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Moraga School District Plans for the Future

By Sophie Braccini

There are 1,861 students enrolled in the Moraga School District this year, spread across three elementary schools and a middle school. Over the years enrollment figures have fluctuated wildly, with a high of 2,718 in 1973 and a low of 1,418 in 1984. What the future holds for Moraga schools is hard to predict—these ample fluctuations were not the result of housing development but rather of other demographic factors. For school district superintendent Bruce Burns, this is a serious concern that needs addressing; the number of students and their location helps plan construction, districting boundaries, and the number of classrooms and teachers. So the district

hired a consultant and, before the end of the year, will have the results of a demographic study that will narrow the range of possibilities for enrollment. These figures will feed the district's ongoing strategic plan.

Planning is tantamount to any leadership position and in education, changes can be deep and come in rapid succession. "Last year we had the most change ever," says Burns, referring to his 29 years in the school system. He lists the implementation of the Common Core standards, the transition from STAR testing to an online testing system, and the implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula, the state's new mechanism to fund schools in Cali-

fornia. With LCFF came the requirement for a new reporting system, the Local Control Accountability Plan. "We finished our three-year strategic plan," says Burns. "About 80 percent of the information required in the Local Control Accountability Plan is contained in our strategic plan."

Developing a strategic plan was one of Burns' top goals when he took the job in 2010; he wanted the process to include the widest and most inclusive outreach. Now the plan is formalized and it measures the progression of each goal as time passes. "We have materialized our plan on the wall of the auditorium at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate," says Burns. ... continued on page A13

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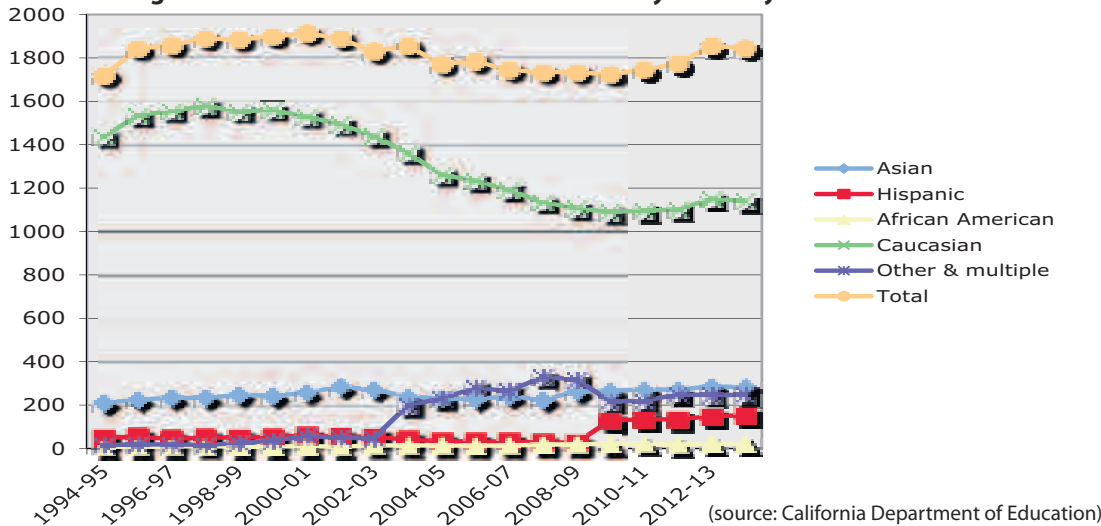
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Moraga School District enrollment fluctuation by ethnicity



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