

Voluntary Transfer Program
Strengths, Limitations, Opportunities, Threats (SLOT)

Purpose: Engage in an environmental assessment to identify and develop priorities that strengthen the Voluntary Transfer Program (VTP).

STRENGTHS: What current conditions are “working” for our VTP program?	LIMITATIONS: What current conditions are least helpful and effective?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ** My child has access to more programs to help his learning. Technology (latest) – Smaller classrooms. • ** Give my son an opportunity to be part of better school system (PAUSD). – You be able to transfer your child to different school if you think that it’s better locations. • *I like that my children would be able to attend the same district from K-12 and that we will have the opportunity to be in a Spanish Immersion, my daughter will benefit from this program. Also, I have felt welcome in the many school sites that my children attend it. • * Variety of nationalities – Summer school – Bus – Scholarships for programs. • * As a mother of a child in special education, one can see the difference in the amount of support that my son receives. My children are exposed to a diversity of cultures and this allows them to learn and want to learn new languages and traditions. – The academic level is much better. • ** I have two children in the Tinsley Program. I am truly sorry I missed the meeting tonight due to an unforeseeable reason, but I want to come and express my sincere appreciation for what my children have received from the Palo Alto Unified School District via Tinsley’s! I’m extremely satisfied with all the services my children are given as well as the services that are available for them. Just want to say thank you very much for everything. • ** Creates connections across communities/neighborhoods. • * I appreciate very much all the help that my son received, especially because it has been hard for him to face changes in middle school. He has suffered a lot through the changes of adolescence. Teachers, counselors, and therapist are helping him. Although it took a long time to get the support, it had to intervene outside people to be able to be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Students do not have enough support so they can attend a 4-year college. – Teachers do not give them the needed support so they can have good grades. To improve transportation. • ** Kids feel like outsiders in this district. – Low expectations from teachers for our students. – High school students do not get enough advice when applying for a four-year college. – Students do not have after school programs. - Programs like FCE, EPAT should be at the high school sites. – Teachers need training on how to educate low income students. The school should start preparing high school students since they enter 9th grade to make sure they will go to a 4-year university. – Counselor must advice students to go to a 4-year university not to foothill college like Miss Laguna always advice our students. – increase the number of counselors – Give <u>Real</u> workshops where parents can learn how to navigate the process when their kids apply to college. – We need to improve our summer camps. – Children go to Avid to waste their time. – You are stealing the kids’ future. (NON-VTP PARENT) • * Nowadays we are experiencing increments of rents and this makes it impossible to keep living in East Palo Alto for the high price. – I would like that something can be done, so kids do not lose their place in case I had to move to another city. • ** This new school year my children are getting picked up at a NOT very safe spot!!! – This year I have not been feeling like part of the district and seems like the district is making it clear we are not part of it. – Would be great if we can still feel welcome and part of PAUSD. • * Not to communicate to parents if changes happen in the route. Lack of communication. • ** Unsafe bus rides for kids – Elementary kids cannot participate in after school activities due to bus schedule. – 1 adult bus driver is not enough to

heard and I felt lonely in those crucial moments. Today he continues receiving support. Thank you.

- * Hello – the good thing about this program for my family is that one of my children had the opportunity to attend a special education class and it has proven to be an improvement in his life and his independence. Gracias.
- * They have support in all their academics needs – Summer programs – They have elective classes that encourage a better development for children.
- *The opportunity to have different cultures. Thank you for offering this program. Having transportation for children is very benefiting.
- ** Great teachers!! – having two or more cultures getting together. Having the funds for the extra programs such music, field trips, teachers' aide and tutoring. – The program has giving my children the opportunity to attend a great program and I know their education will be the best.
- *My children are always accepted into summer school. For me it is always important to know that Voluntary Transfer is taken into consideration and I hope the programs will continue
- * A great program in which I, personally have benefited from a better education for my children – the easiness of transportation from school and back home.
- *I like that up to now, they have help my children to receive the help they need – Because it is K-12, we don't need to move from school to school. – After school support.
- ** My child is able to be in one district K-12. – Siblings will be able to enroll. – Different experiences through this district.
- ** Can stay through high school graduation. – Siblings are given a space. – Art, music, PE, and other classes/resources. – Transportation is provided – Pre- K option. – Summer school- Opportunity for better education than Ravenswood CSD
- ** I have experience the program for at least 20 years and my kids have had a great education because of the program, cooperation in the schools overall has help tremendous in so many ways. We as parents feel thankful. This opportunity was wonderful for us all this year and we can't thank you enough.

ensure safety for kids. – My child has experienced unsafe behavior both verbal and physical. I have communicated with her school and the transportation supervisor. She has not responded to my many emails about these issues. Last year she said they hope to hire more aids on the bus but my child has told me this is not always true.

- ** Long bus rides – Not enough bus times for high school students (going home). – Lack of communication between VTP families at school and other VTP families. – Treated like a program not people (sometimes). – Unclear how to apply for space in Pre-K (TK/young 5's) only know if you have siblings or friends to help you. – Help connecting w/ after school programs and provided drop offs at sites. – Lack of communication about changes, not including families in decisions.
- **Limitations for our children is transportation for the afterschool curriculum.
- ** Transportation continues to have children ride the bus for over a 1 ½ until they reach their drop off/bus stop. On Monday, September 16, 2019 my daughter left Hoover at 2:35pm and arrived at the bust stop at 4:15pm. Due to her very late arrival, I was late to work. My daughter told me that the bus didn't breakdown – they had to pick up a different school. I understand things happen and emergencies are unpredictable, but this has been going on for almost a decade now (I have an older daughter). A contingency plan need to be implement as soon as possible. Plan B needs to be written up, read and understood transportation. Having an elementary student riding the bus for over 1 ½ is not acceptable. This damages their emotional being. Most students don't have the option or time to use the bathroom before lining up to board the bus. I have called transportation numerous of time expressing my concerns. Yesterday, I left a message and they didn't have the courtesy to return my call. They leave me without options, since they sent an alert notification 5 minutes before my daughter's arrival schedule time. They don't give parents an option to make pick up arrangements, if that's what we choose.
- * My son takes the bus at the last stop Newell St. to go to Gunn High School. The bus is totally full, with students that occupy the bus but it is students who do not allow him to sit down or share the seat. I see

- * Our children are given the opportunity to attend this good district. – Thank to this program my daughter is in an excellent school. – Everyone that works in this program are excellent people.
- ** I love the fact that our children have an excellent opportunity for great education. – The fact that my kids have the chance to learn music and participate in sport. This is all wonderful. – The fact that we have Dream Catchers at least in middle school is a step in the right direction. I love the programs live focus for success.
- * They have the opportunity to study in good schools K-12 – Technology.
- ** The opportunity to attend Palo Alto Schools to a better future. – A good environment. – Opportunity not to lose native language. – My children are in Spanish Immersion program and I love that they continue speaking Spanish.
- * It's a great program and a good opportunity that our children have, they teach them to be independent, responsible and a good education. – We have a lot of communication through different means. – They bring to us lots workshops where we can learn a lot about how to help our children learn.
- * K-12, - technology – technology at home – a lot of people involved – Internet at home – reduced price lunch or free – Transportation – Help for transportation when they attend high school – Fiancial aid for events and field trips – Fiancial aid for PE – Access for school schedules – Access to email – Informative meetings – Cultural events – Childcare during meetings.
- *In this district education is better and our children are capacitated and trained to go to the university. Thank you very much.
- ** My children were able to receive high level education that allow them to/attend excellent colleges. – The level of education and support made the difference. – The summer program increased the knowledge at school. – We really value this program because our kids reached goals and can have a better life.
- * Because of the level of education

the bus driver has to get up and it takes them minutes to arrange them and the students get rude. My suggestion is to given assigned seats to each student.

- * For me, I have no problem that my daughter takes a long time in the bus because she gets off at the first stop on her way back from school. What I do want to mention is the change that Escondido's principal has done. I do not like it. It is dangerous she does not allow the bus to stop in front of the school it makes it stop near the stop light. Children walk and run near the cars, there is kindergarten children that might fall. I think is this is dangerous that children do not get off in from of the school. I would like something to be done so the bus drops off the children in front of Escondido School.
- * The limitations in transportation is in my personal case when my children have after school program and no transportation.
- * Limitations – Bus is a lot of time – No bus for high school after school – No access to speak with principals of high school, one has to go through 15 people before a solution could be find. By then half of the school year went by and they did not help until the next year. This is related with IEP/504. – Racism- Teacher do not care (some).- Many calls to tell us that the child is absent from high school but after one call back they say “o yes he was there”. – Academically they say he is doing well, after the child is already low. – Teachers do not answer emails. – PE teachers give students bad grades although the student has turn in a medical note, so what is the purpose of asking for the note. A broken foot and have to retake the class, ridiculous. – No grade giving in sports for being Hispanic (when student's is at grade level) – They do not give the support to move from a school when they are not receiving support. – Do not care after school program. – No scholarships for students that graduate from college (meaning, scholarships a quantity that helps with school and boarding). – For me the district spends millions of dollars trying to help minorities. Until one reach and starts high school that in reality one realizes that they do not have the support they need. They do not guide them to graduate from a 4-year school, but to go to Canada College that has nothing wrong but I believe that if the school Eastside EPA high school

has 98% to go to college with everything paid for. – Discrimination and not to allow parent participation in school activities or field trips (high school). It happened to me and have the emails where I was told that they did not need my presence.

- ** Gap in time from bus drop off 7:45 to school 8:15.
 - Also for younger grades dismissal to bus pick up.
 - Holistic programs for full immersion in community. School activities events. Translation for all school (s' teacher) communications. – Support for school site to do interventions starting in kinder.
- * One limitation is no transportation for after school programs. – Also transportation service is no good.
 - Also my son has had many problems in the bus and transportation department does not give me an answer to my concerns.
- *The battle with transportation when removes bus service to some schools, which I consider this unfair and not to have been asked about it. It is said to be voluntary to move from schools, but if they said that there is no transportation, practically one is obligated to switch as one has no possibility to drop him off at school.
- * It is my understanding that transportation for high school is difficult, that is difficult for parents who work and cannot drop off our children. – For me in particular, I would like to be able to place our children in the high school they chose to.
- *Juana Briones School – Transportation – mi child is in special education and some days it takes 2 hours to 1:30 minutes because the driver has to wait for other schools to dismiss students. – Other children take advantage of the conditions of student with special needs they do mischievous and evildoing and that is not right.
- *The disadvantage is that the majority of children who come from East Palo Alto are low in their (academics?) and we will like a little more help with this. – Air condition for the buses.
- *More academic help after school
- * I would like to see improvement in the food menu. Not to have grease food, to have healthy food.
- * There is a need to bring back a bus home for students at Gunn. – I have a doubt or I don't know how to call it. My son bus that takes him to Hoover is not picking him up at the front office, they used to do it before. Now they are doing construction on Charleston St. this has affected the exit and

entrance to the parking lot where the bus used to park, this is full of vans from the after school programs. Perhaps the city or the district did not realize that this could affect the bus. The bus that drop off at Gunn has arrived late to school, it stops a few blocks before. I do not know why. There was an occasion that it got off the bus to use the restroom.

- ** Not enough information about the program or other benefits that come with it. – What other programs are available to the child once they are in the PAUSD. – Information regarding (not enough) enrollment for siblings. – Summer school enrollment time lines and who is in charge of the program. – Information for high school and middle school programs for which the children in Tinsley are eligible for.
- ** Transportation could use some improvement. After school programs, like tutoring would help. – Also we experience bullying from local kids once they know our kids are being in the program. It is sad because I think it starts with parenting.
- * Our children need more academic support, for example with homework because he does not listen to me. As a mom, he does not pay attention. I think if someone else help him this would be more effective, specifically with mathematics I feel as if teachers assigned to him are not helping him.

OPPORTUNITIES: What potential changes to the current conditions would support our success?

THREATS: What other variables need to be considered? What information is missing?

* Improve existing programs to focus on attending to a 4- year college

- An afterschool program for children who needs more help –sports program – and a little more equality with the families
- *There should be after school programs but in the school site where our children attend. I have two children, one attends to Gunn and the other one attends Hoover. Sometimes my son needs tutoring to do his homework, before there used to be good programs. My son attended EPPA two or three years ago with/and the students who attend Stanford. But they transferred to the school site and the tutoring helped him a lot.
- * I would like to have tutoring programs for homework when students need help inside the school site. Because those are very important for our children to be more prepared when arriving to the universities.
- **Put FCE at high school – Hire academic tutors so students are at the same level of other students – create a group of all VTP students to teach on how to move forward in a school that has limits for them (academic, social and economic) Students should have access to sports groups – incentive all VTP students to take AP classes – leave the SaFE person at a single school and hire well trained people for family liaison. **(NON-VTP- PARENT)**
- ** Hopefully with the right people involved we can propose a corrective action and submit it to transportation. They need to get a system in place that works and monitor it. They can't disagree that there is a gap in their system. Elementary students should not be on a bus over 1 ½ hours due to transportation's faults in their system. NO student should pay for it. I'm thinking that we might need to rally parents together and hold a protest, by not allow our children on the bus on a set date. Maybe then transportation we hear our concerns when we show up to their doors and no children ride the bus on that set date!
- *More sports for children with scholarships
- * Something that could improve is to give breakfast to children at Hoover school. They are not hungry at 6:00am or 7:00am they are not hungry at home. It would be a good idea if they offer them a yogurt or a bar.

- ** Fundraising asks from the school and specific amounts PTA/PIE would like from families. – this is a donation ask and it does not feel good to know your family cannot contribute but you got a specific letter or email. – Summer school not available to students. This is a way we help our kids fight the summer slide if the kids cannot go to summer school, how can we help the kids keep up academically?
- * I would like to know why the field trip to México was canceled. Escondido Spanish Immersion goes to México in fifth grade and it was canceled. My daughter suffered a lot because she is in fifth grade and this was an opportunity for her to travel with all her peers. She was looking forward to the trip since kindergarten and now in fifth grade she fundraised money to be in this fieldtrip, but it was removed on her last year. I think that is unfair.
- ** Community + district w/ negative lens that challenges of students create problems
- **Trust is something we need to build on our community that is changing and want to be included in changes. The culture of the VT community is changing for the better. We care and want our kids to attend college. We want to trust that we are being guided and given resources that our children need. We always welcome the feedback and communication.
- *Continuing with racism. – Not to take into consideration the opinion of VTP in regards to transportation and other decisions that are taken in the future. Do not take into consideration. – It is useless to have a good foundation when at the end they are not prepared for college.
- **We do not have any complaints about VTP treatment, our kids always received the support they needed without asked if they were VTP or not. – The same when we requested support for bullying in elementary school. We just feel blessed with this excellent program. Thank you to everybody who make possible the existence of VTP.
- * Changes that will be made in regards to children who use the bus, they will not be able to go to Fletcher or Gunn. I want my daughter to attend Gunn because my two older daughters attended Gunn.
- * Our only concern that we have is that our son will not be able to go to the same school that his brother

- ** Embrace & promote the strengths the VTP students bring to the neighborhood community. – Resources to increase early intervention – Chose achievement gap.
- Opportunities – After school programs –support for graduates- support for high schoolers – Education for teachers, such as One is the Same. – No judging children without knowing what is going on - Do not assume on what you see – Share experiences with students (VTP) – Not all Latinos need tutors some are tutors, give them trust and opportunities. Invest time and conversations about their ideals, ideas and goals- Make them feel that you care and that they are important and not to me then feel like “what you wear is what you are” – not to have groups of boys that are separated by color – an FCE after high school.
- *I would like, if a child is already part of the program and if it had to move of address to allow him to continue in the same school. In my case, I live in East Palo Alto and we do a huge effort to continue living in this area so we do not have to move our children from school. We have lived in this area for a long time but the changes in the area are displacing us.
- *Tutoring in Junior High so our children have more support to improve grades and to be able to go to a university and not to a community college. – After school tutor programs – Supervision in the above mentioned programs because other afterschool programs are only to do homework o works but have no supervision.
- * I wish there was more support for High School – afterschool programs – a program where they feel they have the support they need to graduate – to have good counselors so they can help them take good decisions in regards to their classes.
- ** When changes ought to be make that involves our children, it will be great if they can talk to us before the changes. – If busses can have air conditioner, days like today when is almost 100° and no air cond. – family engagement time could be done a little bit different – I am not concern about breakfast but a PM snack maybe? My children get home late and from lunch time at 12:30 to almost 4:00pm when I pick them up is a lot (if possible) – Think about our children safety before making a change.

attended to. I am worry that my youngest son will not be able to attend the same school that his brothers attended.

- * To let us know about changes in a meeting not on a letter. –Traffic and distance from school. For me, is that my children will feel bad because they do not have the academic level like the majority of children.
- *The biggest threat is to tell us that they will not be able to go to the school they attend because they will not have transportation. They will not be able to choose a school because it will be imposed the school that they will be able to attend.
- ** You are poor! – You have no education! – Your level of understanding things is not the best because you are a VTP student/parent. – You are not the same because you do not live in Palo Alto. – You have no voice this is not your district.
- ** Kids are kids, but I have experience that kids like mine have had bullying by local kids even teachers have and make a different approach when they know that your kids are in the problem. It is sad but true, may be one day will be different, as a parent, I point out that education is important but at what cost? But at the end of the day, you want your kids to do well and that is the goal. Thank you.
- ** Changing demographics in EPA/Belle Haven. – Making decisions about us without us. – Who in PAUSD is advocating for the success of VTP students. – PAUSD staff making assumptions about VTP students in areas of race/culture, economic status, learning capacity, etc. and treating us as inferior.
- * Classism – distinctions between social classes.

- ** Follow up meeting after Welcome VTP dinner
- ** Consider transportation schedule for elementary school so kids can participate in afterschool programs at their school and be part of the school community – FCE use to use classrooms at Paly afterschool to provide tutoring. This may be a bigger conversation with FCE and by question is can this be a chance for partnerships. – Provide after school programs for VTP kids. They are limited for boys and girls club because priority is for KPP and Ravenswood (younger children)
- ** After school programs for elementary kids that are cost effective.
- ** Opportunities – provide a free summer classes exclusively to students (VTP) for advance – Learning at different levels – Provide different learning classes for VTP parents also like for example a 2-month class to learn QuickBooks or banking & finances or even communication class.
- * Support for students who are low in academics in middle school and high school. I have had support but I feel it is not enough. I have my children in FCE. Thanks to the program they have succeed. I wish there was a program in high school that help them navigate with the applications to college.
- ** My kids have the opportunity to attend a college or university with this great education. Our children only know that college is the way to go and no other options because that is how the children think in Palo Alto.
- ** The district can expand the program by adding specialist/counselor to help with scholarship and encourage kids to go to university/college. May be a help on homework onsite in elementary and middle school.
- *We need more help for our youth and children in VTP. Please connect youth that have already graduated from college and who were part of VTP, they are an excellent example for our children and identify with them. We need more support with homework and academic support. Also, we need one more person at Fletcher and to leave Ana Perez at JLS you demand too much from her.
- ** Help VTP families connect w/ other VTP families at schools. – When possible, bus stops at after school programs. – Find out what schools VTP students are doing well at and apply those

successes to other schools – teacher training, ELL/Sped supports, etc. – Tell families they don't need to be intimidated by request to donate to PTA or PIE (they ask for a lot of \$\$!).

- *To expand more educational programs - Programs to guide students and to prepare them for college. – Opportunities to have more counselors to help and guide students to prepare them for college.
- ** Equalities, (unreadable) – respect, open opportunities for (unreadable) sports/ how to apply to college, good guidelines, preparation and choices, information on scholarships. How to get help for all students and parent participation choose the right classes to G-Z and make your goals.

* Translated from Spanish

** Comments written in English