

Mayumi Romero

December 2, 2024

Dear Members of the School Board,

My name is Mayumi Romero, I am a seventh grade student attending United for Success Academy. My school is one of the ten that are being targeted for a merger in the 2025-2026 school year. I understand that OUSD is facing immense debt, and that this may *appear* to be a solution, but I would like you all to reconsider merging these schools as they could affect our communities in a very negative way.

Having small schools like mine can ensure that our classrooms will have less students. Smaller classes could guarantee that each individual student gets noticed by the teacher, and in my experience, get 1 on 1 help with work. It's also easier for a teacher to teach their class when there aren't as many students, it's easier to gather the attention of twenty students than thirty two. If we merge with Life Academy, our school will be bigger, which means we would have to put students in larger classrooms, taking away the privilege of having a deep connection with our teachers and the help in their education they could be having.

Speaking of having deeper connections with teachers, smaller schools also have a better sense of community. For example, in UFSA, the students have good connections with our teachers. Better connection AND communication could lead to better learning. For a teacher to teach well, they need to get to know their students, and it is much easier to build a sense of community in a smaller school than a bigger school with more people.

Our schools are also here for vastly different things. UFSA focuses more on advocacy, leadership and community. Life Academy, while they have all these three things as well, they focus more on the sciences. Life academy also hand picks their students carefully, as for UFSA we accept any student, even if they are newcomers who know little to no english. We offer programs for them, and if we merge we don't know if they would be available anymore.

Also, what are the chances that the students are going to stay in the merged school after all? What if the parents decide to pull their child out of OUSD because they feel that this district is hurting their child more than helping? Wouldn't you lose money? Many of the schools you all are planning to merge are elementary schools. Imagine you were in elementary school and you had to go through the radical change of your school merging. Wouldn't that be quite annoying and infuriating?

With our schools merging, we don't even know if all our students will be accepted into the new large school. Many families pick a specific school because it is closer to their house and don't have transportation. Imagine if their child didn't get accepted into the new school and OUSD shipped them to another school. How would that student get there?

Our school is important to us. United For Success Academy has made so many students find their voices and roles as leaders. Our teachers have made a commitment to better our students' education. So it doesn't sit well with me that some of them might be relocated when they have chosen

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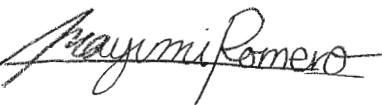
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Our school is important to us. United For Success Academy has made so many students find their voices and roles as leaders. Our teachers have made a commitment to better our students' education. So it doesn't sit well with me that some of them might be relocated when they have chosen

this school and have made a difference to the students by teaching them here. Merging our schools would be like stripping away the community that our teachers, staff and principal worked so hard to build. We don't want merges. No one in our community wants them. It doesn't help, it just hurts.

Thank you for reading this letter. I hope you reconsider these merges (closures) and vote no on merging them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mayumi Romero". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line through the middle of the name.

Mayumi Romero.

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Sincerely,

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Mayumi Romero.

Marvin Martinez
On Behalf of the students of
United for Success Academy

December 6, 2024

Hello Oakland Unified School District, I am here to express my feelings about the school mergers. I am from UFSA and really care about my school and don't want or need to merge with Life Academy. There are a bunch of kids that love and cherish this school and don't want it to close, I am one of them. Merging the schools is really pointless because you don't save a penny with merging. I, and a bunch of other students, don't want our schools to close, not just UFSA, but also all of the other schools getting merged together.

The kids attending our schools are looking for an education and not 2 schools merging. We signed up for UFSA and want to stay in UFSA because we love our schools and want to stay in it. I've included links to articles where other schools being merged aren't finding success:

<https://www.kqed.org/news/12014397/parents-teachers-say-oakland-school-mergers-could-hurt-students-in-the-flatlands>

My opinion on this is that it is really pointless merging the schools because again, you aren't saving any money, it is more likely you're wasting/using more. We, as in UFSA, need our school and care about it. We have friends here and if the schools merge, some might move schools. Teachers will lose their jobs, deans will lose their jobs, and that's something that they, and we don't want just for 2 schools to combine and save money when you aren't saving any. UFSA doesn't want a school merger because it is not needed.


In conclusion, I hope you reconsider merging United for Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would stop our education, and take away the place that we feel safe and supported. We all love our school and wouldn't like to see it close. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students.

Thank you for reading and I hope you can hear all of us.

Sincerely,

Marvin Martinez

On Behalf of the students of
United for Success Academy
s_marvin.martinezorozco@ousd.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marvin Martinez". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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Sincerely,

Marvin Martinez

On Behalf of the students of
United for Success Academy
s_marvin.martinezorozco@ousd.org





Elizabeth Matias

Dear members of the school Board,

My name is Elizabeth Matias and I am a 7th - grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

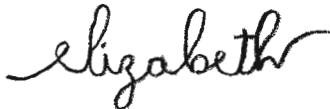
From what I understand, merging schools makes less school and the population from the 1940s there were 117,000 to 15,000 schools in the 2000s which is a big problem because not only does it make less schools but less opportunities for students to either experience or a very crowded school because they don't have many schools to go to. Also not always there is good news about merging schools. For example after merging schools the cost of each student ' increases Instead of decreasing which is bad since the Idea of merging schools was to decrease the cost of the school.

[Link of info](#)

As a student, I believe that our school should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for the students. By investing in our school.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth".

Elizabeth
7th grade
United for success Academy

Elizabeth Matias

Dear members of the school Board,

My name is Elizabeth Matias and I am a 7th - grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth".

Elizabeth
7th grade
United for success Academy



Dear members of the School board,

My name is Himelda Ahilon and I am a 7th grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life academy. While I understand that you may be facing a difficult decision, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand, it's better if there are 2 separate schools. They want to save up money which will lead them to lower attainment rates, also it could always affect a lot of students during the merge. They can lose many things like students due to merging which will cause differences in the schools. People think that merging is a great idea to save up money, make a better community and help others out but no it's not a great idea. The reason why it's not a great idea is because it doesn't make a better community. It won't be safe around more students and not safe around teachers you're not used to. I've included links to articles where other "merged" schools were not finding success:

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2006/oct/24/schools.uk2>

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/46381608 Failure of the Merger of the Mount Sinai and New York University Hospitals and Medical Schools Part 2](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/46381608_Failure_of_the_Merger_of_the_Mount_Sinai_and_New_York_University_Hospitals_and_Medical_Schools_Part_2)

As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best education for our children. By investing in our schools, the community of our school united for success, supporting us and helping others in our communities. We have programs and classes where they can help us and have fun and not struggle for example blueprint, Art, Music and computer science. The teachers in our community are helpful, kind and they support us in anything. We don't want this opportunity to go and that our teachers and staff members face this. Staff members are used to their students and they don't want to join another school that has different rules and students. We don't want our school to lose its name and the principal also staff members. We want to stay in this helpful community and not join another school that is different from ours and has different students. Students will be affected by this because some are used to small schools and not huge schools that get together. I feel sad because I don't want to merge with the other school, I would rather have my own space in my school. People think joining together is a good idea but no it's not students will not have their own space.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see its tribe. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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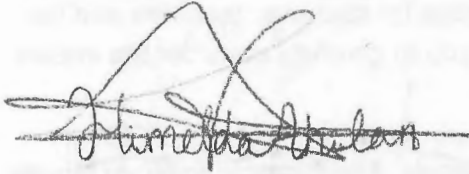
Himelda Ahilon
7th grade

United for success Academy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Himelda Ahilon". The signature is written in a cursive style with some overlapping loops. Below the signature, there is a horizontal line that has been crossed out with a single stroke.

Himelda Ahilon
7th grade

United for success Academy

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Julian Gonzalez

Dear Oakland Unified School District Board

My name is Julian and I am a 7th-grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education.

Some of the potential negatives of closing our school would be number one. there could be less faculty, and teachers, and there could be more fights. Because of a school merger, there's going to be more students and less faculty and teachers and that's gonna put pressure on the teachers and the faculty.

Instead of merging schools, can we cut from the almost 40 people who make more than 150,000 dollars a year? No teacher in OUSD can ever make this much money and yet the district office justifies pay raises for these people. Please do not defund.

If you decide to this, you're probably going to lose a lot of money if you merge are schools and you are going to lose teachers that I need to Help me with Learning. I hope we win vote on December 11th 2024

Parents, Teachers Say Oakland School Mergers Could ...

School Merger a Bad Idea

Julian Gonzalez

Julian Gonzalez Angel

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Julian Gonzalez

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Sebastian faotusia
Oku ou Tonga
United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Members of the school board.

My name is Sebastian and I am a 7th grade student at United For Success Academy . I Am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy . I understand that you face difficult decisions during this time. I do urge you to reconsider your decision in your plan to merge these two schools. There would be consequences to the decision you make making the ten schools merge as academics will lower and be unequal to the students' education.

The merger articles claim our students face unequal opportunities in the different schools. Test results from the last three years do not support this. As evidence, the Articles say "several schools" do not have summer and after-school programming. In fact, one school does not have summer programming. With the impact of school closure, student academic lower and behavior. There are multiple negative impacts on the student in the short term and long term .

<https://www.ibrattleboro.com/opinion/op-ed/2017/10/school-merger-a-bad-idea/>

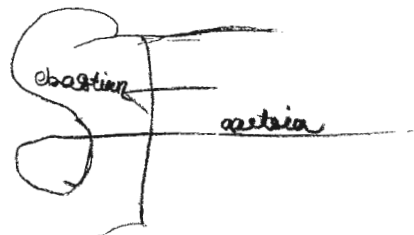
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As a student , I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for their students . As it is unfair for other schools to have less consideration for the student education journey learning .

In conclusion, I would like you to reconsider your decision for the students' education .

Fakamatoat ☐ ☐ Sebastian koliniasi faotusia.

Ka ta ki ' o toe faka kau kau

A handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is stylized, starting with a large 'S' that loops around. The name 'Sebastian' is written in a cursive script across the middle of the 'S'. The name 'faotusia' is written in a similar cursive script at the end of the signature.

Sebastian faotusia
Oku ou Tonga
United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

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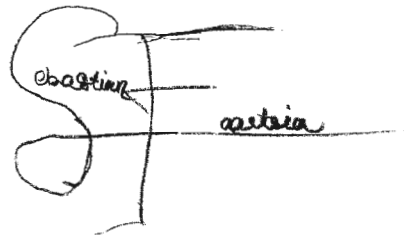
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Fakamatoat Sebastian koliniasi faotusia.

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A handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is stylized, starting with a large 'S' and 'F' that are connected. The name 'Sebastian' is written in cursive across the top of the 'S', and 'faotusia' is written in cursive across the bottom of the 'F'.



Dear Members of the School board,

My name is Ana Castro and I'm a 7th-grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who kind of loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand, Public schools numbers, basically their population or how many students they had, fell from 233,000 to 91,000 in the 2000's. They started with 233,000 students in the late 1930's, then ending with 91,000 in the 2000's. Just for closing or possibly merging the public schools, they've lost a lot of students. It also could affect the students by the loss of their identities around their surrounding communities.

Link to support my text:

<https://fordhaminstitute.org/national/commentary/consolidation-bad-idea>

As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children. By investing in our schools, you'd be able to support our staff, or different staff from the schools you're supposedly merging. If you also invest, you'd be helping with programmatic support for us, (the students) and the families in our community. For example, these are some places that were smart and invested in their schools:

1. Maryland.

“ Maryland established the Concentration of Poverty grant program to provide annual community school personnel grants to eligible schools, along with additional per-pupil grant funding for each eligible student. “

2. New York.

“ New York created a community schools set-aside in its school funding formula for high-need districts and funded three regional technical assistance centers for community schools. “

<https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/state-strategies-investing-in-community-schools-report>

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United For Success Academy with LIFE Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



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7th Grade
United For Success Academy

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7th Grade
United For Success Academy

Kimberly reyes

Diciembre 2/2024

United for Success and Life academy

Estimados Miembros de la Junta Escolar

Mi nombre es Kimberly Reyes. Soy estudiante de United for Success Academy. El 11 de noviembre escuchamos la noticia de que quieren cerrar la escuela United for Success academy para unir las dos escuelas United for Success y Life Academy. Al escuchar esta noticia me decepcioné porque ustedes prefieren a Life academy solo por tener buenos programas. Cada escuela tiene sus propios aprendizajes. Probablemente ustedes piensen de que con cerrar las escuelas ustedes pueden ahorrar dinero, pero eso hará que gasten más por todos los estudiantes que están en la escuela y los materiales que necesitan. La razón más importante de esta mala idea es que a los estudiantes los están dejando sin el aprendizaje que tenían y a los maestros los están dejando sin trabajos.

Como estudiante y todo el amor que le tengo a mi escuela le exijo que tenga en cuenta todo lo que hemos estado aprendiendo en estos años y lo que nos va a costar volver a aprender. Como estudiante creo que deberían investigar que United for Success da una mejor educación que Life Academy. En conclusión le insisto en reconsiderar unir a United for Success con Life academy. Si cierran las escuelas nuestra educación se quebrara en pedazos porque en otra escuela no aprenderemos lo que estamos aprendiendo en united for success. Nos quitarán el lugar de la escuela que nos ha llenado de amor y seguridad. Estamos muy orgullosos de nuestra escuela y por la educación que nos dan.

El primer día en el que llegue a United for Success en 6 grado me sentía nerviosa, pero los maestros me trataron bien y empecé a agarrar un poquito más de confianza. Hablando con mis compañeros de clases y riendome me sentí muy bien el día de clases del año Como me siento en United for Success.

En la escuela United for Success me siento bien aprendiendo muchas cosas. United for Success es una escuela que nos brinda seguridad, nos tratan como familia, y nos quieren mucho. La escuela United for Success es una grandiosa escuela, Que nos tratan como familia nos hacen sentir muy bien y que somos parte de ella Algo que me fue muy estresante el año pasado fueron las clases y mas la de matemáticas porque no soy tan buena pero este año que he estado poniendo atención vi que si le entiendo un poco. En la clase que me siento más bien es en la de inglés porque el maestro es

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Kimberly Reyes Chinchilla

Dear Members of the School Board.

My name is Liana Aguilar and I am a 7th-grade student at United For Success Academy middle school. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy middle school. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers and the entire community. As a student who loves my school I urge you to carefully consider the impact these decisions will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand is that when the school loses its name and principal mergers feel a little different than a closure. Also teachers would lose their jobs and vote for no reason??

Link 1 Chalkbeat

<https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2024/10/25/n...>

Link 2 The Berkshire Eagle

https://www.berkshireeagle.com/southern_berkshires

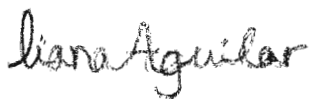
As a student I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children. By investing in our schools I feel sad because I would not see some of the staff and teachers. I would not hear the name UNITED FOR SUCCESS ACADEMY anymore. In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well being of all students. THANK YOU ☐

Sincerely

LIANA.AGUILAR

7th grade

United for success academy.



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[Oakland school board set](#)

[Teachers, students angry](#)

look at these links: families,teachers,staff are fighting for what they believe and for their children to keep learning and feel comfortable with the people around them and now they will have to go to a different school with new learning and people that they don't feel comfortable with that will help them learn what they need to. even teachers are fighting for the kids that they love and teach that is how much they care about them if they didn't care about them then why would they be fighting for the children because they know that the kids need to learn and not have to go to a whole new different school and also life academy does not accept every student they accept certain students but here in united for success they accept every student no matter how you are or how you identify i wouldn't want to go to a school where they don't accept everybody i would want everybody to be included and not feel left out. At United for Success we are taught that everybody should be included and not left out. You should put yourself in another person's perspective where they feel left out and let see how it feels . I would like you guys to rethink your decision and make mine as an example. Thank you for your time and consideration.

sincerely,

Chris.bautista
7th grade
United for success

Chris.S.bautista Pablo

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United For Success Academy

Dec 11 2024

Axel Maravilla Pino

Greetings Oakland unified school district members. I'm writing this essay to express my feelings about the school board trying to "merge" the schools. I don't feel good about this "merger" for multiple reasons, one of which is students being comfortable around the staff we already have here. Why is being comfortable around the staff important you may ask it is important because this way learning is already easier we already know who's teaching us which allows us to be in school worry free of anything happening. Not just knowing who's teaching us but who is around us. In case we need something around school campus if we spot anything that's wrong we can let the staff know quickly because we already know where they are located at. Being comfortable also gives us opportunities to let them know if we have personal struggles we can let them know and ask for help if needed.

If we end up not merging the schools us students will have a place where we can be at without worrying about the outside world. Students are already comfortable with the environment in general. Kids from life academy already feel comfortable what would make us want to come to school wanting to learn knowing that we are being forced into something that we do not like. Merging schools would involve so many problems. Some of which are more fights, spending more money to "merge" the schools.

More students per class means that they won't get the attention they need in order to learn. How does more students per class affect the way we learn? This will affect the way we learn. When we need help we will have to wait a large amount of time. This will also make it harder for our teachers to teach us because they will need to focus on larger amounts of students.

The fact that you guys are trying to hide the fact that you are trying to close the school by using the word merge is just sad.

My opinion on school merging is that we shouldn't do it because we would be taking away a place that feels like home to many people, not just students but also parents as well. Parents come here and drop us here knowing that we will be perfectly fine. They trust the staff to take care of us in case of any emergency or anything. Introducing a new system to families will not be good at all.

In conclusion It's not a good idea to merge both schools. Merging schools will cause many problems not just for families but also for staff. Our staff have already adapted to this system.

<https://www.kqed.org/news/12014397/parents-teachers-say-oakland-school-mergers-could-hurt-students-in-the-flatlands>

If you are reading this thank you for your time and consideration of our opinion.

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Dear member of the school board,

My name is Lucas Cruz and I am a 7th-grade student at United for Success academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with life academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand The budget is in the Oakland school district, and merging our school or other schools in Oakland I don't think will help this situation. This merge will impact our after school program, the student and also the families that have kids attend the after school program.

Links <https://nepc.colorado.edu/>
<https://www.communityschools.org/>

The mergers could lead to Job losses, mergers can result in layoffs and a decrease in employee morale. You may think that merging schools will make you save money. It's not true because it's going to make you buy more supplies for your students.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely, *Lucas Cruz*

Lucas cruz
7th grade United For Success academy

LUCAS CRUZ

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My name is Lucas Cruz and I am a 7th-grade student at United for Success academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with life academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

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Dear member of the school Board,

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From what I understand is that, if we merge schools with Life Academy many things will change and it'll impact our learning as students, the schools don't have the same policies and opportunities as other schools do. I've included links to articles where other "merged" schools were not finding success.

[Oakland school board set to discuss possible school mergers – NBC Bay Area](https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/east-bay/oakland-possible-school-mergers/3707700/)
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[Teachers, students angry over Oakland school mergers](#)
[YouTube video • 2 minutes](#)

As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children. By investing in our schools, it will help and better our education.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider UFSA with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gerardo Matias Pablos

Gerardo Matias
7th Grade
United For Success Academy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerardo Matias Pablos", with a large, stylized circular flourish above the name.

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Gerardo Matias
7th Grade
United For Success Academy

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Jorge Cisneroscervantes
United For Success Academy

Dear United For Success Academy And Staff And Students

As u know united for success academy and staffs know that life wants to merge with us united for success academy so they can make this school one whole school and because life has a better program but us united for success academy wont let that happened because we like our program that we already have and we like our staff and the final vote if united academy and life merge into one school is december 11 so we are trying are best to not let that happened because our classmates don't want to merge with life we are already in our own school we don't want to merge with life academy and we will fight back so we can keep our own school UFSA

So this is going to be my letter so our school united for success don't be one whole school with life academy so we are trying our best to not let that happened because we wont let life academy merge into our school just because they have a better program and all of united kids don't want life academy to merge into out school because they like there after school program teachers and there regular day time teachers like i like my 7 teachers the most because he is a really good and chill teacher and my 6 period teacher is really a really chill teacher she don't yell

And also even tho we are in depth worth a 100 million dollar worth of depth we should still not vote for life academy to merge our school united for success because but if life academy wins the vote there school won't be safe at all because they will be barley any staff or security keeping the school safe and they will be less staff in the hallways and they will be barley ant teachers and they will be more students so they might have 2 X there normal class in one class and it will be hard to teach so it's going to be really crowded in the class but we will really put the effort to keep our school open and not let life academy merge with our school and if they merge we won't be as safe inside life academy than we are in united for success academy due to less staff and we have been talking about merging the schools for a couple years now and it never happens so we well see if its real about school closer

Sincerely, 

Jorge Cisneros Cervantes

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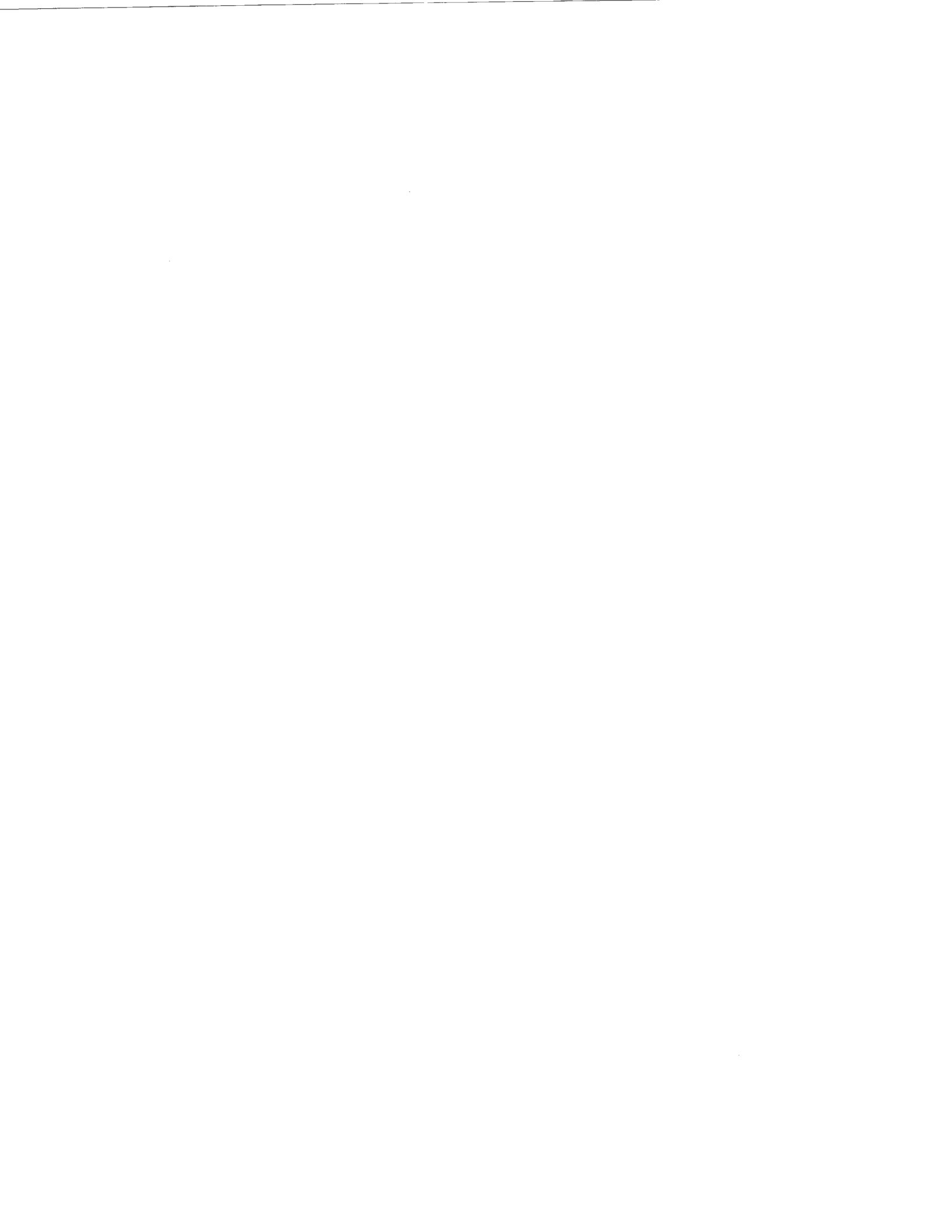
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Gabriela Ramirez

United for Success Academy.

December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District board

Dear members of the School board.

We, the dedicated students at United for Success Academy and Life Academy, write to express our heartfelt gratitude for your decision to say no to the proposed merger of our schools. This thoughtful choice reinforces the Oakland Unified School District's commitment to equality, inclusion, and the sanctuary status that makes our district a beacon of hope for so many.

As you know, Oakland has long been a proud home to immigrant families, many of whom enrich our city and schools with their diverse cultures, languages, and traditions. These families have found refuge here, creating vibrant communities that embody the best of our shared humanity. Our schools, specially United for Success Academy, serve as safe havens where children feel protected and valued despite the challenges they and their families may face.

Donald Trump's campaign promise to deport millions of immigrants brought a chilling reality to many of our classmates and their families. Even now, policies from that administration linger as a source of fear and instability for immigrant communities. Yet, Oakland Unified School District stands as a sanctuary district—a place where families can trust that their children's education will not be jeopardized by external threats.

My deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with life academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand, schools who have merged in the past have not been a success at all

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https://ecommons.udayton.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1217&context=eda_fac_publications#:~:text=Other%20arguments%20voiced%20against%20school,decreased%20individual%20attention%20for%20students.

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/when-schools-merge-principals-must-forge-a-new-culture-heres-how/2024/02>

These links show how schools close or have difficulties after merging.

As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our classmates. By investing schools close or have difficulties.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and Supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all our classmates.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabriela". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Gabriela E Ramirez
7th grade
United for Success Academy

https://ecommons.udayton.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1217&context=eda_fac_pub#:~:text=Other%20arguments%20voiced%20against%20school,decreased%20individual%20attention%20for%20students.

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/when-schools-merge-principals-must-forge-a-new-culture-heres-how/2024/02>

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Gabriela E Ramirez

7th grade

United for Success Academy

John lopez

United for Success Academy

Dec 11, 2024

Oakland unified Schools District Board

Dear Members of the School board,

My name is John Lopez and I am a 7th-grade student at United for Success academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our schools would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have in our education and our future.

From what I understand, Besides price-escalation, consolidation discourages competition and educational diversity. Caroline Hoxby and Sam Peltzman have found that it adversely affects both the cost of education and the performance of students. I've included links to the articles where other "merged" schools were not finding success


<https://fordhaminstitute.org/national/commentary/consolidation-bad-idea#:~:text=Besides%20price%20escalation%2C%20consolidation%20discourages,and%20the%20performance%20of%20students.>

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John lopez
7th grade
United for Success academy.



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United for Success Academy

Dec 11, 2024

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John lopez 
7th grade
United for Success academy.





Benjamin Inthavong

December 11, 2024

United for Success

Dear Members of the School Board,

My name is Benjamin and I'm in 7th-grade and a student at United for Success academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire school community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future. I'm writing this for our school. Also my concerns are why are we merging if you have money? And I wish to see us win so we won't merge because it doesn't make sense if you have money. If you merge us together because you don't have money you will lose more money because you're losing kids from your school.

From what I understand, I've included links where other "merged" schools were not finding success because the first link lost 147 million dollars just because they thought they would save 3 million and the second link said they lost half their school nurses because of the merger. Students will also not get the same education and their economic problems will not improve because it will make them waste more money because some students are gonna get sent to different schools that are far from their home and it's gonna cost more. You guys are just thinking for your benefit and not ours.

Link 1 <https://www.kqed.org/news/12014397/parents-teachers-say-oakland-school-mergers-could-hurt-students-in-the-flatlands>

Link 2

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7th grade

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Benjamin Inthavong

7th grade

United for Success Academy

Benjamin





Daniel Moradel

United for Success Academy and Life Academy
December 11, 2024

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

Students and teachers are not going to like the idea of this change that's going to happen and mostly the kids are going to miss the opportunity of learning for a little. Because of this merging of these schools like the manzanita or every school is going to mostly change and kids might not like others and create more problems. And the Oakland Unified school district is sitting on \$305 million dollars for the district and they are doing this merge to help themselves out.

And hoping this change does not change but either way it's mostly going to change the district already decided to change everything. Students family are getting really mad about this change that

is going to happen next year in 2025. And they're doing this change for money or something else about payments. It's something to do with paying or just making money so they're doing this for mostly the money and merging the school is making the students lose their education. And that money there is going to make next year the schools that are getting merged there classes and everything is going to change

. Why can't one school be one school? Why do we have to share a school? And everyone hates everything that's going on about this change. Mostly everyone is trying to help and make the district minds change and not make this change happen but hopefully something changes from this merge. And *everyone is trying to help and make this right.*

And people might start to do a protest for OUSD not to merge the schools and people are trying to help everyone and telling the district that this is isn't nice for anybody for merging these schools in oakland or maybe in somewhere in city maybe there doing it to the school in other cities and merging and there making the students lose their education for some merging some school and they might close the schools and the adults and the kids are not wanting this to happen.

And they're not just doing this merging for something important there just doing this to school merging is for money or for a payment all they need is that money or something else but it doesn't mean that you make something happen doesn't mean other are going to like the idea you are going to make some people may like it or might not like it. But it's crazy that they're just doing this for themselves and not thinking about the students or anybody else. And everyone is trying to explain that this change is a bad idea and mostly everyone in Oakland is agreeing with others' information.

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<https://www.kron4.com> › news › bay-area › oakland-sc...

And oakland unified school district doesn't even care about anyone's opinion they just want this change to happen for them and for anyone else and others are trying to convince the district to not do this and it's going to be a bad decision to make because there going to ruin the kids education and experiencing school only there school and now they cant because another school is going to be shared all together and the district is not fair. And we are not getting anything out of it. Teachers are trying to fight this merger people from united for success does not want this to happen students are even on the oakland news saying this isn't right there even trying to put kids to fight back to oakland unified school district not just this school is fighting every school in oakland is fighting back and everyone is putting there heart in soul by fighting back but the district just wants to shut it down for things there going to need. And there ruining kids learning education.

Sincerely,



Daniel Funes-Moradel

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Daniel Funes-Moradel

Maico Godinez sales

United for Success Academy

December 11,2024

Oakland Unified school district board

Dear Esteemed Board Members'

My name is Maico and I am a 7th grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers and the entire community.

The kid's might have a hard time because their school is going to merge with another. And they might not like the merge and some teacher don't want to merge with another school. Life academy has a better program, then united for success or other schools have something better than one school and they merge. Kids might leave school and go to another school. The Oakland district wants to save money and they're not going to save money. They're going to spend a lot of money for two schools but if there were no merge they will save some money. School board you guys are not saving money if you guys merge the school's. School board reduce administrative costs while creating a strong program

<https://www.ktvu.com/news/ousd-proposes-merging-10-schools-cut-costs>

[governing.com/policy/if-trump-dismantles-the-education-department-hell-regret-it](https://www.governing.com/policy/if-trump-dismantles-the-education-department-hell-regret-it)

Why does he school board have to merge school and it not that important because kids might have trouble and they had to change school and the school board have to merge and some time that happened to kids that had problems with kids with other kids and the school beard are going to merge and kids might leave and go to another school Or like us that the school beard trying to merge us with life academy and we want to graduate at 8 grad but we can't because life have 12

The school board is going to regret their decision because kids might leave the 10 school that going to to merge to become 5 schools. The school will have small classes for each classroom and they won't have any more students and the teacher might leave their job because they won't have a lot of students.

<https://oaklandside.org/2024/11/08/10-oakland-schools-would-be-merged-under-a-plan-the-board-is-considering/>

OUSD merge school to have more electives and enrichment programs, and provide more support student's and that way the merge school's.

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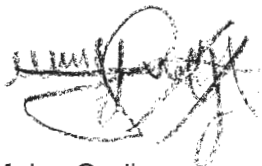
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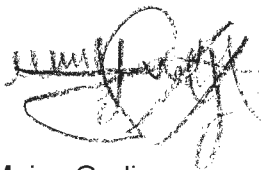
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Maico Godinez

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Maico Godinez

Dear Members of the School Board,

December 11, 2024

My name is Ashley Quintanilla Zepeda and I am a 7th-grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the whole community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand, It would be more difficult because not all students have the same goal and same objectives in their life based on their community needs. In my opinion we should not merge because It would affect students' education. Closures also come with extra costs that people don't think about from the beginning. A big one that could come from merging our schools is that transporting students to farther schools will cost more.

Renovations to accommodate our schools to receive more students will cost more as well so I think that merging schools will not help reduce costs. If anything it's just negatively affecting our education. I know you think that merging our school is going to make you save money but is actually not because there is a high risk of losing extra money because there will be more kids in just a single school, and some of those kids are going to get sent to other schools that are far from their home.

This is not fair because it makes us think that merging schools is more for their benefits and not ours. This will not improve our education. Students on't necessarily go to higher performing schools. In fact, research shows it actually sets students back as they try to adapt to new schools and new environments.

I also got information out of these links:

Link 1. https://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/newsletter-oakland-012919?utm_source=search&utm_campaign=nepc_visitors

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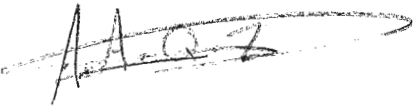
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Link 2 .

<https://nepc.colorado.edu/libraries/pdf.js/web/viewer.html?file=https://nepc.colorado.edu/sites/default/files/publications/PB%20Sunderman-Coghlan-Mintrop%20Closures.pdf>

As a student, I believe that our school should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our students. By investing in our school. In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all of our students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley', is written over a horizontal line that has been struck through with a pencil.

Ashley
7th grade
United for Success.

Link 2 .

<https://nepc.colorado.edu/libraries/pdf.js/web/viewer.html?file=https://nepc.colorado.edu/sites/default/files/publications/PB%20Sunderman-Coghlan-Mintrop%20Closures.pdf>

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Ashley
7th grade
United for Success.

Yaw Gyedu
On behalf of the students at
United for Success Academy and Life Academy.
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board.

Dear esteemed board members.

My name is Yaw and I am a 7th grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand school mergers don't really go as well as what the board members think it will, a lot of school mergers have failed by losing money because 50 and 75 percent of students because of culture differences.

Link: [Link: <https://www.aasa.org/resources/resource/school-district-consolidation-the-benefits-and-costs>](https://www.financierworldwide.com/culture-clashes-in-ma-new-perspectives#:~:text=According%20to%20a%20number%20of, failure%20rate%20above%2080%20 percent. According to this article a number of surveys, between 50 and 75 percent of all post-merger integrations fail to meet their original objectives due to cultural clashes. Some sources put the failure rate above 80 percent.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Merging schools is a bad decision because over a 30 year period, the net annual savings after accounting for adjustments costs fell to 43.7 percent for a consolidation of two 300-pupil districts and to 29.6 percent for the consolidation of two 1500-pupil districts.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Yaw Gyedu
7th grade United for Success







Samantha Saephan
On Behalf of United For Success Academy at
United For Success Academy and Life Academy
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

My name is Samantha i am in the 7th grade at United For Success and I'm writing you this letter because I heard that you wanted to merge 10 school in Oakland including United For Success Academy and Life Academy because to save money and to help students but how is merging schools going to help the students, merging schools might save you money but how is the merging schools going to help students, there will be more people in every classroom. How is merging schools going to save money? I don't think we should merge schools because the classrooms are going to be more full and maybe or will be more distractions for other students. There is also going to be less staff working because there are going to be more students.

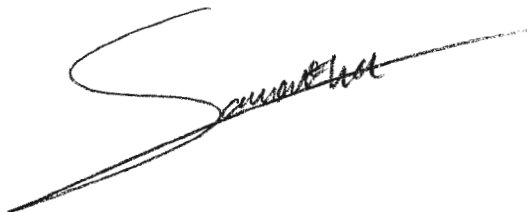
The Life Academy and the United For Success Academy kids don't want to merge school ether, if we merge schools there is going to be less staff because if we merge then the staff at United For Success Academy will have to find another job is we merge and there will be more kids skipping class, kids that were on the news don't want their schools to close so do their parents, the parents don't want their kids schools to close ether, if we merge schools thats going to be more money spent on uniforms for the students.

The schools that would be merging will have to let go some of their staff and you spending more money on uniforms on the students then spending the money on the school and what the schools need, also in an article i read it said \$95 million in cuts board you guys the board members need to make for its 2025-2026 budgets. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Article <https://oaklandside.org/2024/11/14/parents-teachers-and-community-members-urge-oakland-unified-to-rethink-school-merger-plan/>

Article

<https://www.aasa.org/resources/resource/school-district-consolidation-the-benefits-and-costs>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samantha Saephan', written over a horizontal line.

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On Behalf of United For Success Academy at
United For Success Academy and Life Academy
December 11, 2024

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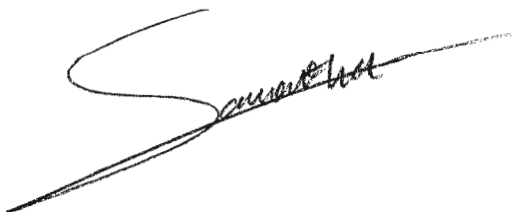
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Juana Pablo Matias

United For Success and Life Academy

December 11, 2024

Dear members of the school Board

My name is Juana and I am a 7th grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for teachers and students and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

For what I understand is that with the merger students may face overcrowding classrooms and reduced individual attention from teachers. This can hinder their ability to succeed academically and create an environment that feels impersonal and disconnected. United for success has a unique culture that fosters strong relationships between teachers, students, and families. United for Success provides an important local hub, and merging with another school could result in the loss of jobs, local economic support, and the neighborhood's social fabric. From transportation issues to the integration of different school cultures, the transition could create confusion and unnecessary stress for both students and staff. And another reason I understand is that 10 other schools are often merged to address budget issues by consolidating resources and staff, reducing administrative costs, and potentially creating stronger educational programs. What I understand is that schools are merging because the district is facing a budget deficit of nearly \$79 million for the end of 2024 and could face a deficit of more than \$90 million in 2025.

LINK: 1

<https://www.kqed.org/news/12014397/parents-teachers-say-oakland-school-merger-s-could-hurt-students-in-the-flatlands>

Juana Pablo Matias

United For Success and Life Academy

December 11, 2024

Dear members of the school Board

My name is Juana and I am a 7th grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for teachers and students and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

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LINK: 2

<https://oaklandside.org/2024/11/14/parents-teachers-and-community-members-urge-oakland-unified-to-rethink-school-merger-plan/>

As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children. By investing in our schools you are not just supporting education you're helping to create a brighter future for our students. With your support, we can provide the tools and opportunities our students need to excel, preparing them to become tomorrow's leaders and innovators.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for success with Life academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our Voices and prioritize the well-being of all students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Juana Pablo Matias

7th Grade

UNITED FOR SUCCESS

LINK: 2

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juana". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'J' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Juana Pablo Matias

7th Grade

UNITED FOR SUCCESS

JORDY AGUILAR

On behalf of the teachers at
United for success academy and life academy

My name is JORDY and i am 7th-grade student at united for success academy i am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with life academy. While i understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our schools would have serious negative consequences for student, teachers, and entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future

From what I understand, that in total 10 schools are gonna be merged next fall. I've included links to articles where other merged schools were not finding success and parents and teachers are thinking this is not fair for some students and that the students is gonna be hard to find another type of the same education they were giving and that

<https://oaklandside.org/2024/11/08/10-oakland-schools-would-be-merged-under-a-plan-the-board-is-considering>


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As a student I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children. By investing in our schools....

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success Academy with Life academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away a place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration

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JORDY AGUILAR
7TH GRADE
UNITED FOR SUCCESS ACADEMY


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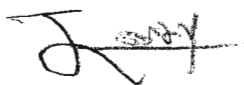
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Sincerely

JORDY AGUILAR
7TH GRADE
UNITED FOR SUCCESS ACADEMY


JORDY AGUILAR



Diego Garcia

United for Success Academy and Life Academy
December 11, 2024

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

My name is Diego and I am a 7th grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future. From what I understand school mergers don't really go as well as what the board members think it will, a lot of school mergers have failed by losing money because 50 and 75 percent of students because of culture differences.

Link:<https://bostonobserver.org/school-mergers-are-they-good-or-not/>

According to this article teachers and students feel the same pain for having to move school buildings due to mergers. This could cause a lot of issues between students and can lead to more fights.

Link:<https://changinghighered.com/pros-and-cons-higher-ed-mergers-and-alliances/>

According to this article Higher education leaders who are leading mergers make every effort to network with those who have guided these types of organizational change.



Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely, Diego Garcia

7th grade United For Success Academy

Diego Garcia

United for Success Academy and Life Academy
December 11, 2024

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

My name is Diego and I am a 7th grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future. From what I understand school mergers don't really go as well as what the board members think it will, a lot of school mergers have failed by losing money because 50 and 75 percent of students because of culture differences.

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According to this article Higher education leaders who are leading mergers make every effort to network with those who have guided these types of organizational change.



Thank you for your time and consideration
Sincerely, Diego Garcia
7th grade United For Success Academy



Rebecca Chales
United For Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Dear Members of the School Board,

My name is Rebecca Chales and I am a 7th grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing this letter to let you know how I feel about the unexpected school merge with Life Academy. While I understand that the school board members may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have a very negative impact on students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my community and school, I hope you may understand that I want you to make the best decision for my community, for the education of the students and for our future.

From what I understand, you want to merge 10 schools into 5 but that is not correct because it would be difficult for us to learn by having more than 30 students in each of our classes. It would also depend if you will be able to fix and be cooperative with us by helping our school be better if we are going to merge. For example, changing the lead grass to real grass, fixing the lights outside, giving the school money to pay for our school supplies and more. I also have seen an article about you wanting to merge 10 schools into 5. The article is telling us all about your plan to merge the schools, and about how merging schools will make you save money but that is wrong because each school has 176 to 440 each and if some students move out like from the whole district then it will lower your money and you will /;save up. At some point it will save the district money but at the same time it will spend more of the district's money by needing to help the school and by losing students. I have included a lot of links to articles where other merged schools were not finding success and about your plan.

School merge in oakland:

- <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/ousd-school-closure-proposal-released-19897468.php>
- <https://www.kqed.org/news/12014397/parents-teachers-say-oakland-school-mergers-could-hurt-students-in-the-flatlands>

Other Links:

- <https://www.illinoispolicy.org/ctu-merger-with-charter-school-union-is-bad-for-both-students-and-teachers/>
- https://ecommons.udayton.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1217&context=eda_fac_pub

As a student, I believe that our school is doing a great job in educating and making this school feel the best place for me to learn. We love our school and we hope that you don't close our school for us to merge with Life Academy because everything will change.

Dear Members of the School Board,

My name is Rebecca Chales and I am a 7th grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing this letter to let you know how I feel about the unexpected school merge with Life Academy. While I understand that the school board members may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have a very negative impact on students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my community and school, I hope you may understand that I want you to make the best decision for my community, for the education of the students and for our future.

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As a student, I believe that our school is doing a great job in educating and making this school feel the best place for me to learn. We love our school and we hope that you don't close our school for us to merge with Life Academy because everything will change.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United For Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing out school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. PLease listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Chales Pablo". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Rebecca Chales Pablo

7th grade

United For Success Academy

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United For Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing out school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Chales Pablo". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Rebecca Chales Pablo

7th grade

United For Success Academy

Jerry Orozco

United for success Academy
DECEMBER 11 2024

Dear Board Members,

Hi, my name is Jerry Orozco. I am a student at United for Success. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our future.

From what I understand, I will give four examples and links why you should consider not merging schools.

1. Losing money: You guys think that merging is to save money but actually you guys will lose money because y'all will have to build bigger classrooms and get supplies for all the kids and adults.
2. Students leaving : many students will move schools because of the merger because they may will not like merging
3. Angry parents : since y'all wanna close the school and merger there are going to be a lot of angry parents because it is going to be harder to applicate to life or a new school
4. Debt : over the past years you guys have been 20 to 30 million in debt in the last 15 years. And y'all wanna close a school thinking of saving money and ousd had to get a 100 million loan.

Link 1 <https://abc7news.com/post/ousd-budget-deficit-oakland-unified-schools/15438418/>

Link 2 <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/east-bay/oakland-school-board-budget/3168895/>

As a student, I believe that our school should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children. By investing in our school....

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students.

Thank you for your time and consideration

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United for success Academy

DECEMBER 11 2024

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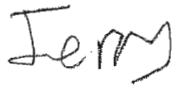
Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry". The letters are cursive and connected.

Jerry Orozco
7th Grade
United For Success Academy

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry". The letters are cursive and connected, with a small flourish at the end of the "y".

Jerry Orozco
7th Grade
United For Success Academy

Alex Jeronimo Matias

December 11, 2024

Dear Members of the School Board,

My name is Alex and I am a 7th grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers and the entire community.

From what I understand, schools that enroll students of color and low-income get closed down. Students that had to deal with their schools being merged or closed down have difficulties with their new school because the people that they made connections with, might not be there any more and cause damage to their emotional well being. I've included links to articles where other merged schools or closed down schools were not finding success:

https://nepc.colorado.edu/libraries/pdf.js/web/viewer.html?file=https://nepc.colorado.edu/sites/default/files/publications/Newsletter%20oakland_4.pdf

<https://www.communityschools.org/news/counterpunch-rising-talk-of-school-closures-fuels-expansion-of-the-community-schools-movement/>

As a student I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for us. By investing in our schools, and not merging them, more students will be able to succeed. More students will be able to succeed with the class sizes being smaller because students are able to concentrate better and get help from teachers without worrying about not being helped. Also instead of closing them down you should renovate them and fix the pipes to our drinking water because there have been reports of lead. These should be fixed for our well being and not after the merge.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United For Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place that us students feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alex Jeronimo Matias

7th Grade

United For Success Academy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Alex Jeronimo Matias

December 11, 2024

Dear Members of the School Board,

My name is Alex and I am a 7th grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers and the entire community.

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Sincerely,

Alex Jeronimo Matias

7th Grade

United For Success Academy





NEYSTON GODINEZ

December 2, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Board members.

We, the dedicated students at United for Success Academy, wanted to write a letter to the Oakland Unified School District Board to not merge schools with Life Academy the teachers don't want to merge with schools and i will give an example

The teachers in United for success Academy don't want to merge schools with life students don't want to merge schools they don't want their schools getting shut down

The District said they would save money when they fix the schools when they merge. the teachers in United don't want to merge schools with Life Academy United for Success teacher are fighting to not merge with Life Academy

There's other schools that don't want to merge schools and they are fighting for there schools to not shut down there is students that don't want to merge schools some of them will leave when the school merge and go to different schools

The students don't want to merge schools. The school district is gonna lose money when they merge schools. Life academy chooses their students. in united for success they don't choose their students

The school district are gonna lose money because in 2017 or 2018 they lost money because they wanted to move schools and they lost money if they do the district wants to merge schools they are gonna lose money again like they did in 2017 or 2018

There are teachers that are going to meetings to say that to not merge and fighting for their schools. there are some students that said that they don't want to merge schools they don't want their schools to shut down the students parents are going to the meeting

As a student, i believe that our school should be doing everything in their power to not merge schools

The district wanted to close the schools and y'all lost money. The student parents are gonna get mad because the schools are gonna merge schools

Link 1 <https://abc7news.com/post/ousd-budget-deficit-oakland-unified-schools/15438418/>

Link 2 <https://www.ktvu.com/news/ousd-proposes-merging-10-schools-cut-costs>

December 2, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Board members.

We, the dedicated students at United for Success Academy, wanted to write a letter to the Oakland Unified School District Board to not merge schools with Life Academy the teachers don't want to merge with schools and i will give an example

The teachers in United for success Academy don't want to merge schools with life students don't want to merge schools they don't want their schools getting shut down

The District said they would save money when they fix the schools when they merge. the teachers in United don't want to merge schools with Life Academy United for Success teacher are fighting to not merge with Life Academy

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Sincerely,

Neyston

Neyston Godinez
7th United for Success

Sincerely,

Neyston

Neyston Godinez
7th United for Success

Alexander Covian Perez

United For Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Dear Members of the School Board,

My name is Alexander Covian Perez and I'm a 7th-grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand, mergers affect the cost and education for the students. The cost per pupil will decrease when the school merges and that can affect a student severely and the more consolidation there is will push the students education costs and students performance. I've included links to articles where other merged schools were not finding success:

- <https://fordhaminstitute.org/national/commentary/consolidation-bad-idea#:~:text=Besides%20price%20Descalation%2C%20consolidation%20discourages,anded%20the%20performance%20of%20students.>
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0272775717306155>

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United For Success Academy and Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, *Alexander*

Alexander Covian Perez
7th grade
United For Success Academy

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United For Success Academy
December 11, 2024

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Alexander Covian Perez
7th grade
United For Success Academy



Timoteo Aguilar Hernandez (Student)

United for Success Academy and Life Academy
December 11, 2024

My name is Timoteo and I am a 7th-grade student at united for success. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposite to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students teachers, and the community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand Many question the narrative about the need to close schools. En destroy en they call for district and policy leaders to take steps .I`ve included links To articles where other “merged”schools were not finding success:

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As A student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for out children. By investing in our schools....

In conclusion, I urge you to to reconsider merging United for success Academy with Life Academy. Closing our school wold disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported.we are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration

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United for success
In the 7th grade

Timoteo

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United for Success Academy and Life Academy
December 11, 2024

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Timote(Student)
United for success
In the 7th grade

Timoteo



Roselyn sanchez
November 11, 2024

Dear Oakland Unified school district,

My name is Roselyn. I'm in the 7th grade at United for Success and I'm writing this letter because it's not okay for the school district to merge schools together because if school merges then a lot of kids will get kicked out of school and then they're gonna have to find a school to be in. Plus we don't want to close schools because a lot of kids are going to have a hard time getting into schools because you have to wait a few weeks or days to get into a new school. A Lot of kids are going to leave schools and alot of families would be upset because their kid doesn't have a school to learn and now they have to get in a new one. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

<https://www.ktvu.com/news/ousd-proposes-merging-10-schools-cut-costs>

<https://www.kqed.org/news/12013739/oakland-school-board-spurns-campus-closures-plans-merge-some-schools-instead>

From what I understand, you guys want to merge United for Success and life academy to make one school. Plus to make it into a charter school. which is bad to do because if you do that a lot of kids and teachers will lose their school and jobs and they are going to have to find a new place and start fresh again. The main reason why I don't want schools to merge is because a lot of people will lose their jobs and kids will lose their education. It's hard for people who are disabled because some schools don't want to accept people for how they are. The only thing why i don't want to merge in life because they don't really do things because in there after school they only do a few sports and then half of the people in life are everywhere in the field without a after school staff which is not okay because what if someone gets into a fight and they hurt themselves badly and the after school staff not gonna do anything about, but the after school in united it's better because there's a lot of things you can choose from like, cooking, arts/crafts, science, tootime, volleyball, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, and flag football for girls and boys. You can do anything and there are all of the staff that look after the after school kids.

As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children. By investing in our schools. It's hard to hear that a school you've been going to for the past year or so might close down or get merged into another school is very horrible because like wow its really gonna close because the district wants to do that and make people get fired and lie.

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November 11, 2024

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In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success with life academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and support. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Sanchez
Roselyn

7th grade

United for success

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Roselyn
7th grade
United for success

Brian Cisneros

On behalf of the Teachers at
United for Success Academy and Life Academy.
December 11 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Deer Esteemed Board members

My name is Brian and I am a 7th-grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concerns and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

I've concluded links to articles about the merge.

<https://oaklandside.org/2024/11/14/parents-teachers-and-community-members-urge-oakland-unified-to-rethink-school-merger-plan/>

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Merging schools will have many downfalls like students. Students don't like the merger happening since some students don't get along in each school or it may disrupt their learning. Another is money. They say that they will spend less. In reality they will spend more since they have to fix and change many things like classes, bathrooms and many more. The district faces a \$95 million budget deficit for the next year. Parents would be angry because their students aren't learning since merging would disrupt it.

As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for their students.

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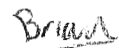
7th grade

United For Success Academy.

Amen

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Brian Cisneros

7th grade

United For Success Academy.

Amen

Alexis Pablo Carrillo
12/2/24

UFSA student
UNITED FOR SUCCESS ACADEMY

My name is Alexis Pablo Carrillo and I am a 7th grade student at UNITED FOR SUCCESS ACADEMY. The roles that schools play in our lives and community are They help us interact with people. They help us with giving out food to families . Also they help us with our lives, they help us with money and so that we can get a degree so that we can go to good colleges. Also they help with giving free stuff like backpacks, pencils colors and other materials for school.

Some common reasons why districts consider these actions are because they want to save more money but in reality they are gonna lose money if they don't have students they are gonna earn nothing. Also they would do it because they want to shut it down because if they don't have enough students they are gonna shut it down and make something else out of the school.

One question I still have about these mergers is will the school shut down or will the students not go to the school because they can't get in. Another question I have is will they earn more money if you merge the schools because if you have less students you will have less money because it says with the less students you have the less money you earn. Another question I have is will they have to merge the schools because if we merge them the district is gonna have to pay for the whole school and they might not have space for other teachers because we're only gonna have one teacher.

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7th grade
UNITED FOR SUCCESS ACADEMY



Angelica Nuno Torres
United For Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Dear School Board Members,

My name is Angelica Nuno Torres and I am a 7th-grade student at United For Success. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire school community.

As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future. I want you to remember when you were a kid, when you loved school, when you had classes with your friends, and had to worry about nothing but now you all are making kids hate their schools now and have them worrying about this merging.

From what I understand, you are wanting to close our school to save money but this merger is going to save nothing. The only thing that you all are saving is your money to make schools better but you go spend it away from things that actually need help. Maybe consider spending your money to help the school and not merge the school. As a student, I believe that our school should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our community.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging Life Academy with Roosevelt Middle School. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of our school. Thank you for the time and consideration.

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Angelica Nuno Torres

Angelica Nuno Torres



Arodi Granado Funes
December 11, 2024

United For Success Academy
Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Esteemed Board Members.

My name is Arodi Granados Funes. I am in 7th grade. I am a United for Success Academy Student. I am writing this because I want to give reasons why the district should not close our school where we are a community because I do not want the district to close other schools and then affect their students.

My questions are how is this going to grow the community if they are going to close the school. also how is this going to help the students grow. another question is do the district knows how this is going to affect the students.

Some actions I wish to see are students fighting back for their school and also seeing them confident and also making the district see how this is affecting the students in the school merger.

My specific impact about student learning is that they come to school to get better and have a better future and be something important in the world. This is my specific impact on the students' learning.

Sincerely,

Arodi granados Funes
Arodi Granados ~~Funes~~ Funes
7th Grade
United for Success Academy

Arodi Granado Funes
December 11, 2024

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7th Grade
United for Success Academy



Hirochy Hernandez

On Behalf of some student at
Oakland Unified School District Board
Dec 11, 2024

Why not to merge the schools

Hello, I'm a student from UFSA. The role in school is to give good information that can help us in the world so we can do the best work we can. Schools can provide information for the work environment. The school can provide skills like problem solving and can build character. The merger of the school is bad because students made a bond with their school.

The action in merging the school is not sivioliend in the matter. How is this going to stop racist and fights in the school? If the schools merge it has its pros and cons. The cons are more fight because some kids don't like the other school for the beef they had back then. The pros are nothing because it only causes more problems like more money into the merge because more kids have more problems like bullying or stealing the school property so it costs more. The cost of merging the school cost more than not merging the school. The cost of merging one school is around 174 million dollars to merge all 10 schools.

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communityschools.org

ruraledu.org

Thank you for your leadership and your unwavering commitment to the values of justice and equity.

With gratitude,



Abdul Ahmed

United For Success Academy

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Abdul Ahmed

United For Success Academy

Abdul Ahemd

United For Success Academy

Oakland Unified School District Board
December 11 2024

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

My name is Abdul and I am a 7th grade student at United for Success academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our schools would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers and the entire community. As a student who loves my school I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand, merging schools is the best thing people say about money but they actually lose money when schools are being merged. I've included links to articles where other merged schools were not finding success. Students get separated from peers they truly like and look up to but get mixed up and are not able to see them by merging. This can infect the learning because students will not want to learn because it might be different or too hard for them and may put the wrong work on the wrong grade level for the student.

Why is merging the best thing to do when people love learning in the school they have been in for many years?

Students will not be able to learn because the teacher will be finding another school because one whole school with other 794+ students will have a lot of work to do. Because students need their full education and one principal will leave to cause pain and too much work. It is best to make life academy and United For Success Academy a separate school for their best education.

Merging is one of the hard things about students. They might not know the rules or not be able to understand the work the other schools give. We might dislike the school and we might leave the school. It bothers me to see how my friends and teacher are going to miss their old school they've been in for years and how students look up to there outstanding

Abdul

Abdul Ahemd

United For Success Academy

Oakland Unified School District Board

December 11 2024

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

My name is Abdul and I am a 7th grade student at United for Success academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our schools would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers and the entire community. As a student who loves my school I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand, merging schools is the best thing people say about money but they actually lose money when schools are being merged. I've included links to articles where other merged schools were not finding success. Students get separated from peers they truly like and look up to but get mixed up and are not able to see them by merging. This can infect the learning because students will not want to learn because it might be different or too hard for them and may put the wrong work on the wrong grade level for the student.

Why is merging the best thing to do when people love learning in the school they have been in for many years?

Students will not be able to learn because the teacher will be finding another school because one whole school with other 794+ students will have a lot of work to do. Because students need their full education and one principal will leave to cause pain and too much work. It is best to make life academy and United For Success Academy a separate school for their best education.

Merging is one of the hard things about students. They might not know the rules or not be able to understand the work the other schools give. We might dislike the school and we might leave the school. It bothers me to see how my friends and teacher are going to miss their old school they've been in for years and how students look up to there outstanding

Abdul

Oliver Godoy Zuniga

UNITED FOR SUCCESS ACADEMY
UFSA Student
DECEMBER 11, 2024

Dear Esteemed Board Members

My name is Oliver and i am a 7th grader student at UNITED FOR SUCCESS ACADEMY and the role that the school plays in our lives and community is that they help us learn everything we need to know like reading, math, writing and more. Another role that they play in our lives is that they let any people come to the school and that's very important so kids can be in a school. One of the most important roles is that this school prepares us for high school and college by helping us understand how it would be when we get to the higher grades.

Some reasons why the district considered these actions is because they want to cut the budget cuts because it is too much money. Another reason is because they are losing a lot of money with having two different schools. Also if they don't merge there would be less students in each school so they would be losing money, so they want to merge to have more students in just one school and earn more money.

One question about the merger between UNITED FOR SUCCESS ACADEMY and LIFE ACADEMY is that will the students still be able to get into LIFE ACADEMY after the merge. Another question is that if the schools were not merged this whole time why did it affect them just now. The last question i have for the board is why are they only trying to merge the east oakland school and not from other schools with OUSD.

Sincerely,

oliver zuniga godoy
Oliver Zuniga Godoy
7th grade
UNITED FOR SUCCESS ACADEMY

Oliver Godoy Zuniga

UNITED FOR SUCCESS ACADEMY
UFSA Student
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oliver zuniga godoy
Oliver Zuniga Godoy
7th grade
UNITED FOR SUCCESS ACADEMY



December 5, 2024

United For Success Academy and Life Academy

Oakland Unified School District Board

My name is Fany and I am a 7th grader in United For Success. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand, school mergers are not good for students because the decision will depend on their education and success. These are the links

<https://www.ibrattleboro.com/opinion/op-ed/2017/10/school-merger-a-bad-idea/>

As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children. By investing in our school.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United For Success with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fany". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Fany

7th grade

United For Success

December 5, 2024

United For Success Academy and Life Academy

Oakland Unified School District Board

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fany". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted.

Fany

7th grade

United For Success



Emili Jeronimo Jeronimo
12\11\2024

Dear members of school board,

My name is Emili Jeronimo, and I am a 7th grade student at United For Success. I am writing this letter to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with life academy. While you may be facing a difficult decision, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future. Our school is unique in different ways. I understand that you may be facing a difficult decision, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers and the entire community. As a student who loves my school. I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

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From what I understand this article says that merger is a bad idea because students' work will not be interesting for the teachers. For example, a test 3 years ago will not support us as students. Students might have unequal opportunities in different schools. Our school welcomes everyone with happiness and love. Everyone is welcome. We don't care where you come from, who are you , you are welcome here, we are all a family. Our teachers and staff will lose their work. Eliminating our school will not have an impact on earning money.

As a student, I would like our school to not be merged. Everything will be a big change for us as students. Their way of teaching, their programs, their electives, etc. Everyone wants to continue having this school, we are unique in everything. I don't think our parents or you understand what it's like to lose a family we love. it's just not u there are more schools that are feeling the same way, we don't want to lose our community and family. They should know what it feels like to have the changes they are going to make. We are the ones who bring life to this school, they are not just going to choose and that's it. They have to know what we are going to go through.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United For Success with Life academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weakne our community and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Emili jeronimo
7th grade
United For Success

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Sincerely,

Emili Jeronimo
7th grade
United For Success

Emili Jeronimo.



Dear members of the School board,

My name is Fabiola and I am a 7th grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. I understand that you are facing difficulties, but merging our school with Life Academy can cause consequences and problems. It can disrupt our education. We know your doing this for money and money is important but also our education to we want a school we feel comfortable. New students could ruin it by their behavior, we don't know them well.

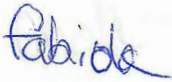
From what I understand, merging schools is not gonna be successful. I've seen videos, articles and people speaking about not merging schools. This is the link.

As a student from United for Success Academy, I believe in not merging our school with another and my school should be doing everything in their power to provide the best education for our children.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success with Life Academy. It could weaken our community, and our place. We feel safe and supported. We feel comfortable and if you bring new students, we could be uncomfortable. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to us and consider not to merge our school.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fabiola".

Fabiola
7th grade
United for Success Academy

Dear members of the School board,

My name is Fabiola and I am a 7th grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. I understand that you are facing difficulties, but merging our school with Life Academy can cause consequences and problems. It can disrupt our education. We know your doing this for money and money is important but also our education to we want a school we feel comfortable. New students could ruin it by their behavior, we don't know them well.

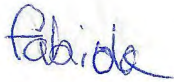
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Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fabiola". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted.

Fabiola
7th grade
United for Success Academy



Madeline Aguilar

Madeline Aguilar

UNITED FOR SUCCESS ACADEMY AND
LIFE ACADEMY

December 11, 2024

Hi My Name Madeline And I'm A 7th Grader And I Go To United For Success Academy Middle School As You Can Tell I Guess. I'm a 13 Years Old Female Girl, I'm Writing This Letter To The People That Are Doing This To Express How I Feel About This Merge Thing That Is Happening in between our School And LIFE, The First Day I Came To School I Already Knew I Would Like This School Because Of The Teacher And The Activities That We Were Gonna Do.

I Would Like To Start Off By Saying That I'm Very Disappointed And Mad At Oakland Unified School District People Who Work There For Doing This, What Did We Do To Deserve This, You're Just Trying To Destroy Us And Other Schools. Now None Of These Schools Will Feel Like Family No MOre Cause You Guys Are Trying To Keep Close The School's That Are Only Hispanic In Oakland. UFSA Matters To Me because There Like Family To Me And Your Trying To Ruin That

I Would Like To Say That I Would Be Glad And Happy If You Would Shut This Merge Of UFSA And LIFE And Other Schools That Are Going Through This As Well As Us, Us Students And Teachers Don't Want This To Happen To Us. How Is It Gonna Change Students From Learning? I Know Our Budget Is Low But You Don't Gotta Do All This Just Because Of Money, You Guys Are Not Even Worry About The Students That Are Going Through This Or How They Feel, If You Stop This Merge We Will Do Better At School.

You Guys Are Just Doing This To Save The Schools Money, Its Affecting Students And Teachers, I Want You Guys Too Stop This We Don't Deserve This At All, DO BETTER. This My First Time Doing This And Hopefully The Last Time Doing This.

**STOP THIS WE DON'T
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**STOP THIS WE DON'T
DESERVE THIS AT ALL!!**



Gerardo Mendoza

United for Success Academy and Life academy

December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Board Members,

Please consider not merging United For Success Academy there are many people here who don't want United for success academy to get merged their are reason to not merge this school this is a great school with great teachers and great system many schools including us United For Success Academy are on the list to get merged but their are others schools that should get merged or should try to get merged instead of us because i've seen that United For Success Academy is a great school.

Please do not merge our school you will not gain much from merging United For Success Academy as their are many people that will get affected if you merge United For Success Academy like some people who work their they will not might or may not have jobs if United For Success get merged and its affecting the time and effort of students and teachers if united for Success Academy get merged a lot of things will be bad for United For Success Academy.

There are many teachers many students that don't want United For Success Academy to merge a lot of students will get affected by the merge of United For Success Academy if this school get merged a lot of people will be mad at the people who want to merge it so please do not merge this school they have nice people here and the people who want to merge this school want to do it to kick us out and a lot of people are against that in reality what will they gain from this there's not much so they are doing this to kick us out.

Do not merge United For Success Academy students will lose their education teachers might lose their jobs many people will become affected by merging United For Success Academy and the most important part students that will not go to United For Success Academy when this school is merged will have a hard time find other school that will let them in scene they probably don't have enough room so that's why it's not just affecting the teachers it's affecting the students education by a lot so please don't shut United For Success Academy down or else many people will suffer from this and will get affected.

There are school that should get merged or at least instead of United For Success Academy you should merged the school that are doing worse than us because if you merge those school down you have a reason to merge them down instead of merging us who are doing great instead of them who might not be doing as good and you can gain something buy merging those school instead of merging us because you won't gain much from merging our school

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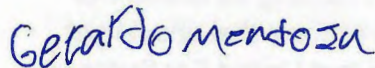
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Gerardo Mendoza

United For Success Academy so please Unified School District Board Members please do not merge our school.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging [United for Success academy] With [Life Academy]. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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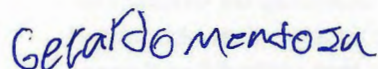
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerardo Mendoza". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Gerardo Mendoza
7th Grade
United for Success Academy

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerardo Mendoza". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Gerardo Mendoza

7th Grade

United for Success Academy

Brandon Martin pablo

United for Success Academy

December 11 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear esteemed Board Members

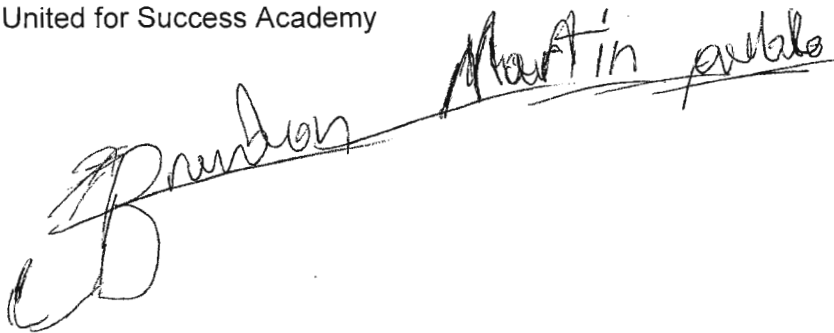
My name is Brandon Martin Pablo, I am an 8th grader at United for Success Academy and possibly part of the last graduating class of United For Success. I am writing this letter due to the possibility of United and Life Academy merging. You guys are already doing a solid job of running this school and I personally really like this school and I hope my younger brother gets to go to United and go through the same experiences and good memories I've had at this school. I believe that merging schools will have a very negative impact on everybody that goes to this school and the community around it. This school has made a big impact on my life in and out of class and I appreciate the atmosphere it gives and a place of belonging.

I have gotten food from the school and much more from the community around it. I believe merging schools will have a significant negative impact on the students, the community, family, and even the school. In the past many believed that school mergers would be very beneficial to the school and students. According to the National Education policy center, merging schools would come with hidden costs and negative outcomes such as transportation for students and decreased individual attention for students.

In conclusion school mergers usually don't bring the most beneficial results whether that's financially or not.

Sincerely,

Brandon
8th Grade Student
United for Success Academy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon Martin Pablo". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over the typed name and address.

Brandon Martin pablo

United for Success Academy

December 11 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

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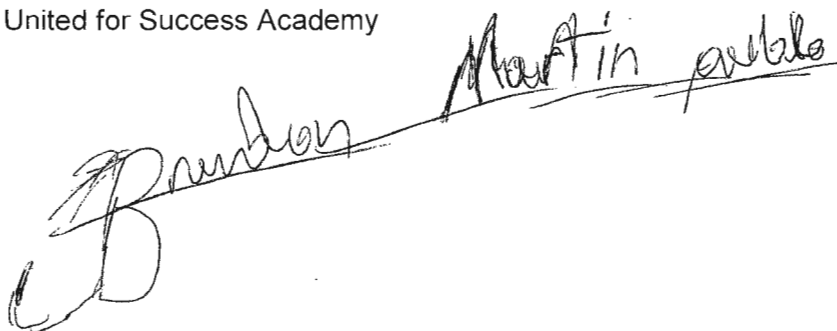
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United for Success Academy

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Luis Perez III

United for Success Academy

December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

My name is Luis Perez III, I am a student at United For Success academy and possibly the last graduating class. I am writing this letter because it has been brought to my class's attention that there will be a possible merger with many schools in the Oakland Unified School District. This news is very detrimental to me since UFSA has held many memories and experiences for me.

United for Success Academy has and forever will hold a special place in my heart because I've made unbreakable friendships and I've made connections with teachers that I never thought I would've. United for Success Academy has a really welcoming and overall great atmosphere, I even discovered my passion for guitar at this school! My overall experience and the friendships I've made throughout these past three years have been great, I've tried new things, learned many things, and had fun. United for Success is a great school and great people and it would be a shame to see this school merged with Life Academy.

This entire school merger situation has made me feel really sad since like I said before, United for Success is a great school. If you guys do really go through with this merger, I'm one hundred percent sure that all my classmates and the entirety of United for Success Academy will be heartbroken because the future generations of students will be jeopardized and all sense of community will be lost. I say this because United for Success Academy is a pretty small school with only 370 students according to the U.S News and World Report. I and many others like the Institute for Local Self-Reliance believe that a smaller school with less students is more beneficial because they state that "students who attend small schools outperform those in large schools on every academic measure from grades to test scores". I believe that this is because with less people to keep track of, more friendships are formed and teachers are able to build more of a deeper connection with students and they are able to teach better according to the student's needs rather than a bigger school with more students and learning styles to keep track of and it leaves students with a sense of disconnection with teachers and students, which can negatively affect all of the students' test scores and grades.

In conclusion, I and along with all of United For Success Academy are very opposed to the school mergers and we wish for all attempts to push this school merger to come to an end. As you can see, merging schools is a very bad idea and will negatively affect the future generations of students that plan on attending schools here in the Oakland Unified School District.

Luis Perez III

United for Success Academy

December 11, 2024

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My name is Luis Perez III, I am a student at United For Success academy and possibly the last graduating class. I am writing this letter because it has been brought to my class's attention that there will be a possible merger with many schools in the Oakland Unified School District. This news is very detrimental to me since UFSA has held many memories and experiences for me.

United for Success Academy has and forever will hold a special place in my heart because I've made unbreakable friendships and I've made connections with teachers that I never thought I would've. United for Success Academy has a really welcoming and overall great atmosphere, I even discovered my passion for guitar at this school! My overall experience and the friendships I've made throughout these past three years have been great, I've tried new things, learned many things, and had fun. United for Success is a great school and great people and it would be a shame to see this school merged with Life Academy.

This entire school merger situation has made me feel really sad since like I said before, United for Success is a great school. If you guys do really go through with this merger, I'm one hundred percent sure that all my classmates and the entirety of United for Success Academy will be heartbroken because the future generations of students will be jeopardized and all sense of community will be lost. I say this because United for Success Academy is a pretty small school with only 370 students according to the U.S News and World Report. I and many others like the Institute for Local Self-Reliance believe that a smaller school with less students is more beneficial because they state that "students who attend small schools outperform those in large schools on every academic measure from grades to test scores". I believe that this is because with less people to keep track of, more friendships are formed and teachers are able to build more of a deeper connection with students and they are able to teach better according to the student's needs rather than a bigger school with more students and learning styles to keep track of and it leaves students with a sense of disconnection with teachers and students, which can negatively affect all of the students' test scores and grades.

In conclusion, I and along with all of United For Success Academy are very opposed to the school mergers and we wish for all attempts to push this school merger to come to an end. As you can see, merging schools is a very bad idea and will negatively affect the future generations of students that plan on attending schools here in the Oakland Unified School District.

Sincerely,

Luis Perez III
8th Grade
United for Success Academy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luis Perez III". The signature is written in black ink on a white background. The name "Luis" is written in a fluid, cursive style. "Perez" is also in cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the word. The Roman numeral "III" is written in a simple, blocky font, positioned to the right of the horizontal stroke of "Perez".

Sincerely,

Luis Perez III
8th Grade
United for Success Academy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luis Perez III". The signature is written in black ink on a white background. The name "Luis" is written in a fluid, cursive style. "Perez" is also in cursive, with a large, sweeping 'P'. "III" is written in a simpler, more blocky cursive style. The signature ends with a horizontal line that has three vertical strokes, representing the Roman numeral III.

Camila Lopez-Macias

December 11th, 2024

Dear Members of the Oakland Unified School Board,

My name is Camila Lopez-Macias and I am an 8th-grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand, OUSD owes the government of California \$95 million dollars. According to YOUR words, “**merging**” our schools will only save OUSD about \$2-3 million dollars. Also merging schools will actually make you lose more money, according to my AVID teacher Michael Rodriguez the last time you merged two schools in 2022 you actually lost more money. So my question is, where do you think you’re going to get the rest of the \$95 million dollars you owe? Are you going to close even more schools? Down below I’ve included links to articles where other “**merged**” schools were not finding any sort of success.

- ★ https://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/fyi-video-garcia-shepard?utm_source=search&utm_campaign=nepc_visitors
- ★ <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/the-harm-of-school-closures-can-last-a-lifetime-new-research-shows/2024/06#:~:text=Students%20who%20attend%20a%20school,earnings%20end%20to%20be%20lower.>

As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children. By investing in our schools it can increase the quality of resources and level of support, the quality of education also improves: Qualified teachers perform **better** and lead to high-quality instruction in the classroom. Experienced teachers can cover their subjects more comprehensively and enrich students' knowledge.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success Academy with Life Academy (As Well as the other 8 schools on the list). Closing our school would

Camila Lopez-Macias

December 11th, 2024

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My name is Camila Lopez-Macias and I am an 8th-grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

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In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success Academy with Life Academy (As Well as the other 8 schools on the list). Closing our school would

disrupt many of our students' education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe, supported, and loved. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all our students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Camila Lopez-Macias
Camila Lopez-Macias
8th Grade
United for Success Academy

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Camila Lopez-Macias
8th Grade
United for Success Academy

United for Success Academy
December 11 2024

Dear Esteemed board members,


My name is Camila, and I am an 8th-grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing to express my concern and proposition about the plan to merge our school with Life Academy. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed merging plan of United for Success Academy and Life Academy. I believe it is important to share my perspective on the potential impact this plan will have on students and the broader Oakland educational landscape.

While I understand the challenges the district may be facing in terms of funding and resource allocation i urge the board to consider the the long-term consequences of consolidating both schools United For Success Academy and Life Academy each of these institutions has Developed unique programs and built strong relationships within their respective communities merging the schools risks diluting the specific educational environments that have supported the Success and growth of their students

I strongly encourage the board to engage with both school communities, students, parents, teachers, and staff throughout this progress to fully understand their concerns and to ensure that any changes made are in the best interest and of the students a transparent and inclusive process will not only help ensure that the voices of those directly affected are heard but will also Foster trust and collaboration in the decision-making process

I respectfully request that the board take into account the potential impacts of this merger and explore alternative solutions that could better support the needs of both schools while preserving their individual identities and educational programs.

Sincerely,



Camila elias
8th-grade
United for Success Academy

United for Success Academy
December 11 2024

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Camila elias
8th-grade
United for Success Academy



Mayco godinez martin
United for Success Academy
December,04,2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear OUSD school board

My name is Mayco Godinez Martin, and I am a proud Latino student currently attending United for Success Academy. Our school is one among the ten schools that are being considered for merging, and I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your dedication to enhancing the quality of education within our district. I truly appreciate your efforts to create a diverse and unified school system while addressing the various challenges that have surfaced in our current educational landscape.

However, I have several significant concerns regarding the future of our school as we approach this merger.

I can't help but feel a bit sentimental about this because my middle school years hold such great memories for me. I want to go back and take a stroll through those familiar hallways and catch up with the teachers who had such a big impact on my life. Also, I'm curious about what's happening with the school's name. If there's a plan to change it, I'd love to know why that decision is being made.

Additionally, I am worried about the potential impact on our extracurricular activities if our school merges with Life Academy. Will the clubs, sports, and programs that enhance our school experience and foster community be eliminated? If that is the case, what new opportunities can we expect to replace them?

Finally, I seek clarity on whether these school mergers will indeed lead to the projected savings of 90 million dollars, as you have indicated. I hope to understand if this initiative will truly be an investment in our future rather than a waste of time and resources.

More on what you said about the projected 90 million that you said you going to earn but in an article from

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mayco Godinez Martin', written in a cursive style.

Mayco godinez

Mayco godinez martin
United for Success Academy
December,04,2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear OUSD school board

My name is Mayco Godinez Martin, and I am a proud Latino student currently attending United for Success Academy. Our school is one among the ten schools that are being considered for merging, and I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your dedication to enhancing the quality of education within our district. I truly appreciate your efforts to create a diverse and unified school system while addressing the various challenges that have surfaced in our current educational landscape.

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Sincerely,



Mayco godinez



Yuli Martin Godinez
United For Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Dear members of the school board,

My name is Yuli Martin Godinez and I'm an 8th Grade student at United For Success Academy. I Recently heard the news about some school mergers of Oakland Unified School District and also see that you want to merge United for Success Academy too. The reason I am writing is to express my deep concern regarding the proposed merger of Ten Oakland Schools.

Our neighborhood schools are the heart of our communities. They provide more than education; they foster a sense of belonging, safety, and connection. Merging these schools would undoubtedly disrupt the positive learning environments that have been carefully cultivated over the years.

I fear that merging school will:

1. Disrupt students' learning - Changing schools can be trumantic for students, especially younger ones. It can lead to academic setbacks and emotional distress
2. Weaken community bonds - schools are central to our communities. Merging them could erode the strong connection between families, teachers, and students.
3. Overburden teachers and staff - Merging schools may increase class size and workload for teachers and staff, potentially impacting the quality of education.
4. Seeking additional funding source - Exploring grant, donation and partnerships with local businesses.
5. Increasing community - Encouraging volunteerism and parent participation to support schools.

In conclusion,

I understand that you have a difficult decision to make, but I hope you'll think about how this merger will affect students like me. We need a smaller school where we can learn and grow.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Yuli Martin Godinez

Yuli Martin Godinez
United For Success Academy
December 11, 2024

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Yuli Martin Godinez



Anyolina

Anyolina

December 11, 2024

Dear school board,

My name is Anyolina and I am an 8th grader in UFSA.

I understand that you are going through a very tough time and that you are making a hard decision, but as a student I also have an opinion on what you are doing. Though in my opinion I believe that merging school is not going to help you and that there are better ways to deal with your debt. I also understand that there might not be many ways to solve the debt problem but merging our schools does come with pros and cons. First con we may have for merging our school is that there will be at least 30 kids in a classroom and due to that we will not get assistance from our teacher if we need that help. Second con the halls are very narrow and it is already hard to get around with all of these students, and if we add all of the LIFE and UFSA students together it will be around 1000 students and it will be much more difficult to get to our classes and it will be hard to maintain our attendance due to this. As for cons there aren't many but since you had cohen LIFE's program I am guessing it was the best option as a community and i am hoping that's why you plan to take over our school. I do understand that their program may seem better but I still like my program better because I have made many relationships with students and staff. As for how you are going to pick the staff, principals, electives and programs

As students we also have feelings and we are coping with what is happening right now. Your decision came out of the blue, and in that moment we had a lot of mixed feelings, because we had thought that you would have dealt with it better than thinking of merging two different schools. I hope you make the right decision but we as students will have to build our relationships again.

Sincerely,

Anyolina

Anyolina Lucas Jimenez

Anyolina

Anyolina

December 11, 2024

Dear school board,

My name is Anyolina and I am an 8th grader in UFSA.

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Sincerely,

Anyolina

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Jimena Samayoa

United for Success Academy

December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear School Board Members,

I am an 8th grader at United for Success Academy and I've been in this school for 2 and a half years. I've always received help from the teachers, I've never felt disrespected or like I don't belong here, and I made some really good friends I hope to keep in my life when I go to high school. I'm glad I decided to come here because so far it's been a really nice experience. I'm writing this letter to tell you why I think merging the schools is a bad idea and how it won't be as helpful as you think it will be.

First off, most schools don't want to merge. They might have different reasons why but no one is really happy with the news. Life academy for example isn't very enthusiastic about UFSA students joining them. Everyone has different ways of teaching and dealing with students that might "cause problems" for example UFSA has a free entrance. The reason why merging the schools now is not a great idea, especially elementary schools, is because this big change can affect the young students in these schools. It's also unfair since it might seem somewhat easy to merge them to save money but it won't be easy for students, parents or staff and may also waste more money than it will save. Most know that people that have been working here for years have a chance of losing their job. Parents might be more concerned wondering if the new schools/programs are good enough or if they're receiving the right kind of education. As I already said, students will also have a hard time adapting. There's schools that even if they aren't running how you would want them to, they are still really good and helpful. UFSA is one of them. The classes are good and the teachers are always trying their hardest to help and understand the students. Most teachers are good at speaking Spanish and understanding it. In my opinion that's something really important because most parents only understand Spanish and they get to communicate with teachers here. There are also times where we do Student led conferences that allow students to explain to their parents what they have learned and how their grades are.

My little sister is coming to UFSA next year and I want her to have a similar experiences here. I want her to find new friends, learn new things and I want her to have fun in programs like coach Vahas after school program. I know that by the time the schools are merge I might be leaving the school or I might be starting 9th grade but it still concerns me because she's my sister and I won't know if she's okay or if she's even learning properly. Some schools might have a lot of kids and teachers might feel overwhelmed and won't take time to help all and I don't want my sister to be one of the ones that isn't receiving the help she needs.

In my opinion the school board should manage money better instead of just putting two schools together to save more. There are problems in schools that have been around for years and no one has stopped them. For example UFSA has a lot of lead in the water and the water fountains are constantly being closed. The lead has been around for so long so how come no one has properly come in and fixed it. If the money is not being used to help the schools grow and become better then what is it being used on?

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United for Success Academy

December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

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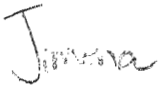
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In conclusion, I dont think merging the schools is a good way of “saving money” and I know others agree. There should at least be time to plan everything instead of rushing it and everyone should get a chance to talk and give their opinion. Especially the students that will be affected by this, teachers that are more likely to lose they’re job and parents that are concerned about they’re kids safety.

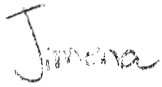
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimena".

Jimena
8th Grade
United for Success Academy
s_jimena.samayoaramos@ousd.org

In conclusion, I don't think merging the schools is a good way of "saving money" and I know others agree. There should at least be time to plan everything instead of rushing it and everyone should get a chance to talk and give their opinion. Especially the students that will be affected by this, teachers that are more likely to lose their job and parents that are concerned about their kids' safety.

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Jimena
8th Grade
United for Success Academy
s_jimena.samayoaramos@ousd.org

Ester Viana
United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Dear Esteemed School Board,

My name is Ester Viana and I am an 8th-grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing to express my options and concerns to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I may not understand so much but what I do understand is that you may be facing difficult decisions and it must be hard to be a school board member, I believe that merging our schools would have serious negative consequences and effects for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves and enjoys my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future more thoroughly.

From what I understood from the research I did there are pros and cons to schools merging, but I'm not here to list the pros since you might already know them. I am here to list the cons, having two schools merge into one big one can cause potential loss of local control. Another con of merging schools is the decrease of individual attention for students. Here are two links that I will provide you on the cons of school mergers.

Link One :

<https://wiseowl tutoring.org/pros-and-cons-of-todays-education-system-2/#:~:text=Cons%20of%20the%20education%20system,less%20individual%20attention%20from%20educators.>

Link Two:

https://ecommons.udayton.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1217&context=eda_fac_pub#:~:text=Other%20arguments%20voiced%20against%20school,decreased%20individual%20attention%20for%20students.

As a student, I believe that our school should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children. By investing in our schools.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United For Success Academy and Life Academy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Ester Viana
8th Grade
United for Success Academy

Ester Viana
United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

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In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United For Success Academy and Life Academy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Ester Viana
8th Grade
United for Success Academy



Solaya Burton
United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Dear School Board members,

My name is So'laya and I attend United For Success Academy. I've been enrolled in this school since 6th grade, which brings me to a state of concern about the proposal of schools merging. The teachers here are very nice & engaging as well as encouraging, I have yet to meet a staff or teacher that I dislike or have made me feel like I do not belong at this school, or lastly made me feel uncomfortable and discouraged. Teachers & staff at United have taught us well, not just academic knowledge, but social knowledge. They teach us how to speak up & stand up for ourselves when we know something isn't right. While I do understand that the district is facing a financial deficit, I do hope that you guys will take this letter seriously and reconsider your decisions and actions.

I want to also state that the reason why I am writing this letter even as an 8th grader who will be off to high school, is because I am concerned about the proposed and possible merging between United for Success, the middle school I attend and Life academy. The first thing that concerns me out of the multiple things that can, is the chance and or actual decision of the teachers & staff being fired from their job, some who have been working here for a long time and have a lot of experience, like I previously mentioned the staff & teachers here are the best, very kind and encouraging. Secondly, students will have to adjust to different teaching styles, form new friendships & lastly become familiar with routines that they are unfamiliar with— They just now are getting used to the teaching styles, schedules, people and routines. With this, I believe it'll also impact you as a district negatively.

To get into detail on how it'll have a bad outcome on the district, you guys already have a projected \$95 million budget deficit. \$2-3 million will not further help. Ideally, why wouldn't you merge a charter school? Majority of the schools that you are planning to consolidate primarily serve Spanish speaking communities, and most are schools located in Fruitvale as well, that were not informed of any of these decisions until now. Both of our schools are trying to take action because we both disagree about this proposal. Students don't want to be in an environment where they don't feel accepted or comfortable. What I ask is that you guys take action, listen to your community and remember that we are the ones attending these schools, we are going to be affected by this in the end. In conclusion, I want you to consider the long-term impact and effect of this consolidation/merge. Students (which should be top priority), teachers, and even our community will directly be the ones affected, your proposal doesn't seem to align with the importance of us. Many rely on our education. I just respectfully ask you guys to reconsider your decisions.

Sincerely,



So'laya
s_solaya.burton@ousd.org

Solaya Burton
United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "So'laya".

So'laya
s_solaya.burton@ousd.org



United for Success Academy

December 02, 2024

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

My name is Glendy Matias, and I am a student at United for Success Academy. This school has been such an important part of my life and my family's life. Not only have I created so many memories here, but my siblings have too. We have all learned so much from the teachers and the staff here, and this school has provided so much support to my family and me. The teachers care about my education, as well as the education of all the other students. They work hard every day to make sure we are learning and growing, and I am so grateful for that.

The reason why I am writing to all of you is because I am concerned about how the merger of this school is affecting the students and the community. A lot of us are feeling anxious and unsure about what will happen, and I believe this situation is making things hard for students. I am mostly worried about how this situation will lead to many emotions such as anxiety for the students. When students deal with emotions such as anxiety, it can be hard to focus on schoolwork and learning. The stress of not knowing what's going to happen to our school or our community can make it harder for us to do well in class. It could even have a long-term effect on how we feel about school in general. A lot of students are already struggling with these feelings and the thought of losing this school and everything we've worked for just makes it worse. All these feelings could lead to a negative outcome for our future education. A big reason why we don't want to merge is because United for Success Academy's history would be wiped out completely.

United for Success Academy is a school that cares about their new commmer students, they want them to succeed in life. That is why they have programs to help them out. They have teachers to help them out. That is a greate description of a solidarity community. That is why we don't want to merge UFSA into Life Academy. We want immigrant kids to have a chance to have a better life.

The main purpose of this letter is about how you want to merge 10 schools, which includes United for Success Academy. Look I get it you want to save money to pay back what you owe to others. However, merging the 10 schools would only get you a small portion of what you owe. KTVU.com says that your total debt will be 79 million dollars by the end of the year, however, "it could worsen to more than 90 million next year." Merging the 10 schools would only get you 3 million dollars annually, it would have to take you 30 years or more to collect 90 million dollars. Before making a decision, think about your community. This whole situation is impacting them hard. You could lose money if you merge the schools. Parents would probably change their students to charter schools for the sake of their education. Abc 7 news said, "But parents, fed up with the district's incompetence and low test scores primarily in Oakland's low-income neighborhoods, demanded educational alternatives." "As a result, student enrollment continued to go down which meant less money from the state. Yet the overspending continued through the years." This shows that you knew that students began to decrease but you still keep spending money. This is a reason why merging the schools would be a bad thing to do.

December 02, 2024

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As a final point, you should think about what you do before doing it because there won't be going back. Think about your community, think about how they would be devastated if you merged the schools. Think about how this can impact our future and our education future. You could be better than this. Overall thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Hope you make the right decision. Make your community proud.


Looking forward to hearing from you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glendy Matias", with a horizontal line underneath.

Glendy Matias
s_glendy.matiaschales@ousd.org

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Glendy Matias
s_glendy.matiashales@ousd.org

Rudy pablo hernandez
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board.

Dear Esteemed Board Members

I would like to say my opinion about merging schools. First, merging schools might seem like a solution to financial or enrollment challenges, but it often causes more problems than it solves. Merging schools leads to larger class sizes, which makes it harder for teachers to give individual attention to students. As a result, students may need more support to succeed academically. Larger classes also increase teacher burnout, as educators have to manage more students while still delivering quality lessons.

Merging schools can harm students sense of community as smaller schools often foster close relationships among students and teachers. When these schools combine, those connections may be lost, leaving students feeling down.

Longer commutes can also be a significant issue students may need to travel farther, spending more time on buses rather than in class or at home, which can increase transportation costs for families and districts.

Additionally, merging schools can create unequal resource issue, with wealthier areas receiving more funding while students in underfunded areas may see little to no improvement. finally, the social change of merging schools can be challenging students from different neighborhoods or backgrounds may have trouble adjusting to the new social environment, leading to bullying or exclusion school mergers can remove the unique programs and traditions that smaller schools offer, reducing the overall educational experience instead of merging schools, efforts should focus on improving the resources and support systems of individual schools. This would ensure that all students have access to a high quality education in a familiar supportive environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rudy P.H." in a cursive style.

Rudy Pablo Hernandez
8th Grade
United for Success Academy

Rudy pablo hernandez

December 11, 2024

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Rudy Pablo Hernandez

8th Grade

United for Success Academy



Eli Garcia

United for success academy

December 11, 2024

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

My name is Eli Garcia Aguilar. The Idea of merging schools is not good because merging schools might be bad because it can cause a lot of problems for the school, students, and community. For example, students might not be able to focus due to how big the class is, and it's already happening not listening due to playing around a lot. Imagine if it was bigger. One good thing about merging schools is saving money and that's the only good thing.

Merging schools is good and bad, it helps schools/districts keep track of students better but also will affect teachers a lot. For example, teachers won't teach enough due to kids not focusing and playing around. Another example is grading work since more students means more work will make a lot of teachers stress out and it can affect their mental health. If school mergers happen a lot of teachers might lose their job. There are a lot of things that will affect students like their education. Most students might not learn enough because the class is going to be big since there is 1 teacher and like 40 kids, the teacher won't be able to help them as much.

Things that will affect the schools are since there are more kids there are likely more fights that will happen. More students will try to skip class and since the school is bigger teachers won't notice. It can affect them because they will keep doing it and learn less. Parents will get mad at the school because they aren't learning enough. Since school is like a safe place for kids to be, since there will be bigger schools it won't be safe a lot of school shooters or stuff like that might happen and teachers/ students won't notice won't

So if school mergers happen a lot of students won't learn enough. Teachers won't teach enough and since there are more kids it might make a lot of teachers stressed out. Parents will be mad because their kids aren't learning enough and a lot of parents might change their kids' school because they don't learn enough and it's going to be bad. Overall school mergers are a bad thing, it will be a whole different environment. Schools will be less safe even though schools are meant to be safe places for kids.

Sincerely,

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Eli Garcia

8th Grade

United for Success Academy

Eli Garcia
United for success academy
December 11, 2024

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Eli Garcia Aguilar

Eli Garcia
8th Grade
United for Success Academy



Wilson Carrillo

On behalf of the students at
United for success academy
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

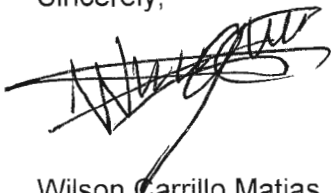
As a student of the United for Success academy, I think merging schools presents several serious issues that can badly affect our experiences. One major concern is the loss of school identity. Every school has its own culture and traditions that make students proud. If we merge with another school, those unique features may be lost, making it harder for us to connect.

Another important issue is overcrowding. A larger student body can lead to bigger class sizes, which makes it difficult for teachers to provide individual attention. This can create a chaotic environment, hindering our learning. Merging schools can also cause unfair imbalance in resources.

If one school has better resources than another, it can create resentment among students and hurt the goal of fairness. Besides, teacher confidence may suffer due to uncertainty about job security, impacting their engagement with us.

Relationships between students and teachers are vital, and instability can harm that bond. Lastly, there's an emotional toll. Transitioning to a merged school can be tough, leaving students feeling anxious or isolated in a new environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wilson Carrillo Matias', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Wilson Carrillo Matias
United for Success Academy

Wilson Carrillo

On behalf of the students at
United for success academy
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

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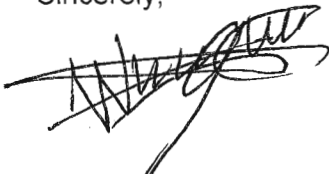
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Wilson Carrillo Matias
United for Success Academy



Valeria Romero Hernandez
United For Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

My name is Valeria Romero Hernandez, I have attended United For Success Academy for the past 2 and a half years, and am currently in my last year. My experience in this Middle School has been great for myself and peers around me. The teachers have been nothing but kind, always helping us achieve our goals and create more that will be impactful for our future. Our teachers in UFSA (United for Success Academy) have helped us advance our skills academically and socially. However, what they have most aided us in learning is, speaking up for ourselves, they have taught us not to stay quiet on something that is wrong and stand up for ourselves and the people around us.

For years my siblings have attended United For Success, sisters and brother. Now I am attending this school and in a couple of years so will my younger sister. All four of us had the opportunity to experience a school that supported us throughout the years of our middle school experience. Yet I won't be able to say the same for my younger sister, merging schools can impact the learning environment of every student on campus. For example, merging schools can cause teachers getting fired which then will cause the student to not be able to get the same education as they used to. Not getting the same education as others can affect their future, they will have to catch up during high school while others will learn more. Therefore there will be less teachers in these schools to help them and with the same amount of students entering they won't get enough attention to provide them.

Potentially, if the schools on the list merge, it can impact the amount of students enrolment in those schools. Parents won't want to send their children back to a whole new school which they never had their children enroll in because of the changes in that school that can impact their education. The changes in the school can include having less opportunity of elective classes, having less people in afterschool, and the schools policy changing. The schools that are at risk of potential merging have different policies, and that shouldnt change, each school should have the right to decide what happens to the school, not others who have never attended that school or will not be affected by the merging.

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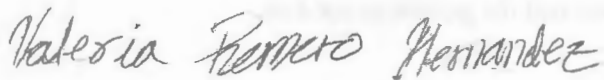
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Coming from an immigrant background, my parents weren't given the opportunity to have a proper education. Both attended up until middle school in which they proceeded to drop out to help out their families. Migrating to the U.S. at the young age of 22 and 24, they wanted better education and opportunities for all of their children. It wasn't easy for them to leave their home country but they did, and they did it for us to have a better future that they weren't able to have. Now that I'm able to be provided an education, I want this school's education to stay the same for the next generations to come, to not fire any teachers or merge schools.

To conclude, merging schools can be impactful to every student and campus and as board members you should do what is best for the student's education. Students will need this education to be provided in the future and if you take it away that is not fair for them or others around. Thank you for taking the time to read the letter and vote for the community's education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valeria Romero Hernandez". The script is cursive and fluid.

Valeria Romero Hernandez

s_valeria.romerohernandez@ousd.org

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s_valeria.romerohernandez@ousd.org

Aniyah Dixon
United for Success Academy
Oakland unified school district board
December 11, 2024

Dear Members of the School Board

My name is Aniyah and I'm an 8th grade student at United for Success. I am writing this because I have some concerns about your plan to merge our school with Life academy. I understand that you may be having a difficulty making decisions for this merger but I believe that if merging our school would impact and have a lot of difficulties and confusion and a lot of responsibility this decision will have an impact on us students and staff and our education and future.

From what I understand and heard, the school board member said "We have thrown a lot of money at problems without solving the problem," he said. "Now we're realizing that it sounds good to have two schools in the same location, but we're understanding that one school is under enrolled, the other one is over enrolled. We need to bring the resources together to create some equity." I understand that they do throw money at things but bringing resources and schools together will not make a difference

As a student I believe that our school, our teachers and staff are doing everything in their power to provide and give us a good education by investing and putting money into our school and our schools together will have a big impact on us and our learning.

In conclusion, to reconsider you to merge united and life, closing our school will impact our lower graded students and our education. This will impact our lower graded students because we will be the last to graduate under united for success school , weakening our school and students taking away the school people and everyone who feels safe at. We are proud and love our school and were hoping to see it through and see the rest of it. Please listen to our voice and for the well being of our students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Aniyah
8th grade

Aniyah Dixon
United for Success Academy
Oakland unified school district board
December 11, 2024

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Aniyah
8th grade



Dear Esteemed Board Members,

My name is Brenda, and I am currently an 8th grader at United for Success. I've recently heard about the plan to turn our beloved school into Life Academy, and I'm writing to express my concerns. While I may only be in 8th grade, the decision to change United for Success into Life Academy would have a profound and lasting impact on our school community that we have built and worked super hard to be a part of, and that holds so many cherished memories for me and my peers.

I understand that change can sometimes be necessary, and you may believe this change will improve the school. However, I believe this plan you're going with could harm not only the students but also teachers, staff members, parents, and the whole community. Allow me to explain why this decision is more complicated than it may appear, and why it could create challenges for everyone involved.

The first reason this change is concerning is the emotional impact that could have on students. Many of us at United for Success have formed strong, trusting relationships with our teachers and such as friends. These bonds are not just academic but are personal and emotional. Changing the name and the identity of our school could cause feelings of insecurity, anxiety, and uncertainty among students, especially those like me who have spent 3 and a half years building our sense of belonging here. The familiar environment that we've come to love is essential to our learning and growth, and the disruption of that could make many of us feel lost and unsupported.

The second reason I'm concerned is the potential impact on the teachers, staff, and administrators who have dedicated themselves to our school. If United for Success is merged with Life Academy, it's possible that some staff members may lose their jobs. The emotional and financial distress caused by job loss can affect not just the individuals directly involved but also the students who rely on their support. Teachers are like friends for many schools, and losing familiar faces such as teachers and trusted educators would only add to the disruption. The well-being of our educators and staff should be just as important as the students, and we must consider how this decision will affect many people.

Finally, the change could place a heavy burden on parents, families and students. If the school is renamed and restructured, some students may need to attend different schools, especially if the new arrangement is too much for them to handle for their own being.

In another case, they're can be too many students to fit in a quality of education that suffers due to overcrowded classrooms or reduced resources, parents may feel the need to seek out alternative options, which could lead to more financial and logistical strain.

You may argue that merging schools is a cost-effective way to address budget concerns, but the reality is far more complex. While it might seem like combining United for Success with Life

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Academy would reduce operational expenses, the opposite may be true in the long run. Merging schools can lead to overcrowded classrooms, where resources and teaching staff are stretched thin. Larger class sizes can have a negative impact on the quality of education, potentially requiring more support staff or teaching assistants and that can both come at a cost.

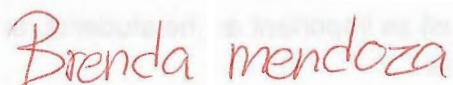
However combining two schools would likely require significant upfront investments, whether it's for renovations, new materials, or more. These additional expenses could end up being much higher than the supposed savings, and the long-term financial burden on the district could outweigh the benefits.

Beyond the financial and the concerns, there's the deeper issue of identity. United for Success is more than just a name; it represents a community, a spirit, and a history that we all share. It is a place where students and staff have come together to support each other, build friendships, and achieve personal and academic growth. Changing that identity without fully considering the consequences is not just a financial decision; it's a cultural one. The loss of this identity could have a huge effect on the sense of pride and teamwork we've worked so hard to build.

In conclusion, while I understand that the district may be looking for ways to improve our schools and streamline resources, I urge you to reconsider this decision. The change from United for Success to Life Academy could have far-reaching consequences, from emotional and financial impacts on students, teachers, and parents, to operational costs. Instead of focusing on a quick fix, I encourage you to consider. The spirit and identity of United for Success is a big community that we're thankful to be in, while also addressing financial concerns. Let's find a solution that works for everyone and allows us to continue building a community we can all be proud of.

Thank you for taking the time to read this! I hope my perspective as a student in this community has helped you see the potential consequences of this change.

Sincerely,



Brenda Mendoza
8th Grade
United for Success Academy

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Sincerely,



Brenda Mendoza
8th Grade
United for Success Academy

Santa Mendoza
December 11, 2024

United For Success Academy

Dear Members of the School Board,

My Name is Santa Mendoza and I am an 8th Grade Student at United for Success Academy. I Am Writing This to Express my Deep Concern and Opposition to The Proposed Plan to Merge Our School with The School Next to Us/Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that Merging Our Schools Would Have Serious Negative Consequences for all the Students, Teachers, and the Community. As a Student who loves my school so much, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.


From what I understand, Many Students don't want their Schools to be Merged because of Many reasons, Like Having their schools merged when they had many good memories and teachers at one school. I Also Don't want my school to merge because I've learned that if the Schools Merge, Many Staff from United For Success can Be Fired or Retired and I have some teachers that are really Amazing and Helps A lot on Helping on My work Or others too. Also the Principals from my school are Amazing because they Can Help Out by Many Situations that I'm In or anybody. I Also understand that some Merges can be or were a Fail, I've included links to articles where other "merged" Schools were not finding success.

Link#1:

As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing their power to provide the best possible education for every one of the children. By investing in our schools...

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United For Success with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our/Everybody's education, weaken our community that we have, and take away the place we feel safe and supported at. We are Proud Of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Santa M.
8th Grade
United for Success Academy

Santa Mendoza
December 11, 2024

United For Success Academy

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Sincerely,



Santa M.
8th Grade
United for Success Academy



Abimael Jeronimo

United For Success Academy

December 11,2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Members Of The School Board.

My name is Abimael Jeronimo Gomez and I'm a 7th-grader student at United for success academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with life academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand, you guys are merging schools cause you guys have no money. But the downfall of merging schools is that when you merge one school into another it affects the students learning and education, in conclusion, in the first link it says " the result of a merger between two schools with very different cultures" that means if you merge two schools with different cultures it can affect the culture of one and other, in addition if we do merge a lot of staff would get fired and would be unemployed, lastly if we do merge it would hurt our community and our family. I've included links to articles where other 'merged' schools were not finding success.

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/when-schools-merge-principals-must-forge-a-new-culture-heres-how/2024/02>

<https://www.diverseeducation.com/best-practices/article/15382331/struggling-schools-should-look-to-merge-much-earlier-say-experts>

As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best education for our children. By investing in our schools.....

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Abimael Jeronimo gomez

Abimael Jeroniomo

7th grade

United For Success Academy

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United For Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

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Abimael Jeroniomo

7th grade

United For Success Academy





Denis Pablo

United For Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District

Dear Members of the school board,

My name is Denis and I am a 7th-grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand, The merger would reduce 10 schools to five. This means combining mostly elementary and middle schools that currently share campuses into one shared school, sharing resources and teachers. I've included links to articles where other "merged" schools were not finding success:

<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/east-bay/oakland-possible-school-mergers/3707700/>

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United For Success Academy
December 11, 2024

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Sincerely,

Denis Rodrigo Pablo Ramirez

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7 Grade

United For Success Academy

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Denis pablo

7 Grade

United For Success Academy

John.M

United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Esteemed Board Members

My name is John Martin and I am a 7th-grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

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<https://www.aasa.org/resources/resource/school-district-consolidation-the-benefits-and-costs>

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As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children.

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The reason why this school merger is not a good idea is because the students will have less help which can affect them. The students also might get lost in a gigantic school made out of two schools they might not identify themselves with the new school. This also affects teachers because they will lose their jobs.

This merge might sound like a good idea but then it will cost a lot of money. It also might cost a lot of money due to how much resources you will need for both schools and other stuff. There is a problem because now you will need to figure out who will be the new principal. The principal also would want to rule the school their own way.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John.M

United for Success Academy

December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Martin Garcia

John

7th Grade

UFSA

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John Martin Garcia

John

7th Grade

UFSA

Brittany Perez Gama
United For Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear members of the school board

My name is Brittany Perez Gama and I am a 7th grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing this letter to you to express my concerns on the idea of merging our school with Life academy. I understand this is a difficult decision, but I believe that merging our school with Life Academy will have serious negative consequences for us students, teachers, and our entire community. I'm a student who really loves and cares for their school. I urge you to make this decision carefully, consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future. Also most students have made this school their safe place where they can trust teachers and students. Also some students might have unequal opportunities in different schools.

From what I understand you want to merge the schools because it will save you more money but will it really. I say this because if you merge the schools it will be bigger and from what I've researched according to the staff you will be saving 2.5 and 3 million dollars but that's nothing compared to the 95 million dollars in cuts the board will need to make for their 2025-26 budget. Also according to what I've read some teachers might lose their place as teachers and also from what I've heard is that Life Academy gets to hand pick the students they want to go to their school but United For Success doesn't, UFSA gives opportunities to students no matter where they come from, what language they speak and no matter how hard it is they try to give that student the help they need. I've included links to articles where I've found my information and information of other merged schools did not find success.

According to this article <https://fordhaminstitute.org/national/commentary/consolidation-bad-idea#:~:text=Besides%20price%2Descalation%2C%20consolidation%20discourages,an d%20the%20performance%20of%20students>. You shouldn't merge schools because it discourages competition and educational diversity.

Brittany Perez Gama
United For Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

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As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best education we can possibly get.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the decision of wanting to merge UFSA with Life Academy. Closing down our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported in. We are proud of our school and we want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brittany Perez Gama

Brittany Perez

7th grade

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Brittany Perez Gama

Brittany Perez

7th grade

United For Success Academy

Aileen Flores
United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Dear Members of the school board,

My name is Aileen Flores Ruiz and I am a 7th grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing this letter to you all because I want to explain my concerns and my feelings about the idea of merging Life Academy and United For Success. As a student who loves and cares for my school, I don't like the idea of merging schools because United For Success is a community, we don't want to merge with Life Academy, and we don't want to do things like them. And being realistic they don't want us to merge with them either. But it's not just that, do you realize the consequences and the damage it can cause our learning/education? So please think of the consequences this could cause. Now I want you all to take a second and think how it was for you guys in middle school. Wasn't it hard to make friends? If you decide to merge schools with us kids at UFSA we have to repeat that again because with a bigger school, we would have to go through that again and we would be looked at as the small kids. We don't want to get judged by those Life Academy kids, we already made friendships and if this happens we are going to lose some of our friends.

From what I understand if you merge the schools it will affect both the cost of education and the performance. I've included a link to an article that shows information of how it affects the cost and performance.

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7th grade
United For Success Academy

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United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

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<https://fordhaminstitute.org/national/commentary/consolidation-bad-idea#:~:text=Besides%20price%20Escalation%2C%20consolidation%20discourages,anded%20the%20performance%20of%20students>

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United For Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Aileen Flores Ruiz

7th grade
United For Success Academy



D'nita Nicole Buckley

United for Success Academy

December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Members of the School Board,

My name is D'nita Nicole Buckley and I am a 7th-grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand, With fewer schools in operation, the district can better stretch its resources, officials said. By merging schools, Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell said, OUSD can provide more electives and enrichment programs, better facilities, reduce overhead, and provide more support for students. The reason you are merging 10 schools it's because to help cover a budget deficit but that does not give the right to take us away from our school. I've included links to articles where other "merge" schools were not finding success:

https://ecommons.udayton.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1217&context=eda_fac_pub#:~:text=Other%20arguments%20voiced%20against%20school,decreased%20individual%20attention%20for%20students.

Or

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/ousd-school-closure-proposal-released-19897468.php>

Other arguments voiced against school district consolidation should be considered. Some of those include the potential loss of local control, a more impersonal atmosphere, and decreased individual attention for students.

As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children. By investing in our schools....

In conclusion, i urge you to reconsider merging United For Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration

D'nita Nicole Buckley

United for Success Academy

December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

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My name is D'nita Nicole Buckley and I am a 7th-grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

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Sincerely, D'nita Buckley
D'nita Buckley

7th Grade
United For Success Academy

Sincerely, D'nita Buckley
D'nita Buckley

7th Grade

United For Success Academy

Carlos Moran

United for Success Academy

December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

My name is Carlos Moran and I am a 7th-grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand, If we do merge schools with Life academy some of the students from our school won't be able to attend Life academy for the reason that Life academy handpick their students, so that means students might need to change to different schools which is hard for some people because maybe there is no school that's close to them and because maybe they have friends at the school they're gonna have to leave behind or maybe teachers they trust. I've included links to articles where other "merged" schools were not finding success:

<https://www.nboa.org/net-assets/article/stronger-together-the-case-for-school-mergers>

<https://oaklandside.org/2024/11/14/parents-teachers-and-community-members-urge-oakland-unified-to-rethink-school-merger-plan/>

As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children. By investing in our schools...

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success Academy with Life academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all our students.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Carlos Moran
Carlos Moran

7th grade

United for Success Academy

Carlos Moran

United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

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Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Carlos Moran
Carlos Moran

7th grade
United for Success Academy



Alexa Quinarez

United for success academy

December 11, 2024

Dear esteemed board members

I am writing to you to express my concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with life academy. While I understand that you may be facing a difficult decision, I believe that merging our school would be serious. Serious negative consequences, for students, teachers and our whole community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

You merging the schools and erasing united for success academy may affect us in our mental health. If we do merge the school life academy and united for success academy that wouldn't work because we and by we I mean usfa (united for success academy) don't wanna merge and I know that life academy doesn't wanna merge either and probably because they pick their students, why do you think that they have a high percent of students going to college because they pick student that they look at their records and they have good grade. Ufsa accept every student that wants to join our school.

Remember when you were a child if you went to middle school remember how many people you met ur first day the bond you had the friends you made, well imagine you and your best friends getting separated because of a school merge you may ask how are they going to get separated well if you think about it if we wanted to go to life academy we would have signed up and tried to get in. From what I have been hearing, people are going to move schools if life academy merges with our school united for success academy. And it would be a big school. How would you see them? Everyone would wear basically the same thing because of the uniform policy. Cons about merging schools potential loss of local control, a more impersonal atmosphere, and decreased individual attention for students.

Cost savings and the sharing of resources are positives. Letting an employee go or firing can be hard. It also can hurt and upset other people\students, teachers and more.

LINK 1: <https://www.ibrattleboro.com/opinion/op-ed/2017/10/school-merger-a-bad-idea/>

Sincerely,



Alexa Quinarez

7th grade

United for success academy

Alexa Quinarez

United for success academy

December 11, 2024

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Sincerely,



Alexa Quinarez

7th grade

United for success academy





United For Success Academy
Emmanuel Garcia

December 10, 2024

Dear school board:

I have been hearing that you guys want to merge schools I am writing this letter because I don't want this to happen.

Hearing this news makes me feel mad and sad because I'm mad that you guys want to do this just for money. United For Success matters to me because it's a school that holds memories from my cousins and siblings and it is sad thinking about if they are actually going to merge. Schools would be mad if they merge you guys will hurt kids feelings and it's like you guys don't care about their feelings. Finally, UFSA is very important to me because I made all my friends here because all my friends from elementary school went to another middle school.


My opinion on this merging school stuff I think they should not because it's going to be a disaster for students. Also, some students are worried that it is going to happen and the funny thing is that you're doing it for money. Life Academy and United For Success Academy should stay as separate schools because if they merge teachers are going to have to leave and there's going to be a lot of students the teachers can handle.

I want the school board to not merge United For Success Academy and Life Academy because students from UFSA are not used to teachers, students and schedules from Life Academy and Life students are. So in my opinion i think that they should not merge

Information: several problems can happen if they merge. It can damage schools and you should not have a lot of teachers because there is a school that should cut half of its nursing staff.

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Sincerely,


Emmanuel Garcia
7th Grade
United for Success Academy

United For Success Academy
Emmanuel Garcia

December 10, 2024

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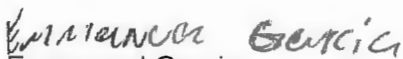
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Sincerely,


Emmanuel Garcia
7th Grade
United for Success Academy





Veronica Jeronimo Martin
United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Dear Members of the School Board,

My name is Veronica Liliana Jeronimo Martin, I am a 7th grade student at United for Success Academy. I'm from Guatemala de todos santos cuchumatan and my family also. I'm also 13 years old and this is my thinking about the school merging with the schools.

I'm writing this letter to the school board because I'm concerned about the school merging with Life Academy. I want to fight and have the right to save my school and other student that are going thru this. I think this might impact my education and other student. You might go through something right now but I think this is unnecessary to me and students. You guys are impacting a school that students care about. When you think this is okay to every school that's going thru this they are trying to save their schools but you don't care about them i know this might be okay to you but it's not fair for me and students because we are trying save the our memories that we have in the school . This schools help us learn and , helps us get a job i get you are in some problems but i think it so unnecessary because all people got thru problems but you try to take away schools and so you could get money and so i think it unfair.

I think something might go wrong with the schools you are destroying, and you are taking the safe and loving schools that students love. This might impact a generation about this school so i think this is wrong to do and not okay. This will affect education and the future of the students and also the other kids who are coming to this school too. This might also affect teachers because they might lose their jobs so also i think this unfair for teachers to go through this, they fight to save these school and i think you don't care about this because students and me fear about losing our school . We fight for the thing we want. We also want to keep what the schools that are merging . I hope this will not happen and Thank you Very Much for reading this letter.

Sincerely,

Veronica Jeronimo Martin

Veronica liliana jeronimo martin
s_veronica.jeronimomartin@ousd.org.

Veronica Jeronimo Martin
United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

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Sincerely,

Veronica Jeronimo Martin

Veronica liliana jeronimo martin
s_veronica.jeronimomartin@ousd.org.



Alexander Cortez

United For Success Academy
December 11 2024

Dear Esteemed School Board Members,

My name is Alexander Cortez. I am a 7th grade student at United for Success academy. I am writing this letter to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with life academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and teachers and the entry community. As a student who loves my school I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand. "The district has seen enrollment significantly drop over the last few years". According to NBC Bay area news. This is indicating why merging schools would be a terrible idea as it could cause enrollment to drop which would cause Oakland unified school districts to lose money. Sure school mergers can help budget shortfalls but they could destroy . It would also destroy the community. I've included links to article where Merged schools did not find success.

Link

As a student ,I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children . by investing in classes that can help them with their work

In conclusion I urge you to reconsider merging our United For Success academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Alexander Cortez

Alexander Cortez

7th Grade

United for Success Academy

Alexander Cortez

United For Success Academy

December 11 2024

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Sincerely,

Alexander Cortez

Alexander Cortez

7th Grade

United for Success Academy



Andy Khlaut

United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Members of the School Board,

My name is Andy Khlaut and I am a 7th grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand, the role schools play in our lives is to help us learn new things about life and help you get prepared for when you start growing up and what to do in your future life. School helps to provide for the fullest possible development of each learner. Oakland education officials will vote in December to merge 10 schools, the first step in reducing the number of campuses across the city and filling half-empty classrooms.

I will do everything I can to stop you from merging our schools, which is writing a note. I'm just a 7th grader. I can't actually stop you from merging our schools. If you merge the schools, what could I do? I really hope you reconsider your decision. As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children.

I know merging the schools will help you but will it help the students? Many students here do not want the schools to merge and it could also cause a negative impact to all students in the school and their everyday lives. Some students may not want to come to school because of this merger..

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United For Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Andy Khlaut
7th grade
United for success Academy

Andy Khlaut

United for Success Academy

December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Andy Khlaut

7th grade

United for success Academy



Odalis Torres Rivera
United for success academy
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Members of the School Board,

My name is Odalis Torres Rivera and I'm a 7th grader at the school of United For Success Academy. I am from el salvador, from the part of Sonsonate. I'm 12 years old. I am writing this letter to let you know how I feel about merging schools with United For Success Academy with Life Academy.

What I'll think will happen if we become one school is gonna be hard because there will be more classes and the students will be more lazy and won't want to be at school and the hallways will be crowded and difficult to get to the classes. Students may feel terrible of how they feel and impact they life today generations. As a student I believe that our school should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children. By investing in our schools students would be impacted by us merging schools together.

This is so unfairly for teachers because they lose their jobs and you don't care if they do lose their you only care about get more money ,we will surfer to keep our schools we fight,we try to win what we have you look down on us like we are nothing so that what i think and i want you to think about the kids the student that are going through thi we know what happening and the little one don't know and fear so i hope you change your mind about it.In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success academy with life academy. Closing our schools would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Odalis torres Rivera
Odalis torres rivera

Odalis Torres Rivera
United for success academy
December 11, 2024

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Sincerely ,

Odalis Torres Rivera
Odalis torres rivera



Marvin Perez

United for Success Academy

December 11, 2024

Dear members of the school board

My name is Marvin Perez and I am in the 7th grade attending United for Success Academy before you set your final vote to merge our school with Life Academy. I am writing this letter to tell you that this whole merging idea is a bad idea for not only you but us students, teachers, and the community in our school. I would like for you to think about the potential negative effects that would sadly affect us on our education and our own future.

Also from what I would like for you to understand [why merging schools is a bad idea.]. Which I've provided you with information that would tell you why merging schools is a bad idea.

[More reasons why merging schools is a bad idea.]

[Another reason why merging schools is a bad idea.]

Another thing that I would like to say is how would you feel if you were in middle school and you had to merge with a school that was completely different from your school?

So in conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success Academy with Life Academy. Because not only would it close our school it would then just disrupt our education, by weakening our community, and to take away the place that we would feel safe and also supported. So please just listen to our reasoning and our voices. So Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Perez', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval border.

Marvin Perez

7th grade

United for Success Academy.

Marvin Perez

United for Success Academy

December 11, 2024

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[More reasons why merging schools is a bad idea.]

[Another reason why merging schools is a bad idea.]

Another thing that I would like to say is how would you feel if you were in middle school and you had to merge with a school that was completely different from your school?

So in conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success Academy with Life Academy. Because not only would it close our school it would then just disrupt our education, by weakening our community, and to take away the place that we would feel safe and also supported. So please just listen to our reasoning and our voices. So Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Perez', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Marvin Perez

7th grade

United for Success Academy.



Juliana Ignacio

United For Success Academy

December 11th, 2024

Dear Members of the School Board,

My name is Juliana Ignacio Tinajero and I am a 7th-Grade student at United for Success or UFSA. The only reason I am writing this letter is to express my opinions. What I will be writing about in this letter is my concerns, purpose, and why you should not merge or close down schools.

While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious consequences for students, teachers, and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider your actions and think about the impact your decision will have on our future and education. From what I understand, in the past when you've merged schools, problems like students not having more options of schools closer to them or more convenient.

I've included links where you've merged schools and it did not go the right way.

1st link: In this link it says "We do find, however, that the timing of mergers matter; when students are older (e.g., the fourth grade) their grades rise after merging. The grades of younger students, however, fall." I think you should provide the best for our school and really listen to our voices and opinions. Though, in link #2 it actually talks about our school merging and it talks about losing students and basically what's gonna happen like the decisions.

As a student, I believe that our school's should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our community and children. By investing in our schools' education instead of only caring about money since that's not what it's all about, Merging schools will affect our communities more than it will benefit them. One reason why I know this is because children will definitely wanna move schools which will bring stress to the teachers, families, and the whole community. This school matters to this community very much and it would be devastating to see it close or merge with another school who doesn't want this decision, Another reason why you shouldn't merge school's is because the children would get even less one on one time with teachers and understanding subjects and that would be bad for the school. School districts should be doing everything they could possible for the students' education and understanding, teachers jobs, and this community we've built. You don't wanna make any decisions that are gonna hurt the children's education and this community or bring stress to the teachers or staff at the school that had been threatened with mergings, My opinion should be you shouldn't submit this decision because it will put our school in problems like maybe it won't save enough money, decrease the students one on one time, learning, and will make stress.

Juliana Ignacio

United For Success Academy

December 11th, 2024

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In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success Academy and Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive for a very long time. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Juliana Ignacio
7th Grade
United for Success Academy

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Sincerely,


Juliana Ignacio
7th Grade
United for Success Academy

Deziraë Jazelle Reyes
United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Dear members of school board

My name is Deziraë and I am a 7th-grade student at United for Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions. I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students, teachers and the entire community. As a student who loves my school I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what i understand is that you guys want to merge united and Llife together for the money but what i don't understand is that it seems like you guys care more about the money and not our education and i don't think that's really fair for us kids that want a future and has a big goal in life and it might get ruined because of the 'money' but i truly don't think this is fair for us students and we should have the right to say what we need to say. I've included links to articles where other "merged" schools were not finding success.

<https://www.kqed.org/news/12013739/oakland-school-board-spurns-campus-closures-plans-merge-some-schools-instead>

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As a student, I believe that our school should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children. By investing in our schools....

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success academy With life academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, Weaken our community, And take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and Consideration

Sincerely,

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7th Grade
United for success

Deziraë Jazelle Reyes
United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

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Sincerely,

Deziraë Jazelle Reyes
Deziraë Jazelle Reyes
7th Grade
United for success



Daisy Ramos Matias
United For Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board.

Dear, Members of the School Board,

My name is Daisy Ramos Matias. I'm in the 7th grade. I am here to say how we are concerned that we are merging school with Life Academy. I know that there may be difficulties today. However I think that this is unacceptable for us. This would impact our own generations and values. The combination of learning loss and increased emotional distress highlights the importance of addressing these issues to support students effectively.

The purpose of this letter is to address a concern regarding merging schools. I believe that it's important to bring this matter to your attention as it directly impacts the learning environment for students. School closures affect the economic and social cohesion of small communities leading to long-term negative consequences that can affect multiple generations. School closures have detrimental effects on both academic performance and social-emotional. Community schools are instrumental in mitigating the negative effects of school closures by offering academic support. Their holistic approach not only supports students.

While I understand that emotions can run high in these situations, I aim to present the facts as I know them. I have taken steps to resolve this matter by teachers saying how this may impact our community. I'm considering how this disappointing way is not a great decision for young students to merge United For Success Academy and Life Academy. I hope to see a resolution that fosters a positive learning environment for all students.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I appreciate your commitment to our school community and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Daisy Ramos Matias

Daisy
7th Grade
United for Success Academy
S_daisy.ramosmatias@ousd.org
you can reply any time you want.

Daisy Ramos Matias
United For Success Academy
December 11, 2024

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My name is Daisy Ramos Matias. I'm in the 7th grade. I am here to say how we are concerned that we are merging school with Life Academy. I know that there may be difficulties today. However I think that this is unacceptable for us. This would impact our own generations and values. The combination of learning loss and increased emotional distress highlights the importance of addressing these issues to support students effectively.

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Daisy
7th Grade
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S_daisy.ramosmatias@ousd.org
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12/11/2024

Dear Members of the School Bboard,

Do you remember what it was like on your first day of middle school?

It was scary right? Especially if you didn't have any friends from elementary school. The 5th grade teachers most likely told you that it would suck which only made things worse.

My name is Maricela Mendoza and I am an 8th grade student at United For Success Academy. I'm writing this letter to express my emotions over the potential merger with Life academy. While I understand your reasoning for wanting to make this decision, I believe that merging the two schools together would result in more negative outcomes for our community as a whole. As someone who loves my school as it is, I hope that you'll consider this decision carefully as it may impact our education, but more importantly our future. I have a lot of strong feelings, and opinions about the merger. Everytime I think about the merger

From what I understand, the purpose of this merge is to make an effort to balance the districts budget, 10 schools would turn into 5, the goal is to increase student benefit and cut costs. However, Lerma is concerned that they'd be making cuts, and turning the schools into low performing. If this is such a big concern why move forward with the merger? It's obvious that it won't end well. This isn't the only concern; Kimi Kean who is the CEO of family advocacy group Families in Action for Quality Education is concerned about how programs special to certain schools would be impacted due to the mergers. Lerma says "We have thrown a lot of money at problems without solving the problem." He also says "Now we're realizing that it sounds good to have two schools in the same location, but we're understanding that one school is under enrolled, the other one is over enrolled. We need to bring resources together to create some equity." My argument is how are you going to say that you understand the issue is now, and you want to create equity, but you aren't even listening to what we want. It's our school, the school we attend, and we're saying no!!! As an 8th grader at United For Success Academy, I don't have to worry about the mergers messing with my middle school experience. However I know that the younger students strongly disagree with this decision. They are the ones who have to continue attending this school, unless they are willing to go through the trouble of moving schools.

12/11/2024

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I've gathered my information from the following link:

[Link 1](#)

In conclusion, I'm sure you remember your first day of middle school, or maybe even highschool. They're both scary. It's a new experience, but at least you had expectations about how it would go. As for the mergers, we're not sure what to expect. It'd be like the first day of middle school again except more scary.

Sincerely,

Maricela Mendoza Avila

Maricela Medoza Avila

8th Grade

United for Success Academy

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8th Grade

United for Success Academy

Zaylee Alonzo

On behalf of the students at
United for Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Dear Esteemed School Board members,

I, Zaylee 7th grade student of United for Success Academy, have recently heard about a proposed plan to merge Life Academy and United for Success Academy. I was bewildered hearing this dreadful news, it left me in shock and I was disturbed while learning because I thought about what could affect my learning and other students, but also the staff members of the school. This school is a part of my identity and I don't wanna lose that, a lot of students don't want to lose that either.

I know the cause of the merge but the outcome might not be as good as the district's plan, it could backfire and cause a closure. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future. From what I understand, some schools went through bankruptcy and closures due to the merger. I've included links to articles where other "merged" schools were not finding success.

- 1) <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/business/financial-health/2023/12/21/look-back-college-closures-and-mergers-2023>
- 2) <https://www.highereddive.com/news/how-many-colleges-and-universities-have-closed-since-2016/539379/>

These links convey how the school went through closure and bankruptcy. An evidence from the text is "West Virginia governor Jim Justice pressed state officials earlier this year to give Alderson Broaddus University more time to address its falling enrollment and shaky finances, which they feared might trigger a mid semester closure, but it didn't help. In late July, the West Virginia Education Policy Commission voted to strip the university's degree-granting authority, prompting Alderson Broaddus to formally announce its **closure** in August, when it filed for bankruptcy." Another evidence is "A handful of others announced mergers or acquisitions." This evidence shows that the school was falling into bankruptcy after merging from one school to another.

As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for children. Possible outcomes of the school could be bankruptcy, closure, decrease individual attention for students, and discomfort for students and staff members. By investing in our schools it would become a better community and a superior school. Please use these few days to think about what could happen to both of these schools and the outcome

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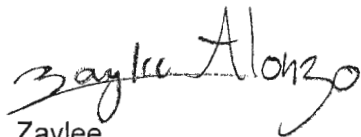
- 1) <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/business/financial-health/2023/12/21/look-back-college-closures-and-mergers-2023>
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In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United for Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zaylee Alonzo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "Z" and "A".

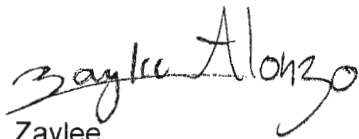
Zaylee

7th Grade student

United for Success Academy

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Zaylee
7th Grade student
United for Success Academy

Oriane Robles

United For Success Academy

December 11, 2024

Dear members of the school board,

My name is Oriane Robles and I am a 7th grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions, I believe that merging our school would have serious consequences for students, teachers and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and our future.

From what I understand, you want to merge 10 schools into 5 schools but that is not the right thing to do because it will disrupt our learning environment by how different Life Academy teaches their students and by how United For Success Academy teaches their students. All of the 10 schools you want to merge have their own unique way of teaching, helping their community, making their students achieve and find success in their studies. I will also add a little thing that I have found out by my teachers here at United For Success Academy. One thing that my teacher said was that all the other 8 schools that will turn to 4 schools will go through a process and become another different school, but Life Academy and United For Success Academy will not go through the same process, instead it will just be United For Success moving to Life Academy. Like United For Success will have to follow the system of Life Academy instead of building and creating another new system for both of the schools joining.

- <https://www.kqed.org/news/12014397/parents-teachers-say-oakland-school-mergers-could-hurt-students-in-the-flatlands#:~:text=The%20plan%20would%20combine%2010,%24174%20million%20two%2Dyear%20deficit.>
- <https://oaklandside.org/2024/11/08/10-oakland-schools-would-be-merged-under-a-plan-the-board-is-considering/>

As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best possible education for our children. It would be nice if you could cooperate with us and make our school a better place by changing the lead grass to real natural grass, by coming every time there is an issue with our school and by giving our school money to provide us materials and things we need in order to learn.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United For Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, weaken our community, and take

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7th Grade

United For Success Academy

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Oriane Robles

Oriane Robles

7th Grade

United For Success Academy

Eliseo Mendoza Matias
December 11, 2024

United For Success Academy
Oakland unified school district board

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

Hi my name is Eliseo im 13 years old and I go to United For Success Of Academy. I heard that the school board was going to merge 10 schools just to save more money but here are some reasons why we should not merge. The first reason is that actually you guys lose more money you see here when more kids come to the schools you guys get more money but because of the merger you're going to lose kids and if you lose kids you will potentially lose more money.

United For Success Of Academy matters to me a lot because it made me feel more positive about myself and more confident to connect with other people at my age and if we ever merged the school I wouldn't feel the same as how I felt at UFSA

Well my opinion about it is that if we merge we won't get many electives and for some kids the electives help them to communicate more and if we do not have electives and new sixth graders that will come in the next year wont have the opportunity to do art on computer science or music.

I want that the school board to cancel the merge and go back to normal because of course that many are going to lose their job and many kids don't have many elective and like I said if there are not that many kids the you the school board are going to a lot of money because of the I want that the school board cancels of the merge.

After all in conclusion i think it is more better if we stop the merge like how i said you guys lose money and kids at the same time but you guys think that you will get more money but no it is not like that and the way that you can win more money instead of merging the schools you can not merge the schools and win more because there will be electives and more kids will then that means more money. And last time you guys did a merge you guys lost money instead of winning money.

Sincerely,

Eliseo MENDOZA
Eliseo Mendoza Matias
United for Success Academy

Eliseo Mendoza Matias
December 11,2024

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Dear Esteemed Board Members,

Hi my name is Eliseo im 13 years old and I go to United For Success Of Academy. I heard that the school board was going to merge 10 schools just to save more money but here are some reasons why we should not merge. The first reason is that actually you guys lose more money you see here when more kids come to the schools you guys get more money but because of the merger you're going to lose kids and if you lose kids you will potentially lose more money.

United For Success Of Academy matters to me a lot because it made me feel more positive about myself and more confident to connect with other people at my age and if we ever merged the school I wouldn't feel the same as how I felt at UFSA

Well my opinion about it is that if we merge we won't get many electives and for some kids the electives help them to communicate more and if we do not have electives and new sixth graders that will come in the next year wont have the opportunity to do art on computer science or music.

I want that the school board to cancel the merge and go back to normal because of course that many are going to lose their job and many kids don't have many elective and like I said if there are not that many kids the you the school board are going to a lot of money because of the I want that the school board cancels of the merge.

After all in conclusion i think it is more better if we stop the merge like how i said you guys lose money and kids at the same time but you guys think that you will get more money but no it is not like that and the way that you can win more money instead of merging the schools you can not merge the schools and win more because there will be electives and more kids will then that means more money. And last time you guys did a merge you guys lost money instead of winning money.

Sincerely,

Eliseo MENDOZA
Eliseo Mendoza Matias
United for Success Academy



Allen Saetern

United for Success Academy

December 11, 2024

Dear Esteemed Members of the Oakland Unified School District Board

My name is Allen. I am a seventh grade student of United For Success Academy. I am willingly expressing my feelings about my school being merged with Life Academy. I deeply understand your concern about the problem. While the merger seems like a perfect solution to your problem, as a student who loves my school I would like to say please do not merge my school.

I would like to discuss a matter of some closures in the past. In 2022 you were planning to close eight schools, and six of them were schools with high African American student enrollment, but still you closed Parker K-8 and Community day school.

- <https://oaklandside.org/2024/10/30/with-95-million-deficit-looming-oakland-unified-turns-to-school-closures-again/>


I will show another example of a school “merger” solution not working.

- <https://oaklandside.org/2022/02/01/ousd-plan-to-close-and-merge-schools-is-met-with-overwhelming-opposition/>

Another thing is that a big chunk is academics/education but another huge chunk of that pie chart is social life. Kids go to school to learn and build enough courage to speak to other kids their age and build a friendship/bond, have fun and study at the same time.

In conclusion I would like to say with the biggest urge just to say to maybe reconsider your thoughts about this merger with Life Academy middle school. Merging would cause a disruption into our school work and weaken the amount of students at our school. All students are proud of what all staff do for us.

Sincerely,

Allen Saetern 
7th grade
United for Success Academy

Allen Saetern

United for Success Academy

December 11, 2024

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Sincerely,

Allen Saetern *Allen*
7th grade
United for Success Academy



Citlaly Ruiz Valenzuela
United For Success Academy

Dear members of the school board,

My name is Citlaly and I am a 7th-grade student at United For Success Academy. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed plan to merge our school with Life Academy. While I understand that you may be facing difficult decisions.

I believe that merging our school would have serious negative consequences for students , teachers , and the entire community. As a student who loves my school, I urge you to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on our education and future .

From what I understand you are struggling with debt and own a lot of money but As a student, I believe that our schools should be doing everything in their power to provide the best education for our students. By investing in our schools.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider merging United For Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, waken our community, and take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well-being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Citlaly Ruiz
7th Grade
United for Success Academy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Citlaly".

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United For Success Academy

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Sincerely,

Citlaly Ruiz
7th Grade
United for Success Academy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Citlaly Ruiz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name and address.



Victoria Carranza Zepeda

On behalf of the students at **United for Success Academy**

December 11, 2024

Dear Members of the School Board,

Hello. My name is Victoria, and I'm a 7th grade student attending United for Success Academy. I am writing to you to state my concerns about merging our school with Life Academy. I can understand that the district is struggling with money, and merging schools could help decrease that issue. However, I believe that this decision will have a negative outcome, or consequences. As a student who likes my school the way it is, I want you to consider the final outcome of merging our schools, and the impact it'll have on our education, our teachers, our future, and our community.

Although there are many pros about school consolidation, such as saving money, and larger school buildings, there are also many negatives. Students and teachers would be negatively impacted as well. Things like loss of personal attention or help, anxiety or a sense of not belonging, will be increased disadvantages for students. As for the teachers, many would be waitlisted to make priority for educators with more experience, and or, many teachers would be inevitably fired.

Oakland is a home for immigrant families, which leads our community to be filled with diverse cultures, traditions, and languages. Majority of United for Success Academy and Life Academy students come from immigrant families. These schools are a safe place for children to be out of danger and properly educated, because they have a **right** to these benefits. Despite the challenges of having an immigrant background these students may face at home, United for Success Academy and Life Academy provide a healthy environment, mentally, emotionally and physically.

As a student, I believe that schools should do their best to provide the best possible education for their students. The school board should do what they think is best, but while also thinking about the impact it'll have for students and teachers

In conclusion, I'd urge you to reconsider merging United for Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would negatively affect our education for a period of time until the merging is completed. It wouldn't *just* affect our education. The main issue I am most worried about is our community. The students and families that won't get accepted into Life Academy; What will happen to them? They'll be separated from their friends, and the community they're most comfortable with. Wouldn't it affect their state of mind, or thinking? Please think about the consequences of your actions, and how it'll affect us, as students, and our families. This is our school, and we want to have a say. We prioritize the well-being of our students, and we ask you to prioritize it too. Thank you for your time.

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Sincerely,

Victoria

7th grade

United for Success

Victoria Carranza Zepeda

Sincerely,

Victoria

7th grade

United for Success

Victoria Carranza Zepeda

Christopher.M

United For Success Academy
December 11,2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Hello my name is christopher im a 7 grade student from united for success academy i been seeing teachers talking about a topic of ousd merging both life and ufsa. The teachers from ufsa don't agree with this merge they say this will have a huge negative impact to us if it happens. Is this merge even necessary, do you guys even care about this merge or are you doing this to help yoursleft and why united for success academy and the other 9 school they are mostly of black and hispanic schools.

Why not a white school ^{cy} they get more better things than we do like better buildings, education and more. I seen the white school have a better enviornment with those good looking building. I did got some information of color people and white from google 2015 & 2017; Shifrer, 2018; Shifrer, et. al., 2011) find that in many situations, students of color are less likely than their white peers to be identified and to receive special education services, despite demonstrating similar levels of academic performance and behavior, even when attending the same schools.

With this information i could just imagine you guys picking on us because we are more worthless and that you guys value the white kids more. Another piece of evidence is this information i researched Students of color are often concentrated in schools with fewer resources. Schools with 90 percent or more students of color spend \$733 less per student per year than schools with 90 percent or more white students.

If a white school is in need of help of fixing there buildings and other supplies you guys will send help because there are more value than we color people. You guys spend more money on theme than us. One last piece of evidence is this information i researched. With fewer schools in operation, the district can better stretch its resources, officials said. By merging schools, Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell said, OUSD can provide more electives and enrichment programs, better facilities, reduce overhead, and provide more support for students.

If this merge happened everything will be mixed up and that not good for life and usfa. And it will not be easy to stabilized the school because life is a middle school and a high school and has a better reputation of students being successful. Than us and it going to be really complicated since life accept student that are qualify. We are just a normal middle school that is stabilized and don't want anything negative to happened to our middle school.

I sincerely hope you guys get my letter so you could consider not merging united fors success academy and life academy. Oh and i got my information from google. Well that all we will see the result soon farewell.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris M." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher.M

United For Success Academy
December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

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Elmer Calmo Carrillo

United For Success Academy

December 11, 2024

Oakland Unified School District Board

Dear Members of the School Board,

Hello My name is Elmer Calmo and I am in 7th grade and I attend United For Success Academy, and I am going to write how I feel about you guys trying to merge United For Success Academy and Life Academy. Also I think you should let the community also decide If they want the schools to merge because you guys do want to merge the schools but you don't know if the people want to merge the schools. How it might impact other people and how they might react to it. If our school merges with life academy then it's going to be upsetting for me because If I wanted to go to life academy then I would pick that school but I didn't want to and I picked this school because I wanted to come here.

Also, you guys should not merge United For Success academy and Life academy because how are you guys going to manage the lunch time schedule? Life academy gets out an hour early and If we merge then there is going to be a long line for lunch and the cafeteria is small. Another thing to consider is Life academy teaches one way and United for Success academy teaches another way. What core values will they consider for teaching and how will teachers agree with it? Which method of teaching are we going to use?

After doing some research on other schools that merged and how it impacted the students, is not a great idea, this article named Parents, Teachers Say Oakland School Mergers Could Hurt Students in the Flatlands' by Katie DeBenedetti stated "OUSD last tried to consolidate schools in 2022. That plan to close 11 campuses led to a hunger strike, multiple site occupations and outrage from parents and educators who said it would have disproportionately affected low-

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December 11, 2024

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income and underrepresented students.” This means that students who did not agree with merging in their school went on a hunger strike. It is that serious for them because they did not agree with the idea of merging. Which can happen to our schools where students can go on a hunger strike or they won't simply show up to school. That would make things worse.” We’re going to resist, we will never let you close our schools, Hutchinson said. “Bring it on, because I was born for this fight.” From the Edsource article, They would fight for their school not to close because they really care about their school.

In conclusion, I wish you to reconsider merging United For Success Academy with Life Academy. Closing our school would disrupt our education, Weaken our community, And take away the place we feel safe and supported. We are proud of our school and want to see it thrive. Please listen to our voices and prioritize the well being of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elmer Calmo". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Elmer Calmo

7th Grade

United For Success Academy

Resource: <https://www.kqed.org/news/12014397/parents-teachers-say-oakland-school-mergers-could-hurt-students-in-the-flatlands>

<https://edsource.org/2022/oakland-students-teachers-community-to-fight-11-school-closures-mergers-reductions/667243>

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<https://edsource.org/2022/oakland-students-teachers-community-to-fight-11-school-closures-mergers-reductions/667243>

To OUSD School Board,

Hola mi nombre es ___Anthony calix_. Soy estudiante de grado __7_ en UFSA. He ido a UFSA durante _5_ months. Soy un recién llegado.

1) Cuando escuché que UFSA podría estar cerrando y fusionándose con Life, sentí__mal por los maestros que quedarían desempleados y no me quiero ir a otra escuela.

2_ Creo que UFSA es una __buena y segura escuela.

3) Describiría a la comunidad de UFSA como

__una comunidad saludable y segura__por qu _todos son amigables.

4) Creo que cerrar UFSA es una mala/buena idea porque__mala idea por que es difícil encontrar una escuela segura y buena donde los estudiantes son amigables

Anthony Calix

Hello my name is ___Anthony calix _____. I am a _7_ th grader at UFSA. I have gone to UFSA for __5_ month. I understand there is a lack of money for our schools. But this is how I feel.

1. When I heard UFSA may be closing and merging with Life I felt_____por que muchos maestros se irán y alumnos.

2. I think UFSA is a _es una escuela segura school.



To OUSD School Board,

Hello my name is **__Faiza__**. I am a **__6__**th grader at UFSA. I have gone to UFSA for **__5__** months. I am a newcomer I understand there is a lack of money for our schools. But this is how I feel.

1. When I heard UFSA may be closing and merging with Life I felt **__sad__**.
2. I think UFSA is a **__good__** school.
3. I would describe the UFSA community as **_a good school because they are so nice with others student _____.**
4. I think closing UFSA is a bad idea because **__UFSA school is a good school and the teachers are so nice and the students are nice too ,I think closing UFSA school is not good idea _____.**

Sincerely,

FAIZA



To OUSD School Board,

Hello my name is _____ Yostin_____. I am a _7th grader at UFSA. I have gone to UFSA for ___1__ year. I am a newcomer. I understand there is a lack of money for our schools. But this is how I feel.

1. When I heard UFSA may be closing and merging with Life I felt__that was wrong_____
2. I think UFSA is a __good_____ school.
3. I would describe the UFSA community as _____ok_____ because_the people are nice_____.
4. I think closing UFSA is a bad idea because _____its bad_____

Sincerely,

Yostin



Hola mi nombre es _____ XIMENA _____. Soy estudiante de grado __8_ en UFSA. He ido a UFSA durante ____2____ años.

Hola mi nombre es _____ XIMENA _____. Soy estudiante de grado __8_ en UFSA. He ido a UFSA durante ____2____ años

Hola mi nombre es _____ XIMENA _____. Soy estudiante de grado __8_ en UFSA. He ido a UFSA durante ____2____ años. Soy un recién llegado.

1) Cuando escuché que UFSA podría estar cerrando y fusionándose con Life, sentí _____ me senti ago mal porque etenido muchas aventuras en uasd tengo muchos amigos y me senti muy mal _____

2_ Creo que UFSA es una __escuela muy buena _____ escuela.

3) Describiría a la comunidad de UFSA como
_buena escuela _____ por que _____ es una escuela que ensena muchos ami me enseñó mucho porque yo no sabia pero gracias a ellos y todos los maestro puede aprender ingles y muchas cosas mas _____.

4) Creo que cerrar UFSA es una mala/ mala idea para mi porque e aprendido muchas cosas en esta escuela para mi es una buena escuela donde aprendi muchas cosas mas

Sinceramente,

Ximena

1) Cuando escuché que UFSA podría estar cerrando y fusionándose con Life, sentí _____ me senti ago mal porque etenido muchas aventuras en uasd tengo muchos amigos y me senti muy mal _____

2_ Creo que UFSA es una __escuela muy buena _____escuela.

3) Describiría a la comunidad de UFSA como

_buena escuela _____por que _____ es una escuela que ensena muchos ami me enseñó mucho porque yo no sabia pero gracias a ellos y todos los maestro puede aprender ingles y muchas cosas mas _____.

4) Creo que cerrar UFSA es una mala/ mala idea para mi porque e aprendido muchas cosas en esta escuela para mi es una buena escuela donde aprendi muchas cosas mas

Sinceramente,

Su nombre ximena

1) Cuando escuché que UFSA podría estar cerrando y fusionándose con Life, sentí _____ me senti ago mal porque etenido muchas aventuras en uasd tengo muchos amigos y me senti muy mal _____

2_ Creo que UFSA es una __escuela muy buena _____escuela.

3) Describiría a la comunidad de UFSA como

To OUSD School Board,

Hello my name is _____josue ivan_____. I am an _8_ th grader at UFSA. I am a newcomer. I have gone to UFSA for 3 months. I understand there is a lack of money for our schools. But this is how I feel.

1. When I heard UFSA may be closing and merging with Life I felt frustrated.
2. I think UFSA is a ___good_____ school.
3. I would describe the UFSA community as _____good
comunity_____because_____people are kind_____.
4. I think closing UFSA is a bad/good idea because ___what happens but
students_____

Sincerely,

Josue Ivan



To OUSD School Board,

Hello my name is _fredy chuta tubac_____. I am an __8__th grader at UFSA. I have gone to UFSA for 1.5 years. I am a newcomer. I understand there is a lack of money for our schools. But this is how I feel.

1. When I heard UFSA may be closing and merging with Life I felt sad.
2. I think UFSA is a _UFSA es a Good school_____ school.
3. I would describe the UFSA community as _____mad Idea
_____because_____teachers kinds an Good
_____.
4. I think closing UFSA is a bad idea because _____mad_____

Sincerely,

Fredy



To OUSD School Board,

Hello my name is _____ heidy_____. I am a _8_ th grader at UFSA. I have gone to UFSA for 2__years. I am a newcomer. I understand there is a lack of money for our schools.

But this is how I feel.

1. When I heard UFSA may be closing and merging with Life I felt_ no se_____

2. I think UFSA is a _____good_____ school.

3. I would describe the UFSA community as

_____because_____.

4. I think closing UFSA is a bad idea because _____is a bad because UFSA is a good school

Sincerely,

Heidy



To OUSD Board Members,

Hola mi nombre es __edwin_____. Soy estudiante de grado __6_ en UFSA. He ido a UFSA durante __5 meses. Soy un recién llegado.

1) Cuando escuché que UFSA podría estar cerrando y fusionándose con Life, sentí__qu__

2_ Creo que UFSA es una _____aburido_____escuela.

3) Describiría a la comunidad de UFSA como

_es buena_____ por qué __por que me__da_____risa_____.

Sinceramente,

edwin



To OUSD School Board,

Hello my name is leidy. I am a 8th grader at UFSA. I have gone to UFSA for 1 years. 5 month I understand there is a lack of money for our schools. But this is how I feel.

1. When I heard UFSA may be closing and merging with Life I felt I don't fell well
2. I think UFSA is a good school.
3. I would describe the UFSA community as get it back because is a good school.
4. I think closing UFSA is a bad/good idea because bad idea because UFSA is a great school

Sincerely,

Leidy

Hola mi nombre es leidy. Soy estudiante de grado 8 en UFSA. He ido a UFSA durante 1 años con 5 meses

- 1) Cuando escuché que UFSA podría estar cerrando y fusionándose con Life, sentí mal
- 2_ Creo que UFSA es una buena escuela.
- 3) Describiría a la comunidad de UFSA como recuperarla por qué es importante estar en la escuela.
- 4) Creo que cerrar UFSA es una mala/buena idea porque mala idea ufsa es un escuela grande por eso es un mala idea de serlo

Sinceramente,

Leidy



To OUSD School Board,

Hello my name is ___angel_____. I am a 6th grader at UFSA. I have gone to UFSA for ___1___ years. I understand there is a lack of money for our schools. But this is how I feel.

1. When I heard UFSA may be closing and merging with Life I felt _mad_____

2. I think UFSA is a ___good_____ school.

3. I would describe the UFSA community as _nice kind and respectful

_____ because _everyone i talk to they are very nice

_____.

4. I think closing UFSA is a bad/good idea because ___bad because family are going to be mad then leave _____

Sincerely,

Angel



To OUSD School Board,

Hola mi nombre es __ micaela _____. Soy estudiante de grado ____ en UFSA. He ido a UFSA durante __1__ año. Soy un recién llegado.

1) Cuando escuché que UFSA podría estar cerrando y fusionándose con Life, sentí _____ al muy mal _____

2_ Creo que UFSA es una ____buena escuela.

3) Describiría a la comunidad de UFSA como

amable_por que es importante estar en la escuela __los maestros son amables

_____por que_____.

4) Creo que cerrar UFSA es una mala/buena idea porque es importante estar en la escuela

Sinceramente,

Micaela



To OUSD School Board,

Hello my name is NAZARETH. I am a 7th grader at UFSA. I have gone to UFSA for 1 year. I am a newcomer. I understand there is a lack of money for our schools. But this is how I feel.

1. When I heard UFSA may be closing and merging with Life I felt _____ nothing _____
2. I think UFSA is a good school.
3. I would describe the UFSA community as
4. It is a very good school, it teaches well and the classes are very good
5. _____ because yes is so good.
6. I think closing UFSA is a bad/good idea because bad cuz yes is so bad

Sinceramente

Nazareth



To OUSD School Board Members,

Hola mi nombre es _____angeline paramo acevedo __. Soy estudiante de grado 6 grado en UFSA. He ido a UFSA durante _5 meses. Soy un recién llegado.

1) Cuando escuché que UFSA podría estar cerrando y fusionándose con Life, sentí____nada

2_ Creo que UFSA es una _____bien__escuela.

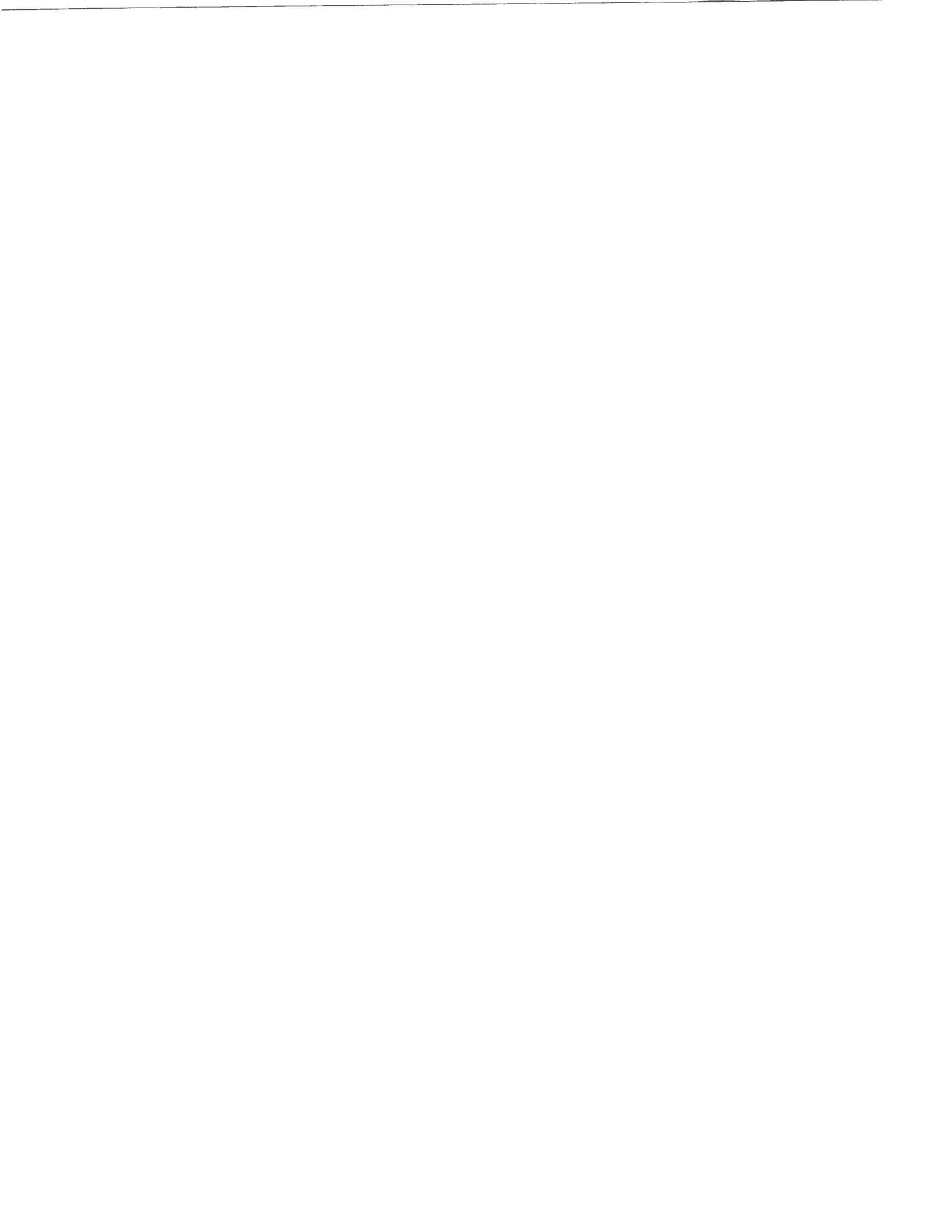
3) Describiría a la comunidad de UFSA como

__muy buena_por que____no se __

4) Creo que cerrar UFSA es una mala idea porque____porque a persona que quiere esta aqui__

Sinceramente,

Angeline



SD School Board,

Hello, my name is Asuleyda Marisol Pablo Calmo. I am a _6_ th grader at UFSA. I have gone to UFSA for _1_ years. I understand there is a lack of money for our schools. But this is how I feel.

1. When I heard UFSA may be closing and merging with Life I felt really confused at first but then i felt worried
2. I think UFSA is a great school.
3. I would describe the UFSA community as really kind and awesome because I met a lot of amazing people at UFSA and a lot of great teachers that are really cool.
4. I think closing UFSA is a bad idea because i think having a small school is better and safer so i think they should not merging UFSA with Life Academy

Sincerely,

Asuleyda_



To OUSD School Board,

Hello my name is Ashley. I am a 6th grader at UFSA. I have gone to UFSA for $\frac{3}{4}$ months somewhere there. I understand there is a lack of money for our schools. But this is how I feel.

1. When I heard UFSA may be closing and merging with Life I felt upset because I don't really get along with life academy kids.
2. I think UFSA is a school that shouldn't be closing and merging because teachers from UFSA will have to leave the school and they have been there for us students.
3. I would describe the UFSA community as loving school because if the schools merge this school may or not be named UFSA no more.
4. I think closing UFSA is a bad/good idea because our schools would go well with Life Academy but maybe also our sports teams could be bigger.

Sincerely,

Ashley



To OUSD Board Members,

Hola mi nombre es gloria . Soy estudiante de grado en 6 UFSA. He ido a UFSA durante 1 años

1) Cuando escuché que UFSA podría estar cerrando y fusionándose con Life, sentí mal

2_ Creo que UFSA es una buena y mala escuela.

3) Describiría a la comunidad de UFSA como

_____buena_____ por qué _____no es mala la escuela_____.

4) Creo que cerrar UFSA es una mala idea porque _____mala

Sinceramente,

Gloria



To OUSD School Board,

Hello my name is _____GREYDON_____. I am a _8_ th grader at UFSA. I have gone to UFSA for __1__ year. I am a newcomer. I understand there is a lack of money for our schools. But this is how I feel.

1. When I heard UFSA may be closing and merging with Life I felt _____Sad_____
2. I think UFSA is a _____good_____ school.
3. I would describe the UFSA community as _____UFSA school is very good_____because_____. If they close the school it is a bad idea because the children will not learn._____.
4. I think closing UFSA is a bad/good idea because _____

Sincerely,

Greydon



To OUSD School Board,

Hello, my name is Natalia. I am a _6th grader at UFSA. I have gone to UFSA for 5 months. I am a newcomer. I understand there is a lack of money for our schools. But this is how I feel.

1. When I heard UFSA may be closing and merging with Life I felt ___ sad ___.

2. I think UFSA is a good _____ school.

3. I would describe the UFSA community as

_____ because _____.

4. I think closing UFSA is a idea because __I need a place to study. _____

Sincerely,

Natalia



To OUSD School Board Members,

Hola, mi nombre es ___ Roxana _____. Soy estudiante de grado _ 6 _ en USA. He ido a USA durante ___ 5 meses. _ Soy un recién llegado.

1) Cuando escuché que USA podría estar cerrando y fusionándose con Life,

2) sentí __ mal _____

2_ Creo que ESA UNA buena _____ escuela.

3) Describiría a la comunidad de USA como

_____ porque dan buenas clases _____ por qué _____ y y buenas calificaciones _____.

4) Creo que cerrar UFES es una mala/buena idea porque ___ mala ___ idea ___ porque si

Sinceramente,

Roxana



To OSUD School Board Members,

Hola, mi nombre es ____ David _____. Soy estudiante de grado _6_ en UFSA. Soy un recién llegado. He ido a UFSA durante 5 meses.

1) Cuando escuché que UFSA podría estar cerrando y fusionándose con Life, sentí triste.

2_ Creo que UFSA es una _buen escuela para aprender ingles.

3) Describiría a la comunidad de UFSA como

_____los maertor son amables _____ por qué lo

amable_____

4) Creo que cerrar UFSA es una mala idea porque _____mala_____

Sinceramente,

David



To OUSD School Board Members,

Hola mi nombre es miguel _____. Soy estudiante de grado _7_ en UFSA. He ido a UFSA durante ____ 1.5__ años. Soy un recién llegado.

1) Cuando escuché que UFSA podría estar cerrando y fusionándose con Life, sentí__ mal. _____

2_ Creo que UFSA es una _____ linda ____ escuela

3) Describiría a la comunidad de UFSA como _____ por que _____ no se _____.

4) Creo que cerrar UFSA es una mala idea porque no _____

Sinceramente,

Miguel



To OUSD Board Members,

Hola mi nombre es _____nelson_____. Soy estudiante de grado __8_ en UFSA. He ido a UFSA durante ____1.5____ años. Soy un recién llegado.

1) Cuando escuché que UFSA podría estar cerrando y fusionándose con Life, sentí_nada_____

2_ Creo que UFSA es una __bien_____ escuela.

3) Describiría a la comunidad de UFSA como

_____normal_____por que_todos me caen bie los maesrto y los amigo

_____.

4) Creo que cerrar UFSA es una mala/buena idea porque_en un ma idea poque aprendemo un poco e enta escuela_____

Sinceramente,

Nelson

