School District serve the ethnically diverse community of the greater Whittier area. With the primary goal of improving student achievement, the District is committed to rigorous student-centered, standards-based curriculum and instructional personalization, collaborative decision-making and active parent and community involvement.

Each of the seven high schools has been given great latitude and funding to design and implement programs to carry out the District's vision of student achievement resulting from the development of student-centered quality learning environments.

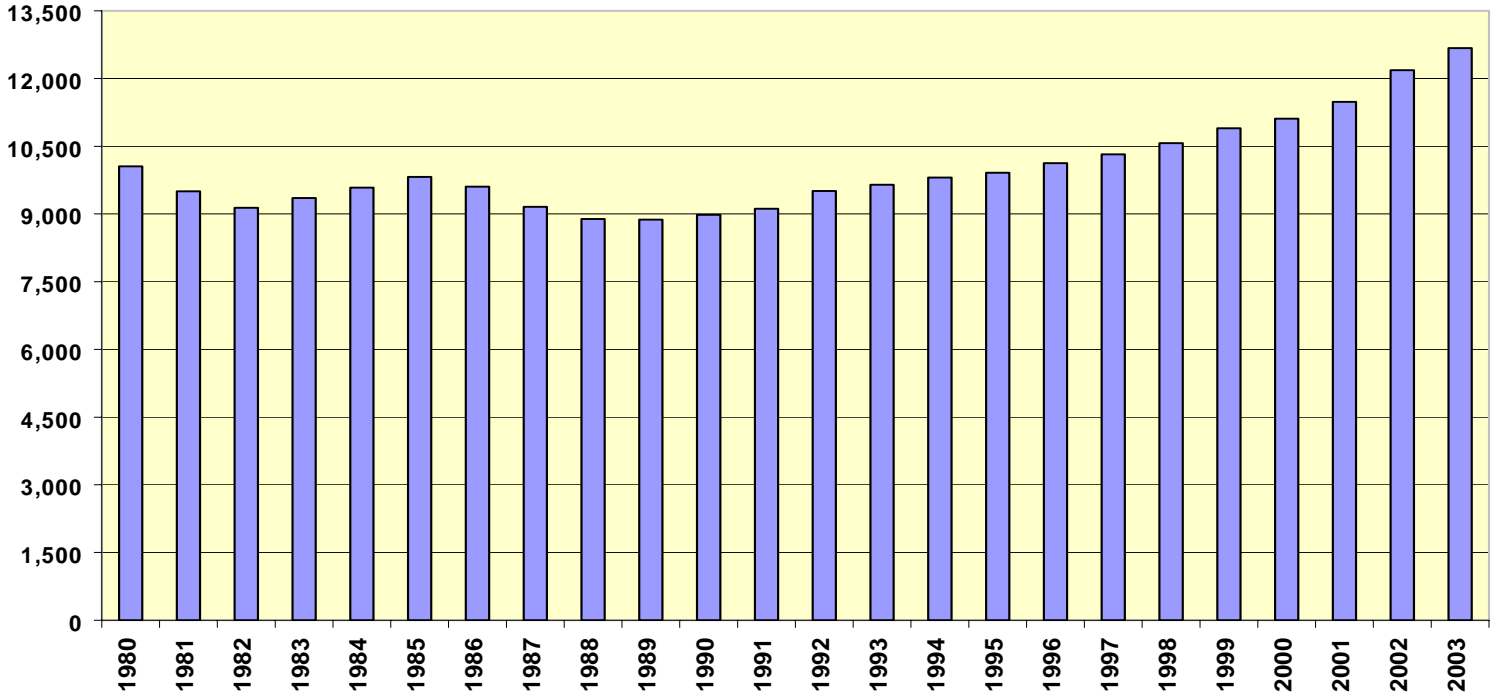
Because of the District's location in the center of Southern California, the Pacific Ocean, San Gabriel Mountains, and Mojave Desert are readily accessible and offer abundant recreational activities. The District has a grade 9-12 enrollment of 12,674 students. There are 594 certificated and 465 classified employees.

The District's General Fund budget is approximately \$90 million.

**Enrollment and Capacity Dynamics**

Historical Enrollment - Since 1980, student enrollment in the Whittier Union High School District has experienced dramatic fluctuations, with two periods of diminishing enrollment followed by two periods of growth as illustrated. The 1980 count of 10,054 had dropped to 9,137 in 1982 before climbing to 9,819 in 1985. Enrollment then declined again in the last half of the 1980's before starting a relatively long period of sustained growth throughout the 1990's, resulting in a net gain of 1,057 students over the twenty-year period.

**Whittier Union High School District  
ENROLLMENT HISTORY  
1980 - 2003**



Whittier Union High School District  
**ENROLLMENT HISTORY**  
 1980 – 2003

<i>Year</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>Annual Enrollment Change</i>	<i>Annual Percentage Change</i>
1980	10,054		
1981	9,503	(551)	(5.5)%
1982	9,137	(366)	(3.9)%
1983	9,352	215	2.4%
1984	9,584	232	2.5%
1985	9,819	235	2.5%
1986	9,602	(217)	(2.2)%
1987	9,157	(445)	(4.6)%
1988	8,889	(268)	(2.9)%
1989	8,874	(15)	(0.2)%
1990	8,979	105	1.2%
1991	9,115	136	1.5%
1992	9,507	392	4.3%
1993	9,647	140	1.5%
1994	9,807	160	1.7%
1995	9,912	105	1.1%
1996	10,125	213	2.1%
1997	10,320	195	1.9%
1998	10,567	247	2.4%
1999	10,896	329	3.1%
2000	11,111	215	2.0%
2001	11,482	371	3.3%
2002	12,183	701	6.1%
2003	12,674	491	4.0%
<i>TOTAL CHANGE</i>		2,620	
<i>AVERAGE ANNUAL INCREASE</i>		114	1.06%

At the same time, the District's growth rate has varied from a negative (5.5%) in 1981 to a 6.1% increase in 2002 for an average compounded twenty-year growth rate of 1.06%. The absolute changes ranged from a loss of 551 students to a gain of 701, equating to an average annual increase of 114 students.

When the past ten years are considered separately, however, the annual average increase jumps to 303 students and a growth rate of 2.77% annually.

Whittier Union High School District <i>SUMMARY OF ENROLLMENT HISTORY</i> 1980 - 2003													
1980 - 1985		1985 - 1990		1980 - 1990		1990 - 1995		1995 - 2000		1990 - 2000		1993 - 2003	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
(47)	(0.5)	(168)	(1.8)	108	(1.1)	187	2.0	240	2.3	213	2.2	303	2.77

Enrollment Projections - The District's most recent enrollment projections are summarized in the Table below, which presents a three-year projection from the current year. This enrollment projection estimates that by the school year 2006/07, the enrollment for the traditional schools in the District will have increased to 12,580 from 2003/04's level of 11,460, adding 1,120 more students.

Whittier Union High School District <i>ENROLLMENT PROJECTION SUMMARY - THREE YEARS</i> 2006/07					
<i>Grades</i>	2003/04			2006/07	
9	3,338			3,663	
10	3,239			3,555	
11	2,685			2,946	
12	2,198			2,416	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,460</b>			<b>12,580</b>	
Total Projected Change 2003/04 – 2006/07				Average Annual Projected Change 2003/04 – 2006/07	
	Number	Percent	Share of Change	Number	Percent
9	325	9.7%	29%	108	3.23%
10	316	9.7%	28%	105	3.23%
11	261	9.7%	23%	87	3.23%
12	218	9.99%	20%	73	3.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>9.75%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>3.25%</b>
<i>Does not include independent and continuation studies</i>					

Current Housing - The Whittier Union High School District is currently operating a total of five traditional high school sites with enrollment (2003/04) ranging from 1,711 to 2,727. Each of these schools is more than 40 years old and requires significant reconstruction to remain educationally viable.

Whittier Union High School District <i><b>ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL</b></i> <i><b>2003/04</b></i>	
<u><i>School</i></u>	<u><i>Current Enrollment</i></u>
California	2,727
La Serna	2,148
Pioneer	1,711
Santa Fe	2,661
Whittier	2,219
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,460</b>

### **FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

As part of its response to the necessity of providing adequate housing for the expected growth in enrollment with facilities that are both conducive to learning and reflective of current educational and technological standards, the District has prepared and is implementing a facilities plan which indicates a facilities need of \$190 million for reconstruction and new construction throughout the District.

#### **How Facility Needs Were Determined**

In 1991, the Board of Trustees of the Whittier Union High School District called for an election for a \$75 million dollar bond for the improvement of its facilities. At that time, a detailed facilities analysis was conducted and it was determined that district facilities were in need of extensive repairs, retrofit, and modernization. Although the bond failed to pass by a minimum margin, the District continued to pursue State funding and was successful in obtaining modernization funds for one of its sites: Whittier High School. The District had applications for Modernization funding on file with the State for their remaining sites.

The 1994 Northridge earthquake caused extensive damage to District facilities, particularly to Whittier High School's almost century old buildings. Most of the improvements made possible by the State Modernization Funding Program were lost or damaged by the earthquake.

The Whittier Union High School District actively pursued federal funding to repair all of the structural damage resulting from the Northridge earthquake. Multi-million dollar repairs were needed to reinforce the structural components of the buildings and replace cracked concrete roofs.

These extensive repairs would not retrofit the District's schools to equip them for the next century. Basic infrastructure such as plumbing, electrical wiring, ventilation, and wiring for technology was needed, in addition to increasing utility and security services such as fire alarms, bells and intercoms.

In recognition of these significant needs, a Facilities Focus Committee was formed in the summer of 1998. The committee was made up of a cross section of citizens, parents, and staff, including representatives from booster clubs, PTA's, associations, and administrators.

Over a period of four months the committee worked together to identify critical facility needs and possible solutions. Members of the committee toured campuses, reviewed facility need funding options, and met with architects to review facility upgrade proposals and costs. They unanimously recommended that the District pursue a bond measure to finance the improvements needed to secure the quality of facilities for serving students well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Funding Analysis**

In preparation for the partial funding of the required facilities, the District submitted to the voters and obtained approval of a \$98 million general obligation bond in March 1999. In addition, the District has received a \$29 million contribution from the State School Program in Modernization funding. This is supplemented by approximately \$54,000,000 in FEMA 406 funding from the Northridge earthquake disaster and \$4.8 million in FEMA 404 Hazard Mitigation funding.

Whittier Union High School District <i>FACILITIES FUNDING ANALYSIS</i> 2004	
General Obligation Bond	\$ 98,000,000
State Contribution	29,000,000
FEMA Combined	58,800,000
Other (Insurance and Critical Hardship)	8,300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 194,100,000</b>

**Location and Summary of Facilities**

The District serves a student population of 12,674 at six school sites. California, La Serna, Pioneer, Santa Fe, and Whittier High Schools are comprehensive school sites serving grades 9-12. The Sierra Education Center houses Frontier High, a continuation high school; Sierra Vista High, an Independent Study program; and the Whittier Adult School.

The following is a profile of the District's school facilities:

	<i>California</i>	<i>La Serna</i>	<i>Pioneer</i>	<i>Santa Fe</i>	<i>Whittier</i>	<i>SEC</i>
Site Purchased	1950	1956	1956	1951	1904	1952
Size of Site (acres)	58	37	40	39	29	47
School Opened	1953	1961	1959	1955	1900	1957
Age	52	43	45	51	104	47
2003/04 Enrollment	2,727	2,148	1,711	2,661	2,213	2014

**Student Generation Factors** – In order to estimate the student generation factor for the Whittier Union High School District, an initial estimate was made of total households within the District for the year 2000. This was accomplished by utilizing 2000 census data at the census tract level, and focusing on those tracts and parts thereof which lie within District boundaries.

Fifty-six such sub-areas were identified in the District. The City of Whittier and its adjacent unincorporated area (which in this analysis included part of La Habra Heights) contained approximately 40% of the households, while Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs accounted for about 11% and 8% of the households, respectively; the small balance remaining was in La Mirada and Downey.<sup>1</sup> The estimated District household count determined from this approach equaled 59,583 for the year 2000.

Whittier Union High School District <i>SUMMARY OF HOUSEHOLD ESTIMATE</i> 2001	
<b>Part of District</b>	<b>Estimated Households</b>
Whittier	24,709
Los Angeles County (includes part of La Habra Heights)	22,444
Norwalk	6,261
Santa Fe Springs	4,629
La Mirada	1,137
Downey	403
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,583</b>

Source: US Census; SCAG; School Planning Services, 2001

The estimate of households is then compared to the District’s 2000/01 enrollment records in order to establish the average number of 9-12 students emanating from houses in the District. The following table presents the results of that effort. Under these assumptions, the Student Generation Factor for the Whittier Union High School District has been determined to average 0.19.<sup>1</sup>

Whittier Union High School District <i>STUDENT GENERATION FACTORS (SGF)</i> 2000/01			
<i>Grades</i>	<i>Housing Units</i>	<i>Student Count</i>	<i>SGF</i>
9-12	59,583	11,111	0.19

Source: US Census; SCAG; School Planning Services, 2001

<sup>1</sup> The District also includes part of the City of Industry and a very small piece of Pico Rivera, both of which are non-residential in nature.