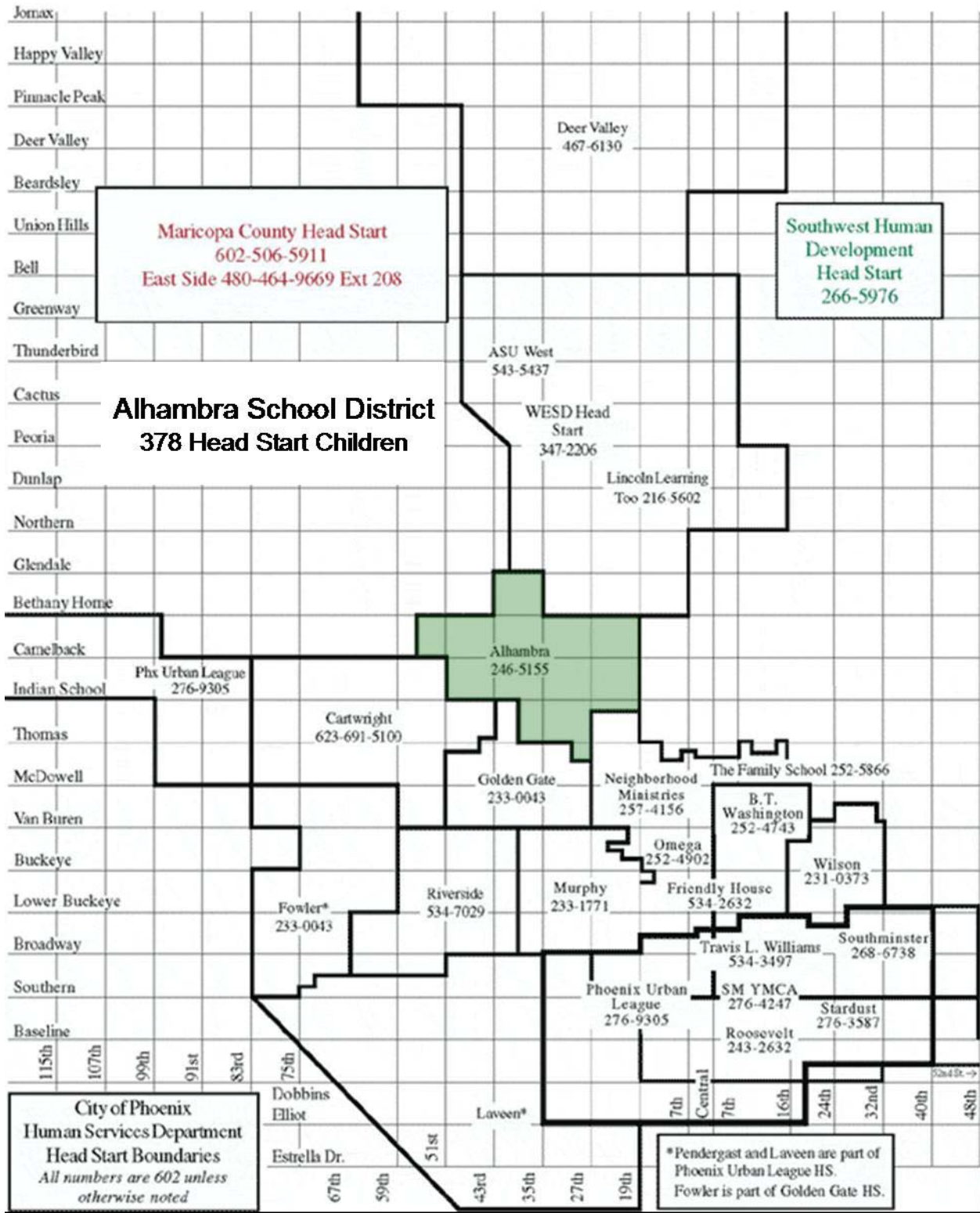


Alhambra School District

**City of Phoenix Head Start Map Showing Individual Delegate Agencies
Alhambra School District**



City of Phoenix Head Start

Program Approvals

Program Year 39 (2004-2005)

Community Assessments, Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan

Delegate Agency Name: Alhambra School District
Address: 3802 West Maryland
Phoenix, AZ 85019

APPROVED: _____ Date: _____
Board Chairperson/Executive Director

APPROVED: _____ Date: _____
Delegate Agency Director

APPROVED: _____ Date: _____
Policy Committee Chairperson

Alhambra School District **Refunding Application** **Program Year 39 (2004-2005)**

Profile of the District

Alhambra Elementary School District No. 68 is a Pre-K-8 school district in Phoenix, Arizona with a student enrollment of 14,444 as of June, 2003. Located in west-central Phoenix and south-east Glendale, Alhambra neighborhoods are characterized by a mixture of older low to moderate income housing, multi-family apartments and older mobile home parks.

According to an analysis done by the *Arizona Republic* ("Phoenix: 10 of the Worst Addresses." May 24, 1998) four of the top five apartment slums in Phoenix are in the Alhambra School District area. These apartments have the worst of the worst living conditions. A large number of poor Head Start families are forced to live "in slum-like housing in a state with weak laws and powerful landlord lobbies." (Hermann, Kossan & Konig, 1998). For "The Best Run City in America" these third world shanty towns are a disgrace to which most people turn a blind eye.

Once a stable family community, Alhambra District has undergone a major transformation in recent years. Many neighborhoods have shifted from older, established families to lower-income, multi-family households. This population shift has created some dramatic changes in the socio-economic levels of families living in the district. Several factors contribute to the changing demographics. Phoenix's aggressive building cycle, downtown expansion, and the continued freeway construction have displaced many inner-city families. The Alhambra District has affordable housing and government subsidized properties which have attracted these displaced inner city families, refugees and immigrants, and contributed to the drastic change in the ethnicity, socioeconomic level and cultural makeup of the District.

Poverty

In the last 12 years, the proportion of Alhambra students qualifying for free or reduced lunches has risen dramatically. In the 1990-91 school year 26.8% of District children received free and reduced lunches. In March 2003, 86.0% of Alhambra students qualified, more than tripling the qualification rate. Individual school have even higher proportions, as shown in the accompanying table.

School	% Qualifying for Free or Reduced School Lunch 2003
Westwood	96.8%
Andalucia Primary	95.6%
Montebello	94.5%

Statistics show that family poverty for kindergarten students is even higher than the school average, which substantiates that younger, poorer families are moving into the Alhambra School District. An estimated 1,808 four-year-olds reside in the district. Based on past statistics, a minimum of 75% of these preschoolers live at or below the poverty level. For the estimated 1,356 four-year-olds who are at or below the poverty level the City of Phoenix Head Start funds services for just 610 District children or 45%, of those in poverty.

Public Health Care Eligibility

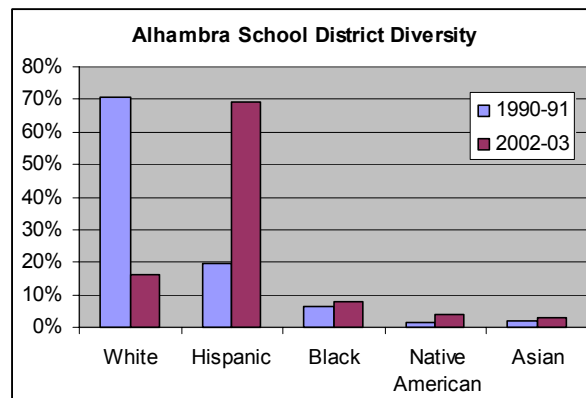
Another indicator of poverty is eligibility for the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). Families that are AHCCCS-eligible must be significantly below the poverty level as defined by the federal Head Start program. As of May 1997, 73% of Alhambra Head Start students had qualified for AHCCCS, placing them significantly at-risk. Other data show that 98.7% of the enrolled population in the Alhambra Head Start program require social services.

Student Mobility

Low family stability is also a byproduct of changing demographics. In 1990-91, the student mobility rate for Alhambra School District was 8.5%. The 1998-99 rate of student mobility in the district has fallen from 37.2% to 28.6% due to an upturn in the national economy at that time. For the 28.6% who do move, poor economic conditions, family problems, substance abuse, poor health, crime or delinquency, non-existent or inadequate coping skills, failure to bond with the local community, or dissatisfaction with local schools are still reasons for a high mobility rate.

Race and Ethnicity

The Alhambra School District has become more ethnically diverse as well as more economically depressed. The change in racial/ethnic composition of the District from 1990-91 to 2002-03 is shown in the accompanying graphic. White residents dropped from 71% to 16%; Hispanic residents increased from 19% to 69%; while other racial and ethnic groups have grown somewhat.



Sixty-one different languages are spoken by children in the neighborhood schools, reflecting the cultural diversity of this area. Of children in grades K-8, 52% are non-English speaking or have limited English proficiency. In preschool the numbers are significantly higher. In the 2002-03 school year, Alhambra School District identified 257 refugee and 1,905 immigrant families in the school population.

Alhambra Head Start Three-Year Plan

The top three concerns established through the comprehensive community needs assessment of Fall 2003 in the Alhambra School District Community are:

1. Affordable medical services
2. Affordable dental services
3. Increased English as a Second Language classes for adults

Alhambra Head Start and Alhambra School District have taken on the challenge of meeting these top three priority community needs.

Alhambra School District's Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools is collaborating with the local hospitals to provide medical services to all the uninsured and underinsured Head Start children. Right now, preschool siblings of elementary school children without medical insurance have access to the free medical clinics in their home school area.

Alhambra Head Start was fortunate to have secured a program improvement grant to purchase portable buildings, of which one has been designed to house a dental clinic. Alhambra Head Start, Alhambra School District and Restorative Justice Resources Coalition are working to secure free dental services for all uninsured children in the Alhambra School District.

Although ESL classes were expanded, the community needs assessment indicated additional adult ESL classes as a continued top priority. The Alhambra School District is now offering 11 classes around the District. The classes are offered throughout the day and evening to accommodate different schedules. Alhambra School District will apply for other grant funding available to expand the ESL program.