

Public Policy Issue:

- * Many minority students in the Ravenswood City Elementary School District do not receive an adequate education.

Background Information:

- * Many children living in East Palo Alto, mainly those who are minority, historically score low on academic achievement tests.
- * Much of the reason, both anecdotal and research driven, is due to the ability of the credential staff to educate these students.
- * In the early 1970s, students were not allowed to attend school out of district.
- * For years, parents of students who were attending Ravenswood School district schools would falsify their addresses as to attend schools in Palo Alto.
- * Also, some of those children would stay with relatives who lived in other surrounding cities to attend those schools.
- * Margaret Tinsley, a mother of a student who was not receiving an adequate education in Ravenswood schools, filed suit against the California Department of Education
- * After 10 years of legal battle, Tinsley, with the support of many parents and the community, won the lawsuit.
- * As the program stands today, 166 students who are in Ravenswood's boundary can transfer to surrounding school districts to receive a better public education.
- * These students are referred to as "Tinsley" kids.
- * Website: http://www.paloaltoonline.com/weekly/morgue/2002/2002_09_04.tinsley04.html

Why this policy issue is important to me:

- * This program is administered by the San Mateo County Office of Education, the Local Educational Agency where I work.
- * I am a financial analyst responsible for reviewing Ravenswood School District financial reports.
- * I am responsible for the financial reporting of the "Tinsley" kids.
- * I also ensure the 6 school districts who receive these transfers from Ravenswood receive adequate funding for the increased costs.

Criteria-Alternative Matrix

Evaluative Criteria	Alt 1: Continue administering current form of Program (Base Case)	Alt 2: Send students back to Ravenswood to be educated	Alt 3: Increase public/private funding at Ravenswood
Description of Alternative	Continue allowing students in Ravenswood district boundaries to attend schools in surrounding districts.	Discontinue the program: students should only be allowed to attend school in their designated district.	Increase public funding and raise more private funds to hire more qualified teachers, staff, and develop effective educational plans for these students.
Cost: Administrative	This program requires administrative resources from CDE, San Mateo County Office, District Staff, and teachers	Insignificant, only the normal administrative costs incurred at Ravenswood for regular students	Costs could increase slightly per student based on the type of "special" services they require
Cost: Transportation	All 166 students must be transported to neighboring district schools, which increases expenses dramatically.	None	None
Cost: Teaching/Program	No change as neighboring school districts have the teaching resources already.	Ravenswood would continue to receive funding for current teaching resources, so no major change.	Could increase substantially based on the type of "special" services they require
Method of Funding	Funding distributed through CDE Principal Apportionment, as per various other funded programs	Continue same method as current.	Additional funding through special state grants and the potential to acquire private funds through donations, PTA, etc.
Timeliness of Implementation	No change as this program is currently being administered	May take many years as the lawsuit was found in favor of transferring students	May take 1 year or longer, depending on the source of funding and administrative resources
Equitability: Students of Ravenswood	If only 166 students can take advantage of this program, the other students in Ravenswood schools are left without the option	Although the problem of inadequate education services will remain, all students will be treated the same from a teaching point of view	Equitable for all students at Ravenswood
Equitability: Students at Transfer Districts	The "Tinsley" kids will consume some of the indirect resources of their school.	These students would not have "Tinsley" kids in their class causing a decrease in the student/teacher ratio	These students would not have "Tinsley" kids in their class causing a decrease in the student/teacher ratio
Equitability: "Tinsley" kids	The "Tinsley" kids will receive adequate educational services at a neighboring school district.	The education gap between these students and neighboring district students will continue to increase.	Through time, the "Tinsley" kids will benefit from the increase in resources to teach them.
Community Concern	Community is satisfied with ruling at its current form.	Concern of inadequate educational services will continue for Ravenswood school district.	If the program evaluation shows that the increase in resources equates to better performance, the concern should be minimal.

Analyzing the Matrix

- The matrix cells are color-coded as described below:
Green - Most advantageous as concerned with that evaluative criteria
Yellow - Neutral (ie. Not most or least advantageous) as concerned with that evaluative criteria
Red - Least advantageous as concerned with that evaluative criteria

Summary of Results

Results	Alt 1: Continue administering current form of Program (Base Case)	Alt 2: Send students back to Ravenswood to be educated	Alt 3: Increase public/private funding at Ravenswood
# of Green results	4	4	2
# of Yellow results	2	2	4
# of Red results	3	3	3

Discussion of Results

- The color-coding results show that Alternatives 1 and 2 have the same number of green, yellow, and red findings.
 Both Alternatives 1 and 2 are better than Alternative 3 as Alternative 3 has more Yellow results.
 Some of the evaluative criteria under Alternative 2 should be eliminated. The community support for the "Tinsley" kid program is so great, that I doubt things will ever go back to how they were before.

Recommendation

- The "Tinsley" kids program should continue to operate as is (Alternative 1).**
 Program evaluations should be conducted each year to ensure that the "Tinsley" kids are receiving adequate educational services at neighboring school districts.
 Also, the educational achievement at Ravenswood must be closely monitored. Additional funding should be considered if the achievement gap continues to stay wide or even widen.