

WEBFORM SUBMISSION

Submitted by user

Name:

Mary A Ponder

Email:

Phone Number:

Student Name (if applicable):

School (if applicable):

All Oak Park Area Schools

Comment or Question:

#9.5 (SCUSD Strategic Priorities Investment Plan should include the dismissal of punitive discipline, school suspensions, and school pushouts, and utilize restorative practices and definitely Positive Behavior Intervention strategies. Positive means "give what you require" You want, respect and kindness then lead with that, and they should return with the same. Parents should be the lead, on home contact, and provide insight into their child's discipline if they cannot your staff of many different positions provide the knowledge on positive interventions to the parent and the child. Do not leave the issue to the school, the parent has a say in the child's discipline.

WEBFORM SUBMISSION

Submitted by user

Name:

KENNETH E BOGLE

Email:

Phone Number:

Student Name (if applicable):

Sam Fine

School (if applicable):

William Land Elementary

Comment or Question:

Estimable members of the SCUSD School Board:

Hello, my name is Ken. I have two young children in SCUSD schools. I am writing you to make a quick case that regardless of one's personal politics and regardless of what happens in geopolitics, Mandarin language fluency is absolutely essential for American prosperity and security. I strongly urge the Board to support a Mandarin Immersion pathway in SCUSD junior high and high schools so our children are prepared to thrive in the world they will inherit.

My eldest son Sam Fine is in the Mandarin Immersion program at William Land Elementary. My youngest Thomas Fine attends special education at David Lubin Elementary. Though our family has no Chinese or Taiwanese heritage at all, I have made sure to teach both of my boys conversational fluency in Mandarin, and to insure their literacy reading Chinese Hanzi characters. My boys receive daily extracurricular Chinese lessons. We consider Mandarin language fluency an essential part of their education, as fundamental and important as subjects like English Composition or Mathematics.

I'll make a brief case for the criticality of Mandarin language education:

- One in four human beings on planet Earth speak Mandarin at a native level or as a first language. For business reasons and for moral reasons, it is essential that we can communicate effectively with these people.

- Mandarin Chinese is the national language of both Taiwan, a strategic ally of the USA, and of Mainland China, a strategic competitor. Both of these countries are key trade and technology partners of the USA.
- Mandarin is ubiquitous as a language of business throughout Asia and the rest of the world.
- Taiwan produces 90% of the world's most advanced semiconductors through its giant Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC). The most advanced chips made for Intel, Apple, Tesla, and others are produced under contract for these American technology leaders by TSMC, in Taiwan. TSMC possesses manufacturing capabilities and expertise that American industry simply does not. It is quite useful to be able to communicate at a native level with the people producing your most critical and irreplaceable technologies.
- More than half of what is sold in American stores is manufactured in China. But China isn't just the producer of toys and gizmos. China's largest exports to the USA include electrical equipment, metals, rare earths, and advanced tooling. The 2007 extension to the Oakland Bay Bridge, in San Francisco, was built entirely in China, disassembled, and reassembled on site in San Francisco Bay. In addition to consumer goods, China is now responsible for making or enabling much of what we call American infrastructure. Whether we like it or not, our economy simply cannot function circa 2023 without the contribution of Chinese manufacturing.
- China has loaned more than \$1 trillion to the United States, and collects interest on that loan. It is a useful thing to be able to talk to your creditors in a language they understand.
- Whether China and Taiwan are destined to be our best friends or worst enemies in coming decades, it is essential to be able to talk to, and listen carefully to, friend and foe alike.
- Millions of Americans speak Mandarin Chinese at a native level. The ancestors of many of these Americans were subject to state-sanctioned racism and exclusion, encoded in US statutory law (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_Exclusion_Act). Understanding Chinese languages empowers us to understand and reconcile this regrettable history, and informs us about some of the reasons why racism against Americans of Chinese heritage continues today.

These are just a few of many reasons why Mandarin language education is critical to American security, prosperity, and competitiveness. I wouldn't mind talking to the board at greater length if you have interest, and/or have my elder son prepare a presentation in English or Mandarin Chinese.

I hope you will support expanded Mandarin language learning opportunities in SCUSD schools. Do the right thing! 加油 !

Best wishes,

Ken Fine (Bogle) 老虎爸爸

Sam Fine 方平山

Thomas Fine小方糖

Dr. Esther Fine糖妈妈

WEBFORM SUBMISSION

Submitted by user

Name:

Fengqing Zhu

Email:

Phone Number:

Student Name (if applicable):

Haley Yang

School (if applicable):

William land elementary school

Comment or Question:

Dear Board of Education Members,

I am writing to express my support for the expansion of advanced Mandarin language classes in our middle and high schools as proposed in the 2023-24 budget. As a parent and a member of this community, I believe that offering advanced Mandarin classes will benefit our students greatly and help prepare them for success in a global society.

We are fortunate to have a Mandarin Immersion Program in our elementary schools, which has been a great success. However, without a continuation of advanced Mandarin classes in middle and high school, the progress and skills that our students have developed will quickly dissipate. Offering advanced Mandarin classes in middle and high school will allow our students to build on their language foundation and develop an even greater proficiency in Mandarin, preparing them for higher education and future careers.

In addition, offering advanced Mandarin classes will attract and retain families who are seeking a strong language program in our school district. As the demand for language programs continues to grow, it is important that our school district stay competitive and provide opportunities for our students to excel.

I urge the Board of Education to prioritize the funding for advanced Mandarin classes in our middle and high schools. This investment will benefit not only our students but our community as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that you will take this request into serious consideration and vote yes on the inclusion of Dual Language Immersion Pathways in the 2023-24 budget.

Sincerely,
Jay

WEBFORM SUBMISSION

Submitted by user

Name:

Carmen Elena Carazo

Email:

Phone Number:

Student Name (if applicable):

Matías DeFeclice Carazo

School (if applicable):

William Land

Comment or Question:

The mandarin immersion program is an amazing program. Along with all other languages immersion programs, they are an asset to our school district, to our students and our diverse and rich community in sacramento. i urge you to allocate fundings to continue these programs through high school and incorporate more languages at other schools. It is a disservice to only offer these programs until elementary school as the skills Will get lost. The mandarin immersion program is not only Important for students to learn a second language but it teaches them all aspects of another culture and makes them well rounded individuals. I am a pediatrician of this community and a Latina mom whose son is a kindergartener at the mandarin immersion program. Neither my husband nor I speak Chinese. We could not be happier with the education our son is receiving at William land and we would love to see this group of dedicated teachers and staff be able to expand their services to high school. Learning a second langue from a young age is an amazing skill and studies have shown it has many positive effects on brain health, IQ and longevity.

WEBFORM SUBMISSION

Submitted by user

Name:

Heather Liu

Email:

Phone Number:

Student Name (if applicable):

School (if applicable):

Comment or Question:

I heard that there was a possibility of expanding the Mandarin Immersion program into Junior high and high school. I really hope that this happens and the kids in the Mandarin Immersion program have the opportunity to continue to practice and expand their language skills. The opportunity to participate in a Mandarin Immersion program is the main reason we decided to move to California from Washington state. Our daughter learned Chinese at a local bilingual daycare but there were no opportunities to continue to learn at the elementary school level outside of very expensive and far away private schools. We were very excited by the Mandarin Immersion programs here in the Sacramento area. The ability to learn at a public school makes it affordable and provides them the motivation to keep learning for a lifetime and we love that they are able to speak with their Chinese speaking relatives and make new Chinese speaking friends in the area and around the world. I hope you strongly consider this possibility of expanding the program because making it a part of their school day really helps to motivate these kids to keep expanding their language skills because it is difficult to find time/resources/student motivation to pursue it on their own outside of school. I really hope you strongly consider this possibility and find lots of support for it in the community!

WEBFORM SUBMISSION

Submitted by user

Name:

My Tran

Email:

Phone Number:

Student Name (if applicable):

School (if applicable):

Comment or Question:

I'm worried that it would further marginalize the Cantonese immersion program which handles three languages.

WEBFORM SUBMISSION

Submitted by user

Name:

Joanna Gan

Email:

-

Phone Number:

Student Name (if applicable):

Blaison Montoya-Gan

School (if applicable):

William Land

Comment or Question:

Dear Members of the SCUSD Board of Education:

My name is Joanna Gan. My son, Blaison Montoya-Gan will be entering kindergarten at William Land's Mandarin immersion program this Fall. From the day my son was born, his father and I committed to teaching him an additional language or two. I am proud to say he is currently trilingual, fluent in Spanish and Mandarin. Despite our present success, I recognize that we cannot continue to do this alone, especially as peer relationships naturally dominate in the preteen and teenage years. Multilingualism is something my family is passionate about, and that I think many more families would be, if given the opportunity to experience it and learn about its benefits.

From a cognitive standpoint, it builds brain reserve. As a neurologist, I know that a bilingual individual will be more protected from developing dementia than a monolingual individual. Studies have likewise shown that people who speak more than one language have stronger executive function, able to multitask more effectively.

From a global perspective, being able to converse in a language as a native speaker opens all kinds of doors worldwide. 50% of the world is bilingual, whereas only 20% of the US is bilingual. Although the tides are turning a bit, it

is clear that the US education system embarrassingly does not emphasize language learning. So-called "foreign languages" are typically derelicted to a couple of high school classes. In the case of Mandarin, it is not even given the time of day in high school.

As you probably know, Mandarin is the most spoken language worldwide. One billion people speak Chinese. There are about 380 Mandarin immersion schools across the US. For comparison, about half a billion people speak Spanish worldwide. Meanwhile there are about 3000 Spanish immersion schools in the US. I bring up the statistics not to diminish the relative success of Spanish immersion, but to say that Mandarin learning opportunities are sorely lacking.

Prior to moving to Sacramento, I had researched language immersion options in the area. I was delighted to find that a Mandarin immersion program existed at William Land. A large part of my decision to consider Sacramento for my family is the existence of the successful Mandarin immersion program here. However, I'd like to see it continue to grow both vertically into middle school and high school, as well as laterally in the form of more elementary schools. My son and I were fortunate with the lottery at William Land. Many were not. I personally know other families who were not able to participate in this language journey due the lack of space in the small program.

On a personal level, learning more than one language is fun. I see it as a gift I give to my child. Knowing more than one language allows one to embrace differences and normalize diversity on a local and global scale. There is nothing like seeing my trilingual 5 year-old teach his Mandarin-speaking grandmother Spanish. It is also heartwarming to see my son advocate for his grandma in front of others, explaining that her primary language is not English when she has trouble communicating. I can only imagine the benefits in my own field, medicine, as a trilingual individual, being able to interact with patients in their native languages, really building that rapport. Or perhaps one could work for the United Nations, or work in international business with China or Taiwan, some of the biggest economies worldwide.

And with that, I bring us back to the issue at hand. If you have gotten this far, I wish to thank you for your time and attention in getting to know our perspective on an issue that is near and dear to my heart. I do hope you take my words and the words of other immersion parents to heart as you work on the budget to support Mandarin immersion pathways.

Warm regards,
Joanna Gan, on behalf of Blaison Montoya-Gan

WEBFORM SUBMISSION

Submitted by user

Name:

John Meyers

Email:

Phone Number:

Student Name (if applicable):

Eland Meyers, Garrett Meyers

School (if applicable):

WILLIAM LAND ELEMENTARY, SUTTER MIDDLE

Comment or Question:

Dear Trustees,

I am writing on behalf of the very successful SCUSD Mandarin Immersion Program. William Land Elementary has led the region for over 10 years with its outstanding Mandarin Immersion Program. Parents even funded their own continuation of Mandarin language learning for 7th/8th graders last year at Sutter Middle, but the parent financing model was not sustainable.

Trustees have an opportunity to build upon a strong MIP foundation, and finally provide a pathway for Mandarin learners to continue their language journey through Middle and High school. As parents to 2 students who have experienced the excellent Mandarin program at William Land, we look forward to Trustee support to continue the program.

Thank you,
John Meyers and Lisa Lindberg

Dear Sacramento City Unified School District Board and staff,

Please support dual language pathway funding as proposed in the 2023-2024 budget for review this evening.

My son is a 5th grade student currently enrolled at William Land Elementary in the Mandarin Immersion Program. Being of Chinese descent myself, but not able to speak the language, the opportunity to offer my son an education in a heritage language is invaluable. The program has proven to be structured, rigorous, and supportive of a holistic education including English learning. His education is a point of pride in our family and should be a highlight within the district. Many families in a diverse community like ours in Sacramento want the opportunity to provide a biliterate education that prepares our kids for a global economy.

SCUSD families want to have the opportunity to provide rich educational choices and not have to look outside the district. I implore you to provide support to continue this, and other dual language programs in the district, and provide a pathway for students to continue their language education.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mellissa Meng

WEBFORM SUBMISSION

Submitted by user

Name:

dale means

Email:

Phone Number:

Student Name (if applicable):

Otis Mean

School (if applicable):

William Land

Comment or Question:

Board Members,

I am an SCUSD parent and CTE teacher at Rosemont High School. My son is a 5th grader enrolled in the Mandarin Immersion Program at William Land Elementary.

I am writing to urge you to support the Dual Language Immersion program initiative for SCUSD middle and high schools.

Dual Language Immersion programs support biliteracy, cultural awareness, are beneficial to developing brains, support native language development and prepare our students to be successful in the 21st century.

Speaking on behalf of my family:

We love the Mandarin program at William Land Elementary. Our son, Otis, is starting to become more comfortable and successful with speaking, reading and writing Mandarin. We are hopeful that he many continue his Mandarin studies in both middle school and high school.

The idea that Dual Language Immersion ends at 6th grade is untenable.

Please consider this as the SCUSD Board of Education meets to discuss Dual Language Immersion programs for middle and secondary schools. Our students deserve the experiences and benefits that Dual Language Immersion programs provide. Let's truly prepare our students for success in a global, multicultural world.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dale Means