

Notice of Exemption

To: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

☒ Clerk-Recorder
County of Alameda
1106 Madison Street
Oakland, CA 94607

From: (Public Agency)
Hayward Unified School District
24411 Amador Street
Hayward, CA 94544

Project Title: Hayward Unified School District Redistribution of Students upon Faith Ringgold Elementary School Closure

Project Applicant: Hayward Unified School District

Project Location – Specific: Faith Ringgold Elementary, 1570 Ward Street; Cherryland Elementary, 456 Laurel Avenue; East Avenue Elementary, 2424 East Avenue; Eden Gardens Elementary, 2184 Thayer Avenue; Fairview Elementary, 23515 Maud Avenue; Harder Elementary, 352 Harder Road; Palma Ceia Elementary, 27679 Melbourne Avenue; Park Elementary, 411 Larchmont Street; Schafer Park Elementary, 26268 Flamingo Avenue; Stonebrae Elementary, 28761 Hayward Boulevard; Tyrrell Elementary, 27000 Tyrrell Avenue; and Treeview Elementary, 30565 Treeview Street.

Project Location – City: Hayward

Project Location – County: Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of the Project:

On February 25, 2026, the Hayward Unified School District (District) approved the 2025-26 Fiscal Stability Plan, which includes the closure of Faith Ringgold School of Arts & Science (Faith Ringgold Elementary). The closure was identified as part of a series of budget solutions developed to address a \$7 million shortfall in the District's ongoing unrestricted general fund. Among the recommended budget solutions, staff reductions from closing Faith Ringgold Elementary is anticipated to reduce District expenditures by approximately \$462,000 annually during the 2026–27, 2027–28, and 2028–29 fiscal years. This CEQA analysis evaluates the potential physical environmental effects of the proposed actions, which include:

1. Closure of Faith Ringgold Elementary; and
2. Redistribution of students to receiving schools.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Hayward Unified School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Hayward Unified School District

Exempt Status:

- ☒ Statutory Exemption. Closing of Any Public School (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15282[i])
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. Existing Facilities (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301)
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. Minor Additions to Schools (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15314)
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15322)

Reasons why project is exempt:

See attachment: Hayward Unified School District Redistribution of Students upon Faith Ringgold Elementary School Closure Findings.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Chien Wu-Fernandez,
Superintendent

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (510) 784-2688

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Signature:

Kylie Pope

Date:

6/26/06

Title: Consultant to the Hayward
Unified School District

☒ Signed by Lead Agency (Consultant)

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

☐ Signed by Applicant

Revised 2011

CEQA Exemption Findings

Hayward Unified School District Redistribution of Students upon Faith Ringgold Elementary School Closure

April 10, 2026

**Prepared by
EMC Planning Group**

CEQA EXEMPTION FINDINGS

**HAYWARD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REDISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS UPON FAITH
RINGGOLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLOSURE**

PREPARED FOR

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April 10, 2026



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Hayward Unified School District Redistribution of Students upon Faith Ringgold Elementary School Closure

Project Description

School Closure and Student Redistribution

On February 25, 2026, the Hayward Unified School District (District) approved the 2025-26 Fiscal Stability Plan, which includes the closure of Faith Ringgold School of Arts & Science (Faith Ringgold Elementary). The closure was identified as part of a series of budget solutions developed to address a \$7 million shortfall in the District's ongoing unrestricted general fund. Among the recommended budget solutions, staff reductions from closing Faith Ringgold Elementary is anticipated to reduce District expenditures by approximately \$462,000 annually during the 2026–27, 2027–28, and 2028–29 fiscal years. [Appendix A](#) includes the 2025-26 Fiscal Stability Plan presented to the Board of Education on February 25, 2026.

This CEQA analysis evaluates the potential physical environmental effects of the proposed actions, which include:

1. Closure of Faith Ringgold Elementary; and
2. Redistribution of students to receiving schools.

The District currently operates 19 elementary schools, including Faith Ringgold Elementary. The following 11 schools will serve as receiving schools and accommodate students redistributed as a result of the closure of Faith Ringgold Elementary:

1. Cherryland Elementary (456 Laurel Avenue);
2. East Avenue Elementary (2424 East Avenue);
3. Eden Gardens Elementary (2184 Thayer Avenue);
4. Fairview Elementary (23515 Maud Avenue);
5. Harder Elementary (352 Harder Road);
6. Palma Ceia Elementary (27679 Melbourne Avenue);
7. Park Elementary (411 Larchmont Street);

8. Schafer Park Elementary (26268 Flamingo Avenue);
9. Stonebrae Elementary (28761 Hayward Boulevard);
10. Tyrrell Elementary (27000 Tyrrell Avenue); and
11. Treeview Elementary (30565 Treeview Street).

Table 1, *Changes in District Elementary School Enrollment, 2019-20 to 2025-26*, summarizes enrollment trends by school.

Table 1 Changes in Faith Ringgold Elementary and Receiving Elementary School Enrollment, 2019-20 to 2025-26

School	2019-20 Enrollment ¹	2025-26 Enrollment ²	Percent Change
Cherryland Elementary	791	807	2.0% increase
East Avenue Elementary	561	394	29.8% decrease
Eden Gardens Elementary	530	453	14.5% decrease
Fairview Elementary	516	590	14.3% increase
Faith Ringgold Elementary	138	144	4.3% increase
Harder Elementary	466	687	47.4% increase
Palma Ceia Elementary	561	489	12.8% decrease
Park Elementary	510	503	1.4% decrease
Schafer Park Elementary	786	594	24.4% decrease
Stonebrae Elementary	742	597	19.5% decrease
Treeview Elementary	443	423	4.5% decrease
Tyrrell Elementary	640	600	6.3% decrease
Total	6,684	6,281	6.0 decrease

SOURCE: Hayward Unified School District 2026; California Department of Education 2026

NOTE: 1 Enrollment numbers from 2019-20 to 2024-25 were sourced from the California Department of Education Data Quest.

2 Enrollment numbers for 2025-26 were sourced from certified Calpads report for the Fall 1 submission for 2025-26.

3 Stonebrae Elementary was established in the 2006–07 school year; therefore, the enrollment data presented reflects the 2006–07 school year.

While districtwide elementary school enrollment declined by approximately 6.0 percent between the 2019–20 and 2025–26 school years, enrollment trends vary across individual school sites. Of the 12 schools evaluated, four experienced enrollment increases, while eight experienced declines. Several schools experienced significant declines in enrollment, including East Avenue Elementary (29.8 percent decrease), Schafer Park Elementary (24.4 percent decrease), and Stonebrae Elementary (19.5 percent decrease), indicating shifting enrollment patterns and potential underutilization at these campuses. In contrast, Harder Elementary was the only school to experience a substantial increase in

enrollment (47.4 percent), while the remaining schools with enrollment increases experienced relatively modest growth.

Overall, the data reflect a districtwide decline in enrollment. In response to associated budgetary and operational considerations, as well as these enrollment trends, the District has approved the closure of Faith Ringgold Elementary to consolidate resources and improve operational efficiency across the remaining school sites.

Redistribution of Students Among Receiving Schools

Table 2, [Redistribution of Faith Ringgold Elementary Students Among Receiving Schools](#), identifies the number of students to be reassigned to each receiving school and the total projected enrollment at each school for the 2026–27 academic year following the redistribution.

Table 2 Redistribution of Faith Ringgold Elementary Students Among Receiving Schools

School	2025-26 Current Enrollment ¹	Redistributed Students	2026-27 Projected Enrollment ²
Cherryland Elementary	807	6	813
East Avenue Elementary	394	40	434
Eden Gardens Elementary	453	3	456
Fairview Elementary	590	39	629
Harder Elementary	687	5	692
Palma Ceia Elementary	489	2	491
Park Elementary	503	3	506
Schafer Park Elementary	594	1	595
Stonebrae Elementary	597	1	598
Treeview Elementary	423	42	465
Tyrrell Elementary	600	2	602
Interdistrict Transfers	n/a	8	8
Total	6,137	152	N/A

SOURCE: Hayward Unified School District 2026

NOTES: 1 Enrollment numbers for 2025-26 were sourced from certified Calpads report for the Fall 1 submission for 2025-26.

2 Projected 2026–27 enrollment is based on 2025–26 enrollment at each receiving school plus the number of students redistributed from Faith Ringgold Elementary School.

The District does not prepare annual enrollment projections at the individual school level. For the purposes of this analysis, projected 2026–27 enrollment for each receiving school is calculated by adding the number of students redistributed from Faith Ringgold Elementary to each school’s 2025–26 enrollment. Although the District anticipates that actual enrollment may be lower due to

ongoing declining enrollment trends, this methodology represents a conservative approach intended to evaluate the maximum potential capacity needs at each receiving school resulting from the closure of Faith Ringgold Elementary. Eight interdistrict transfer students enrolled in the 2025–26 school year would select their reassigned school from options provided by the District and are included in the redistribution totals.

As shown in Table 2, a total of 152 students would be redistributed among the 11 receiving schools as a result of Faith Ringgold Elementary’s closure and consolidation of operations. Treeview Elementary is anticipated to accommodate the largest number of redistributed students, as it is planned to receive all special education students currently enrolled at Faith Ringgold Elementary in addition to other student transfers. Cherryland Elementary is projected to have the highest total enrollment among the receiving schools for the 2026–27 academic year.

Projected Enrollment and Capacity of Receiving School Facilities

Table 3, [Comparison of Peak Enrollment, Current Enrollment, Projected Enrollment, and Capacity of Receiving School Facilities](#), evaluates the capacity of receiving schools to accommodate additional students after the redistribution of Faith Ringgold Elementary students has occurred.

Enrollment capacity is derived from the Hayward Unified School District Facilities Master Plan July 2024 Update, which identifies enrollment capacity at each school within the school district. Available capacity is the enrollment capacity for each receiving school less the 2026-27 projected enrollment.

Table 3 Comparison of Peak Enrollment, Current Enrollment, Projected Enrollment, and Capacity of Receiving School Facilities

School	Peak Enrollment (Year)	2025-26 Current Enrollment	2026-27 Projected Enrollment ¹	Enrollment Capacity ²	Available Capacity ³
Cherryland Elementary	921 (2003-04)	807	813	923	110
East Avenue Elementary	635 (2014-15)	394	434	815	381
Eden Gardens Elementary	651 (2000-01)	453	456	707	251
Fairview Elementary	600 (2014-15)	590	629	761	132
Harder Elementary	780 (1997-98)	687	692	734	42
Palma Ceia Elementary	683 (2004-05)	489	491	707	216
Park Elementary	686 (2001-02)	503	506	788	282
Schafer Park Elementary	786 (2019-20)	594	595	788	193
Stonebrae Elementary	746 (2017-18)	597	598	761	163
Treeview Elementary	622 (2011-12)	423	465	464	-1
Tyrrell Elementary	789 (2013-14)	600	602	869	267

SOURCE: Hayward Unified School District 2026; Lozano Smith 2026

NOTES: 1 Projected 2026–27 enrollment is based on 2025–26 enrollment at each receiving school plus the number of students redistributed from Faith Ringgold Elementary School.

Comparison of 2025–26 current enrollment and projected 2026–27 enrollment indicates that each receiving school would experience an increase in enrollment associated with the redistribution of students from Faith Ringgold Elementary. However, projected enrollment at all receiving schools would remain below the enrollment capacity identified for each campus, with the exception of Treeview Elementary, which is projected to exceed its enrollment capacity by one student. As previously noted, these projections are conservative, and the District anticipates that actual enrollment at each receiving school may be lower than projected.

As further shown in Table 3, projected 2026–27 enrollment at all receiving schools would remain below each school’s historical peak enrollment, with the exception of Fairview Elementary, which is projected to enroll 629 students in 2026–27 compared to a historical peak of 600 students in 2014–15. However, the enrollment capacity at Fairview Elementary of 761 students substantially exceeds the projected enrollment. Similarly, Treeview Elementary has a historical peak enrollment of 622 students (2011–12), which is substantially higher than its projected 2026–27 enrollment, indicating that the campus has previously accommodated higher student populations.

Based on the available capacity across the receiving schools, including consideration of both enrollment capacity and historical enrollment levels, the District has sufficient capacity to accommodate the redistributed students. The minor, one-student exceedance at Treeview Elementary is nominal in nature and within the range of typical year-to-year enrollment fluctuations and operational flexibility. Overall, the redistribution of students from Faith Ringgold Elementary would not result in capacity constraints at the receiving schools and would be consistent with efficient utilization of existing school facilities. Further, this analysis demonstrates that excess capacity exists at several receiving schools, providing flexibility to accommodate the eight interdistrict transfer students who will be redistributed based on District-provided options.

Programmatic and Physical Changes

No programmatic or physical changes are proposed at the receiving schools as a result of the closure of Faith Ringgold Elementary. Although Faith Ringgold Elementary is designated as an arts magnet school, the school has not consistently implemented the intended magnet programming, and there are currently no other magnet schools operating within the District. The closure of the school is not expected to result in impacts to educational programming.

Environmental Setting at Receiving Elementary Schools

Cherryland Elementary

Cherryland Elementary, located at 456 Laurel Avenue, is situated within a developed area characterized by a mix of residential and commercial uses. Residential uses are located to the

southeast. The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District immediately surround the school to the north/northeast and south; the Hayward Silver Oak High School and Hayward Adult School are located to the west. The school is located approximately 0.77 miles east of Interstate 880. Cherryland Elementary is located approximately two miles southwest of Faith Ringgold Elementary.

East Avenue Elementary

East Avenue Elementary, located at 2424 East Avenue, is situated within a developed area surrounded by residential neighborhoods to the east, south, and southwest. Pilgrim Temple Church is located southeast of the site, south of East Avenue. The Coptic Youth Center and St. Antonius Coptic Orthodox Church are located to the west, west of Hansen Road. Sulphur Creek extends along the northern boundary beyond the school's sports fields, running in a northwest–southeast direction (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2026). East Avenue Elementary is located approximately 1.4 miles southeast of Faith Ringgold Elementary.

Eden Gardens Elementary

Eden Gardens Elementary, located at 2184 Thayer Avenue, is situated in a developed area surrounded by residential uses to the north, east, south, and west. The school is located approximately 0.22 miles north of State Road 92. Eden Gardens Elementary is located approximately 4.2 miles southwest of Faith Ringgold Elementary.

Fairview Elementary

Fairview Elementary, located at 23515 Maud Avenue, is situated within a developed residential area surrounded by residential neighborhoods to the north, east, south, and west. Fairview Elementary is located approximately 1.4 miles northeast of Faith Ringgold Elementary.

Harder Elementary

Harder Elementary, located at 352 Harder Road, is situated within a developed area characterized by a mix of residential and commercial uses. Residential uses are located to the north, east, south, and west. Commercial uses are located northeast and southeast of the school. Harder Elementary is located approximately 2.6 miles south of Faith Ringgold Elementary.

Palma Ceia Elementary

Palma Ceia Elementary, located at 27679 Melbourne Avenue, is situated within a developed area characterized primarily by residential uses, with some commercial uses interspersed. Residential uses are located to the east, south, and west. Palma Ceia Park is located immediately north of the school. The school is located approximately 0.2 miles west of Interstate 880. Palma Ceia Elementary is located approximately 4.6 miles southwest of Faith Ringgold Elementary.

Park Elementary

Park Elementary, located at 411 Larchmont Street, is situated within a developed area characterized primarily by residential uses, with some public/institutional and commercial uses interspersed.

Residential uses are located to the east, south, and west of the campus. Elmhurst Learning Center is located to the northwest of the school, and the District office is located further north along Elmhurst Street. Commercial uses are located to the southeast within the Jackson Square Shopping Center. The school is located approximately 0.3 miles east of Interstate 880. Park Elementary is located approximately 2.5 miles southwest of Faith Ringgold Elementary.

Schafer Park Elementary

Schafer Park Elementary, located at 26268 Flamingo Avenue, is situated within a developed area surrounded by residential uses to the east, south, and west. Schafer Park is located immediately north of the school. The school is located approximately 0.26 miles east of Interstate 880. Schafer Park Elementary is located approximately 3.1 miles southwest of Faith Ringgold Elementary.

Stonebrae Elementary

Stonebrae Elementary, located at 28761 Hayward Boulevard, is situated within a developed area surrounded by residential uses to the north, south, and west. Garin Regional Park is located immediately east of the school and Jalquin Vista Park is located to the southwest. Stonebrae Elementary is located approximately 4.8 miles southwest of Faith Ringgold Elementary.

Treeview Elementary

Treeview Elementary, located at 30565 Treeview Street, is situated within a developed area surrounded by residential uses immediately to the east, south, and west. Fairway Greens Park is immediately north of the school, followed by additional residential uses. Garin Regional Park is located far east of the school, beyond residential uses. Treeview Elementary is located approximately 4.9 miles southeast of Faith Ringgold Elementary.

Tyrrell Elementary

Tyrrell Elementary, located at 27000 Tyrrell Avenue, is situated within a developed area surrounded by residential uses to the north, east, south, and west. Tyrrell Elementary is located approximately 3.8 miles southwest of Faith Ringgold Elementary.

Statutory Exemption

The proposed project qualifies for a statutory exemption under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15282(i).

Section 15282(i) Closing Any Public School or Transfer of Students

The closing of any public school or the transfer of students from that public school to another school in which kindergarten or any grades 1 through 12 is maintained as set forth in 21080.18 of the Public Resources Code.

PRC 21080.18 states:

Application of Division to Closing of Public School Maintaining Kindergarten or Any of Grades 1 Through 12. This division does not apply to the closing of any public school in which kindergarten or any of grades 1 through 12 is maintained or the transfer of students from that public school to another school if the only physical changes involved are categorically exempt under Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 15000) of Division 6 of Title 14 of the California Administrative Code.

Discussion. The proposed project qualifies for this exemption because it involves the closure of Faith Ringgold Elementary and the consolidation of operations among 11 existing receiving schools. As a result of the closure, a total of 152 students would be redistributed among the receiving schools. As shown in Table 3, sufficient capacity exists at all 11 receiving schools to accommodate projected 2026–27 enrollment, with the exception of Treeview Elementary, which is projected to exceed enrollment capacity by one student. This nominal exceedance is within the range of typical year-to-year enrollment fluctuations and operational flexibility and does not represent a meaningful increase in capacity or intensity of use of the school site. In addition, the enrollment projections used in this analysis are conservative, and the District anticipates that actual enrollment may be lower than projected. The receiving schools would accommodate the projected 2026–27 enrollment without the need for additional classrooms or expansion of existing facilities. No programmatic or physical changes are proposed as part of the project.

Categorical Exemption

The proposed project qualifies for a categorical exemption under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301, section 15314, and section 15322.

Section 15301 Existing Facilities

Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or *no expansion of existing or former use* (emphasis added). The types of “existing facilities” itemized below are not intended to be all-inclusive of the types of projects which might fall within Class 1. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of use. Examples include but are not limited to:

- (a) Interior or exterior alterations involving such things as interior partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances;
- (b) Existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services;
- (c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety), and other alterations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit

improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes);

- (d) Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as earthquake, landslide, or flood;
- (e) Additions to existing structures provided that the addition will not result in an increase of more than:
 - (1) 50 percent of the floor area of the structures before the addition, or 2,500 square feet, whichever is less; or
 - (2) 10,000 square feet if:
 - (A) The project is in an area where all public services and facilities are available to allow for maximum development permissible in the General Plan and
 - (B) The area in which the project is located is not environmentally sensitive.
- (f) Addition of safety or health protection devices for use during construction of or in conjunction with existing structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment, or topographical features including navigational devices;
- (g) New copy on existing on and off-premise signs;
- (h) Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs (excluding the use of pesticides, as defined in Section 12753, Division 7, Chapter 2, Food and Agricultural Code);
- (i) Maintenance of fish screens, fish ladders, wildlife habitat areas, artificial wildlife waterway devices, streamflows, springs and waterholes, and stream channels (clearing of debris) to protect fish and wildlife resources;
- (j) Fish stocking by the California Department of Fish and Game;
- (k) Division of existing multiple family or single-family residences into common-interest ownership and subdivision of existing commercial or industrial buildings, where no physical changes occur which are not otherwise exempt;
- (l) Demolition and removal of individual small structures listed in this subdivision:
 - (1) One single-family residence. In urbanized areas, up to three single-family residences may be demolished under this exemption.

- (2) A duplex or similar multifamily residential structure. In urbanized areas, this exemption applies to duplexes and similar structures where not more than six dwelling units will be demolished.
- (3) A store, motel, office, restaurant, or similar small commercial structure if designed for an occupant load of 30 persons or less. In urbanized areas, the exemption also applies to the demolition of up to three such commercial buildings on sites zoned for such use.
- (4) Accessory (appurtenant) structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences.
- (m) Minor repairs and alterations to existing dams and appurtenant structures under the supervision of the Department of Water Resources.
- (n) Conversion of a single family residence to office use.
- (o) Installation, in an existing facility occupied by a medical waste generator, of a steam sterilization unit for the treatment of medical waste generated by that facility provided that the unit is installed and operated in accordance with the Medical Waste Management Act (Section 117600, et seq., of the Health and Safety Code) and accepts no offsite waste.
- (p) Use of a single-family residence as a small family day care home, as defined in Section 1596.78 of the Health and Safety Code.

Discussion. The proposed project qualifies for this exemption because it involves the continued operation of existing school facilities with negligible or no expansion of use. The project consists of the closure of Faith Ringgold Elementary and the proposed redistribution of students to 11 existing elementary schools. No physical alterations, construction, or expansion of facilities are proposed at Faith Ringgold Elementary or at any of the receiving schools.

As shown in Table 3, projected 2026–27 enrollment at each receiving school would remain within the enrollment capacity of each campus, with the exception of Treeview Elementary, which is projected to exceed enrollment capacity by one student. This nominal exceedance is within the range of typical year-to-year enrollment fluctuations and operational flexibility and does not represent a meaningful increase in intensity of use. In addition, the 2026–27 enrollment projections are conservative, and the District anticipates that actual enrollment at each receiving school may be lower than projected. Accordingly, the redistribution of students represents the consolidation of enrollment within existing facilities and would involve negligible or no expansion of existing use.

Section 15314 Minor Addition to Schools

Class 14 consists of minor additions to existing schools within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms, whichever is less. The addition of portable classrooms is included in this exemption.

Discussion. The project qualifies for this exemption because no additional classrooms are proposed at any of the receiving schools as a result of the closure of Faith Ringgold Elementary. Therefore, the project would not increase original student capacity by the lesser of 25 percent or 10 classrooms. As evaluated, all 11 receiving schools have sufficient capacity to accommodate the 152 students proposed for redistribution from Faith Ringgold Elementary. While Treeview Elementary is projected to exceed its enrollment capacity by one student, this nominal exceedance is within the range of typical year-to-year enrollment fluctuations and operational flexibility and does not represent a meaningful increase in capacity or intensity of use. In addition, the enrollment projections used in this analysis are conservative, and the District anticipates that actual enrollment may be lower than projected.

Section 15322 Educational or Training Programs Involving no Physical Changes

Class 22 consists of the adoption, alteration, or termination of educational or training programs which involve no physical alteration in the area affected or which involve physical changes only in the interior of existing school or training structures. Examples include but are not limited to:

- (a) Development of or changes in curriculum or training methods.
- (b) Changes in the grade structure in a school which do not result in changes in student transportation.

Discussion. The proposed project qualifies for this exemption because it involves the closure of Faith Ringgold Elementary and the consolidation of operations among 11 receiving schools. No physical alterations are proposed at Faith Ringgold Elementary or at any of the receiving schools.

Environmental Analysis

Aesthetics

None of the receiving schools are located near a designated State Scenic Highway (California Department of Transportation 2026). The Hayward 2040 General Plan identifies three county-designated scenic highways within the city: Interstate 580, Interstate 880, and State Route 92 (City of Hayward 2014). The General Plan further notes that views of natural topography, open grassland vegetation, rolling hills, and the San Francisco Bay shoreline contribute to the prominent elements of Hayward's scenic landscape.

While several receiving schools are located near Interstate 880, the proposed project would not involve any physical alterations to receiving school sites. The project consists solely of the closure of Faith Ringgold Elementary and the redistribution of students among 11 existing schools. Because no

construction, exterior modifications, or new lighting would occur, the project would not: (a) affect scenic vistas; (b) damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway; (c) conflict with zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality; or (d) create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views.

Agriculture and Forest Resources

None of the receiving schools are located on land designated for agriculture nor do they contain forest resources (City of Hayward 2014, Figure LU-1; Google Earth 2026). The project would occur entirely within existing, developed school sites and would not require rezoning or off-site improvements affecting agricultural or forest lands. Therefore, the project would not: (a) convert important farmland; (b) conflict with zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract; (c) conflict with zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land or timberland; (d) result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; or (e) indirectly lead to conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or forest land to non-forest use.

Biological Resources

All receiving schools are located within developed areas primarily consisting of residential and/or commercial uses. Although the East Avenue Elementary campus is located near a creek or other riverine habitat, no in-water, riparian, or other ground-disturbing activities are proposed. No physical alterations are proposed as part of the project. Accordingly, the project would not affect riparian habitat or wetlands, would not interfere with wildlife movement, and would not result in adverse effects on biological resources.

Cultural Resources

No physical alterations are proposed as part of the project. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in an adverse change in the significance of any unknown buried historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5, cause an adverse change in the significance of an unknown archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5, or disturb any unknown Native American human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.

Geology and Soils

No physical alterations are proposed as part of the project. Therefore, the proposed project would not result impacts associated with seismic ground shaking, liquefaction, or slope instability. Further, the proposed project would not result in direct or indirect potential adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving any of the following:

- rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault;
- strong seismic ground shaking;

- seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; or
- landslides.

Additionally, the project would not result in soil erosion or the loss of topsoil, be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Water Use

The proposed project would not result in a cumulative increase in the student population within the District; therefore, water use within the District would not increase. Conversely, with student enrollment declining over the years, water use at District facilities has decreased. Therefore, the proposed project would not decrease groundwater supplies.

Surface Water Quality

No physical alterations are proposed as part of the project. Therefore, the project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise degrade surface or ground water quality; interfere with groundwater recharge; alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or impede or redirect flood flows; or conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

Transportation (Vehicle Miles Traveled)

Hexagon Transportation Consultants (Hexagon) conducted a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) study to assess the impacts of closing Faith Ringgold Elementary and the redistribution of students to the 11 receiving schools. The full VMT study is provided in [Appendix B](#).

Hexagon estimated that the average distance to school for Faith Ringgold Elementary students would decrease from approximately 2.35 miles prior to closure to 0.99 miles following redistribution among the receiving schools. However, for students redistributed to East Avenue Elementary and Fairview Elementary, the average distance to school would increase slightly, from 1.04 miles to 1.17 miles and from 1.10 miles to 1.13 miles, respectively. Overall, the reduction in average travel distance for the majority of redistributed students would offset the minor increases experienced by a subset of students, resulting in a net decrease in average travel distance compared to existing conditions. As a result, districtwide VMT is expected to decrease, and VMT generated by

redistributed Faith Ringgold Elementary students would be reduced by approximately 64 percent compared to the 2008-09 baseline (Hexagon 2026, p. 8).

Air Quality

Each of the receiving schools are located within the jurisdiction of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (hereinafter “air district”), which regulates criteria air emissions to comply with state and federal standards. The air district establishes significance thresholds for criteria air pollutants to assess the significance of air quality impacts under CEQA, including those from proposed new schools. Transportation sources, particularly passenger cars and light-duty trucks, are the primary contributors to air emissions for such projects, including schools. As described in the Transportation section, the project would result in an overall decrease in VMT; therefore, there would be no adverse impact associated with air quality.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Similar to the discussion under Air Quality above, the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory (the sum of emissions from all sources) for projects subject to CEQA, including school operations, are typically dominated by emissions from transportation sources, particularly passenger cars and light-duty trucks. As described in the Transportation section, the project would result in an overall decrease in VMT; therefore, there would be no adverse impact associated with greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy

Electricity, natural gas, and transportation fuel are the most common forms of energy used in the operation of land use projects, including schools. As described in the Transportation section, the project would result in an overall decrease in VMT; therefore, there would be no adverse impact associated with transportation energy use.

No physical alterations are proposed as part of the project that could result in an increase in electricity. Further, closing and consolidating schools could result in a reduction of district-wide electricity and natural gas.

Noise

The proposed project would not result in significant noise impacts. Due to a decline in enrollment, traffic volumes on surrounding streets have decreased and would remain lower with project implementation compared to peak enrollment levels at most receiving schools (Table 3).

Fairview Elementary is projected to exceed its historical peak enrollment by 29 students; however, this increase is nominal and would not result in a substantial increase in traffic volumes or associated noise levels beyond typical operational conditions. As a result, noise levels at the receiving schools would generally remain below or comparable to historic peak conditions. Further, no physical

alterations are proposed as part of the project; therefore, noise impacts associated with construction would not occur.

Exceptions to Categorical Exemptions

Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines lists exceptions that would prohibit a project from qualifying for a Categorical Exemption, even if the project satisfies the requirements for one or more of the exemption classes. EMC Planning Group conducted a review and evaluation of the proposed project and concluded that none of the exceptions listed in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 (a-f) apply to the proposed project (discussed below). Therefore, the Statutory Exemption, as well as the Categorical Exemption, is appropriate pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, 15303, 15311, 15314, and 15322.

- a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

Discussion. All receiving schools are located within developed residential and/or commercial areas, and no physical changes are proposed as part of the project. As summarized in the Environmental Analysis, there is no evidence that the receiving schools are located in particularly sensitive environments. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

Discussion. The proposed project involves the closure of Faith Ringgold Elementary and the consolidation of its operations into 11 receiving schools. While this action affects multiple campuses, it represents a single administrative and operational change within the District's existing elementary school system, which includes a total of 19 elementary schools including Faith Ringgold Elementary. No physical alterations are proposed as part of the project. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Discussion. Based upon the Environmental Analysis discussion above, there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

Discussion. None of the receiving schools are located near an officially designated scenic highway or within a designated scenic area (California Department of Transportation 2026; City of Hayward 2014). Further, no physical alterations are proposed as part of the project. Therefore, the project would not result in adverse impacts to scenic resources associated with a state scenic highway.

e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Discussion. The receiving school sites are not located on the California Environmental Protection Agency's Cortese List (Health and Safety Code Section 25187.5). The State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker (Health and Safety Code Section 25295 and Water Code Sections 13273 and 13301) does not indicate any active hazardous sites at any of the receiving schools. The receiving school sites are not listed on the California Environmental Protection Agency's list of solid waste sites identified by the Water Board with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit (Health and Safety Code Section 116395).

f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Discussion. No physical alterations are proposed as part of the project; therefore, the project would not result in a substantial adverse change to a historical resource.

Evidence And Findings

The proposed project consists of the closure of Faith Ringgold Elementary and the redistribution of students among 11 receiving schools. No physical alterations are proposed as part of the project; therefore, the project would not result in environmental impacts associated with construction.

Consistent with declining enrollment trends within the District, projected 2026–27 enrollment at the receiving schools would remain below each school's historical peak enrollment, with the exception of Fairview Elementary, where projected enrollment would slightly exceed its historical peak by 29 students. However, enrollment at Fairview Elementary would remain well within its operational capacity and would not require physical expansion or modification of existing facilities.

As shown in Table 3, sufficient capacity exists at all 11 receiving schools to accommodate projected 2026–27 enrollment, with the exception of Treeview Elementary, which is projected to exceed

enrollment capacity by one student. This nominal exceedance is within the range of typical year-to-year enrollment fluctuations and operational flexibility and does not represent a meaningful increase in capacity or intensity of use of the school sites. In addition, the enrollment projections used in this analysis are conservative, and the District anticipates that actual enrollment may be lower than projected.

Overall, the redistribution of students from Faith Ringgold Elementary would not result in capacity constraints at the receiving schools and would be consistent with efficient utilization of existing school facilities. Further, this analysis demonstrates that excess capacity exists at several receiving schools, providing flexibility to accommodate the eight interdistrict transfer students who will be redistributed based on District-provided options.

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Hayward Unified School District
2025-26 Fiscal Stability Plan





**2025-26 Fiscal Stability Plan
Solutions to Address Unrestricted Budget Deficits**

Solution Category	Item	26-27	27-28	28-29
New Revenue	Revenue (from ACOE): Reimbursement for SIR Work staffing (Accountability Directors)	\$ 520,000	\$ 520,000	
Budget/Accounting Adjustment	Move all ELOP (RS 2600) accounting for TK-6 Activities into Fund 12	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000
Contract Reduction	Golden State Radios: School site radios lease (replace with purchase - bond funded)	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
Contract Reduction	UC Regents: Destination College Advising Corps (MEHS costs not funded by grant and funded by LCAP)	\$ 33,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 33,000
Contract Reduction	Storer: Eliminate Home to School Transpo and shift staff and vehicle resources to SpEd transpo		\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000
Reduction in Non-Personnel Costs	Eliminate print and mail paystubs (only electronic distribution - email, portal)	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Reduction in Non-Personnel Costs	Reduce print and mail notices: Parents/guardians opting in to electronic title I, report cards & progress reports	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Reduction in Non-Personnel Costs	ILT (Stipends & Summer Extra Duty Rates)	\$ 400,000		
Reduction in Non-Personnel Costs	10% reduction of site budget allocations: LCFF 0795 and Site Discretionary 0000	\$ 224,000	\$ 224,000	\$ 224,000
Reduction in Non-Personnel Costs	Reduction of FEAP Budget Allocation to 5 sites	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000
Reduction in Staffing	Coordinator of Intervention & Prevention	\$ 223,000	\$ 223,000	\$ 223,000
Reduction in Staffing	Director in Student and Family Services: Reorganization of the CWA and Student Placement departments (reduction of 1.0 FTE)	\$ 237,000	\$ 237,000	\$ 237,000
Reduction in Staffing	AOSA (Equity) - vacant position	\$ 217,000	\$ 217,000	\$ 217,000
Reduction in Staffing	AOSA (Literacy) - vacant position	\$ 226,000	\$ 226,000	\$ 226,000
Reduction in Staffing	2.0 FTE Facility Operations Supervisors: FMOT Reorganization Reduction of 2.0 FTE Facility Operations Supervisors and creation of two Coordinator of Operations	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Reduction in Staffing	Site Teacher 3.0 FTE due to declining enrollment	\$ 360,000	\$ 360,000	\$ 360,000
Reduction in Staffing	Independent Study Teacher 1.0 FTE due to declining enrollment	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000
Reduction in Staffing	School Nurse .80 FTE due to declining enrollment	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Reduction in Staffing	Student Family Services Office Specialists (2 FTEs)	\$ 214,000	\$ 214,000	\$ 214,000
Reduction in Staffing	Student Placement Secretary	\$ 114,000	\$ 114,000	\$ 114,000
Reduction in Staffing	Family Engagement Specialist Reorganization - Reduction in LCAP (0795)	\$ 555,000	\$ 555,000	\$ 555,000
Reduction in Staffing	Library Media Technicians (LMTs) - Middle Schools - from 1.0 to 0.5	\$ 233,500	\$ 233,500	\$ 233,500
Reduction in Staffing	Library Media Technician (LMTs) - 0.3 FTE due to declining enrollment	\$ 27,000	\$ 27,000	\$ 27,000
Reduction in Staffing	Web Master (.5 FTE)	\$ 71,000	\$ 71,000	\$ 71,000
Reduction in Staffing	Detention Room Assistant 3 positions: Chavez, Ochoa, Winton (total of 2.25 FTE)	\$ 176,422	\$ 176,422	\$ 176,422
Reduction in Staffing	School Bus Driver - vacant position	\$ 83,000	\$ 83,000	\$ 83,000
Reduction in Staffing	Faith Ringgold (Staff Reductions)	\$ 462,000	\$ 462,000	\$ 462,000
Reduction in Staffing / Funding Shift	Funding Shift due to Family Engagement Specialist Reorganization: Reallocate Title I and reduce 0000 & 0795 site budget allocations	\$ 603,690	\$ 603,690	\$ 603,690
Funding Shift	Funding Shift: Two Child Welfare Attendance Outreach Workers to LCSSP funding source	\$ 257,000		
Funding Shift	Funding Shift: Reallocate Community Schools Grant Cohort 1 carryover to Intervention or other support sections for middle and high school students	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	
Funding Shift	Funding Shift: Reallocate Community Schools Cohort 1 Carryover to World House student transportation (Tennyson and Chavez)	\$ 550,000		
	TOTAL	\$ 7,019,612	\$ 8,312,612	\$ 7,392,612

Revised for presentation at the February 25, 2026 meeting of the Board of Education.



2026-27 School Site Staffing Allocations
Impacted by 2025-26 Proposed Fiscal Stability Plan and Expiration of Certain Funding Sources

School	2025/2026 ENROLLMENT	LMT ALLOCATION 2025/2026	LMT ALLOCATION 2026/2027	FES ALLOCATION 2025/2026	FES ALLOCATION 2026/2027	CSS ALLOCATION 2025/2026	CSS ALLOCATION 2026/2027	SE COUNSELOR ALLOCATION 2025/2026	SE COUNSELOR ALLOCATION 2026/2027	COUNSELOR (INTERVENT.) ALLOCATION 2025/2026	COUNSELOR (INTERVENT.) ALLOCATION 2026/2027
Helen Turner Preschool**				1	1	1	1	0	0		
Burbank Elementary School	795	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	1	1	1	1		
Cherryland Elementary School	807	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	1	1	1	1		
East Avenue Elementary School	394	0.2	0.2	0.5		0.5		1	1		
Eden Gardens Elementary School	453	0.2	0.2	0.5		0.5		1	0.5		
Eldridge Elementary School	274	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	1		
Fairview Elementary School	590	0.2	0.2	0.5		0.5		1	1		
Faith Ringgold School	144			0.5		0.5		0.5			
Glassbrook Elementary School	430	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	1		
Harder Elementary School	687	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	1		
Longwood Elementary School	507	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	1		
Lorin Eden Elementary School	370	0.2	0.2	0.5		0.5		1	0.5		
Palma Ceia Elementary School	489	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	1		
Park Elementary School	503	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	1		
Ruus Elementary School	363	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	1	1	0.5	0.5		
Schafer Park Elementary School	594	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	1		
Southgate Elementary School	587	0.2	0.2	0.5		0.5		1	0.5		
Stonebrae Elementary School	597	PREP	PREP	0.5		0.5		0	0.5		
Treeview Elementary School	423	PREP	PREP	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	1		
Tyrrell Elementary School	600	PREP	PREP	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	1		
Bret Harte Middle School	439	1	0.5	0.5		0.5		0	0.5		
Cesar E Chavez Middle School	452	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	1.5	1		
Martin Luther King Middle School	657	1	0.5	0.5		0.5		0.5	0.5		
Anthony W Ochoa Middle School	362	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	0.5	0.5		
Winton Middle School	585	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	1		
Brenkwitz Alternative High	139			0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5		
Hayward High School	1544	1	1	1		1	0.75	1	1		
Mt Eden High School	1868	1	1	1		1	0.75	1	1		
Tennyson High School	1367	1	1	1	0.5	1	1	1.5	1		
Multiple Sites (Int. Counselors)										2	1
	17020	12.2	9.4	17.5	9.5	24	19	24.5	22.5	2	1
Reflects change in allocation from 25-26 to 26-27											

** Positions at Helen Turner Preschool are funded separately from other school sites -- dedicated preschool funding that is not a part of the (restricted and unrestricted) General Fund

Revised for presentation at the February 25, 2026 meeting of the Board of Education.



2025-26 Fiscal Stability Plan Solutions due to Expiration of Restricted Funds

Item
Community Schools Specialists will be maintained at all sites that have community school grant funds. Additional Viability Grant funding from ACOE will maintain Community School Specialists at non-grant High Schools. Reduction of 5.0 FTEs at non-grant schools)
SE Counselors will be maintained at 1.0 for all comprehensive high school sites and Community Schools grant-funded sites, and at least a 0.50 FTE at all elementary and middle school non-Community School grant sites. Additional Viability Grant funding from ACOE will maintain SE Counselors at East Avenue and Fairview Elementary schools. District-wide reduction of 1.5 FTE district-wide after reallocating SE Counselors per this new allocation model.
Reduction of Intervention Counselor - (1 FTE)
Reduction of Newcomer SE Counselor (1 FTE) - HPN
Reduction of Director II of Student and Parent Support Services (1 FTE) - HPN
Reduction of HPN Coordinator of Intervention and Prevention (1FTE) - HPN
Reduction of Newcomer Coordinator (1 FTE) - HPN
Reduction of English Language Learner (ELL) Specialists (1 FTE in two positions: 0.40 and 0.60) - HPN
Reduction of Translator (1.0) - HPN
Reduction of Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) Outreach Worker (1 FTE) - HPN
Reduction Teacher on Special Assignment (TSA) STEM Curriculum & PD - (.3 FTE) - HPN
Reduction of Reading Acceleration Specialist/Teacher - (.2 FTE) - HPN
Reduction of Office Specialist - (1 FTE) - ARSI Newcomer Grant
Reduction of Family Engagement Specialists (1.5 FTE) - ARSI Newcomer Grant CCEIS
Reduction of Teacher on Special Assignment (TSA) Literacy - (1 FTE) - HPN
Reduction of Administrator on Special Assignment SEL (1 FTE)
Legend of Acronyms:

FTE - Full Time Equivalent

SE and SEL - Social Emotional Learning

HPN - Hayward Promise Network

ARSI - Afghan Refugee Student Impact

Revised for presentation at the February 25, 2026 meeting of the Board of Education.

VMT Study for Hayward Unified School District
(Hexagon Transportation Consultants, Inc. 2026)

B
APPENDIX



HEXAGON TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANTS, INC.

April 10, 2026

Ms. Teri Wissler Adam
EMC Planning Group
601 Abrego Street,
Monterey, CA 93940

Re: VMT Study for Hayward Unified School District

Dear Ms. Adam:

Hexagon Transportation Consultants, Inc. has completed a transportation impact assessment of the planned school consolidation for the Hayward Unified School District. We understand that the district is closing Faith Ringgold Elementary School at 1570 Ward Street in Hayward, California following the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year.

It is also our understanding that the elementary schools that will be receiving general students from the closing school will include Cherryland, East Avenue, Eden Gardens, Fairview, Harder, Palma Ceia, Park, Schafer Park, Stonebrae, Treeview, and Tyrrell elementary schools. For this study these schools will be categorized as “Receiving Schools.”

Background

The purpose of this report is to analyze the potential transportation impact of the closure of Faith Ringgold Elementary School. Specifically, this analysis studies the impact on vehicles miles traveled (VMT) as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

VMT is defined as the number of trips associated with each school multiplied by the length of each trip. VMT is typically analyzed on a daily basis. The trips generated by each school include trips to and from the school by faculty and staff as well as students being dropped off and picked up. VMT is a measure of the burden placed on the transportation system to move vehicles and is also a measure of the greenhouse gas emissions attributable to motor vehicles.

Methodology

There are three data points needed to calculate VMT for this analysis: number of students, number of trips generated by each school, and the average distance to school for students.

Enrollment data for every year between 1997-98 and 2025-26 as well as projected enrollment for the 2026-27 school year was provided by the district for the affected school (see Table 1). The 2008–09 school year represented Faith Ringgold Elementary’s historic peak in enrollment and was used as the baseline year corresponding to the school’s peak VMT.



HEXAGON TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANTS, INC.

Table 1
Enrollment Data 1997-2024

Year	Burbank	Cherryland	East Avenue	Eden Gardens	Eldridge	Fairview	Faith Ringgold	Glassbrook	Harder	Longwood	Lorin A. Eden	Palma Ceia	Park	Ruus	Schafer Park	Southgate	Stonebrae	Treeview	Tyrrell	District Total
25-26	795	807	394	453	274	590	144	430	687	507	370	489	503	363	594	587	597	423	600	9607
24-25	800	855	407	477	281	543	111	455	671	517	386	484	504	361	606	581	605	426	597	9667
23-24	786	863	434	477	286	543	109	469	666	502	365	473	514	387	623	583	595	453	588	9716
22-23	794	903	426	481	301	562	111	474	675	532	353	479	494	379	642	611	595	437	606	9855
21-22	812	733	438	487	289	478	124	455	517	475	350	492	465	395	672	626	639	374	546	9367
20-21	834	788	513	513	327	537	134	507	455	552	349	522	512	430	742	657	696	407	600	10075
19-20	869	791	561	530	362	516	138	502	466	615	370	561	510	481	786	678	742	443	640	10561
18-19	867	746	568	552	378	549	132	515	569	651	389	551	532	486	778	677	745	461	675	10821
17-18	914	759	581	587	423	567	140	537	608	663	421	557	552	536	768	681	746	500	716	11256
16-17	917	788	611	589	476	579	135	556	610	708	464	588	584	573	734	699	710	496	735	11552
15-16	922	775	619	566	455	566	153	574	619	726	491	591	580	568	735	687	737	507	735	11606
14-15	794	783	635	559	506	600	145	548	608	692	493	579	614	603	744	651	717	553	769	11593
13-14	766	765	594	562	528	547	144	529	623	680	469	566	629	618	689	687	753	585	789	11523
12-13	765	779	589	589	558	492	153	516	623	660	487	560	659	632	604	663	738	609	738	11414
11-12	762	782	532	581	594	470	136	575	595	649	498	564	651	646	466	670	722	622	645	11160
10-11	760	807	535	610	610	474	136	561	599	666	516	571	662	674	485	643	749	596	662	11316
09-10	797	785	614	576	619	472	142	478	668	702	522	597	671	707	510	647	726	574	681	11488
08-09	755	774	550	541	588	458	183	403	688	719	546	658	679	707	572	647	677	579	708	11432
07-08	685	814	501	517	598	424	167	263	580	746	542	645	638	714	611	642	564	528	664	10843
06-07	605	881	421	552	467	374	131	444	568	777	544	623	607	742	536	611	521	456	420	10280
05-06	622	889	423	540	472	336	114	481	674	809	548	671	596	779	536	607	0	457	436	9990
04-05	667	897	424	602	480	383	163	466	695	759	569	683	658	788	532	663	0	483	522	10434
03-04	733	921	435	615	474	398	161	460	698	782	543	654	669	831	553	655	0	505	598	10685
02-03	748	891	416	603	451	385	178	512	724	759	545	666	669	888	512	668	0	514	615	10744
01-02	767	865	433	634	437	387	179	511	714	793	545	653	686	871	557	667	0	564	615	10878
00-01	710	828	420	651	454	414	168	554	759	779	561	645	664	889	598	698	0	575	638	11005
99-00	726	793	406	623	429	429	164	578	743	754	557	661	670	836	584	678	0	570	602	10803
98-99	703	761	424	631	375	432	162	579	712	750	554	622	652	835	575	647	0	490	596	10500
97-98	680	742	424	613	336	423	97	555	780	715	562	580	623	811	434	587	0	473	535	9970



Table 2
Peak Year and Reallocation of Students

School	Faith Ringgold Enrollment	
	2008-09	2026-27 ¹
Faith Ringgold	183	0
Cherryland	-	6
East Avenue	-	40
Eden Gardens	-	3
Fairview	-	39
Harder	-	5
Palma Ceia	-	2
Park	-	3
Schafer Park	-	1
Stonebrae	-	1
Treeview	-	42
Tyrrell	-	2
Interdistrict ²	-	8
Total	183	152

Notes:

1. Former Faith Ringgold students assigned to each school

2. Interdistrict transfers in 2025-26 – families will select from options provided to them



The enrollment figures were used to calculate the estimated number of trips generated by the schools using the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) *Trip Generation Manual, 12th Edition*, which indicates that an elementary school generates an average of 2.27 trips per student per day.

Table 3
ITE Trip Generation Numbers

School	ITE Trips Generated ¹	
	2008-09	2026-27
Faith Ringgold	416	0
Cherryland	-	14
East Avenue	-	91
Eden Gardens	-	7
Fairview	-	89
Harder	-	12
Palma Ceia	-	5
Park	-	7
Schafer Park	-	3
Stonebrae	-	3
Treeview	-	96
Tyrrell	-	5
Interdistrict ²	-	19
Total	416	351
Notes:		
Source: ITE Trip Generation Manual, 12th Edition 2025		
1. ITE average trip rate 2.27 trips per student for Elementary School (Land Use 520) are used.		
2. Interdistrict transfers in 2025-26 – families will select from options provided to them		

To determine the average distance to school without a map of student population, 95 “control points” were distributed across each elementary school’s boundary based on the percentage of reassigned students who live in each boundary. The straight line distance between each of these control points and Faith Ringgold Elementary was measured using Geographic Information Software (GIS). Next, the distance from each control point to their new school was measured (Figure 1). These distances to school were averaged to determine the current average distance to school and average distance to school under the proposed plan.

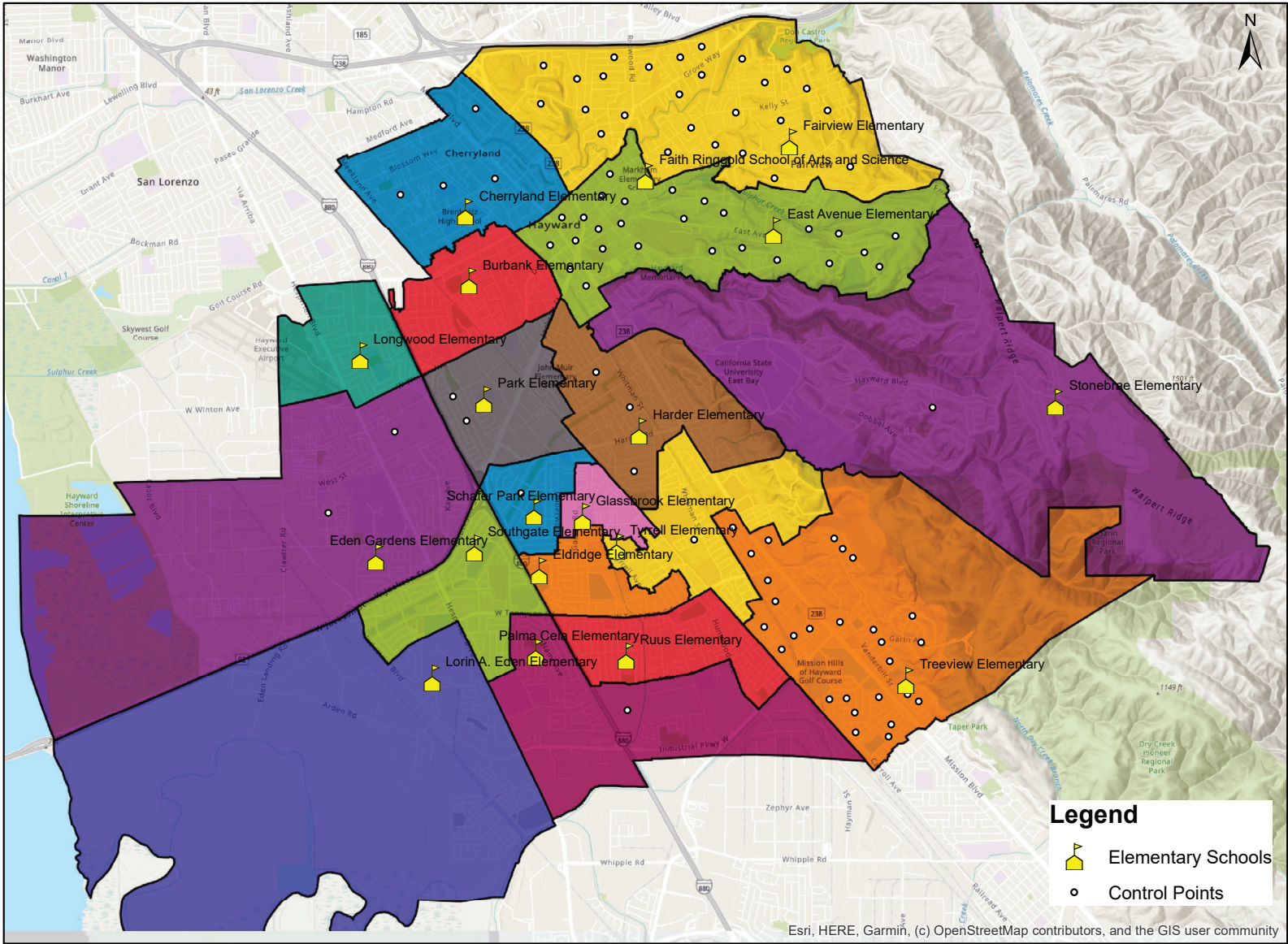


Figure 1
School Boundaries and Control Points



Analysis

Enrollment at Faith Ringgold Elementary has declined from 183 students in the 2008–09 school year to 152 students projected to be received by other schools in 2026-27 (see Table 2). Faith Ringgold Elementary trip generation is estimated to have decreased at a proportional rate from 416 daily trips in the 2008–09 school year to 351 daily trips to new schools projected in 2026–27 (see Table 3).

For students received by East Avenue Elementary and Fairview Elementary the average distance to school would increase from the current average of 1.04 and 1.10 miles respectively to an average of 1.17 and 1.13 miles respectively. For students received by all other receiving schools the average distance to school would decrease from the current average. Overall, the average distance to school for relocated students would decrease from an average of 2.35 miles to travel to Faith Ringgold Elementary to an average of 0.99 miles to travel to their receiving school (see Table 4).

The historic drop in enrollment combined with the decrease in overall average distance to school due to the consolidation plan would result in fewer and shorter vehicle trips to and from school. As a result VMT generated by the received Faith Ringgold Elementary students would decrease by 64 percent under the consolidation plan compared to the 2008-09 baseline (see Table 5). The distance to school for students attending other District elementary schools has not changed; however, enrollment has also decreased at those schools, resulting in a similar reduction in VMT district wide.



Table 4
Average Distance to School

School	Distance to School ¹	
	Students	2026-27
Cherryland	6	1.2 miles
East Avenue	40	0.6 miles
Eden Gardens	3	0.9 miles
Fairview	39	1.1 miles
Harder	5	0.4 miles
Palma Ceia	2	1.0 miles
Park	3	0.3 miles
Schafer Park	1	0.2 miles
Stonebrae	1	1.1 miles
Treeview	42	0.9 miles
Tyrrell	2	0.7 miles
Interdistrict ²	8	-
Overall Average ³		0.99 miles

Notes:

1. Average distances calculated by measuring from each address to Faith Ringgold and to the assigned new school.

2. No 2026-27 school assignment data for interdistrict students

3. Overall average distance is average of distance to new school for all control points

Table 5
VMT Calculations

Change in VMT		
	2008-09	2026-27
# of Students	183	152
ITE Trips	416	351
Avg. Distance (Mi)	2.35	0.99
VMT	978	347
% Change in VMT:		-64.5%



Ms. Teri Wissler Adam
April 10, 2026
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In Summary

The closure of Faith Ringgold Elementary School would result in a net reduction in vehicle miles traveled compared to the baseline of school operations in 2008-2009. The decrease in student enrollment over the past seventeen years combined with the overall decrease in travel distance for the received Faith Ringgold Elementary students has coincided with a decrease in VMT. Compared to the baseline, district wide VMT would be reduced and the VMT from received Faith Ringgold students would be reduced by 64 percent.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this analysis. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,
HEXAGON TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANTS, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary K. Black".

Gary K. Black
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ethan Heckman".

Ethan Heckman
Planner