

Visit of Leaders of Walnut Valley USD (one of the school systems serving Diamond Bar, CA)

What is the purpose of the visit?

Lexington leaders wish to obtain ideas about increasing the inclusion of Lexington residents of Asian ancestry by learning about:

- strategies for leading a school district that has a much larger percentage of students of Asian ancestry than Lexington
- solutions developed by the district's superintendent, the president of the board of trustees and a leader of a parent-teacher organization
- the lessons learned in adjusting the management of a city to reflect the needs of a community whose Asian population has grown from about 20 percent to more than 50 percent over a period of 30 years
- the experiences of Asian community organizations over this period of time

How was WVUSD selected?

Answering this question requires a bit of background.

Lexington is interested in increasing the inclusion of its residents of Asian ancestry in all aspects of the life of the Town. While we are making commendable progress, we believe we may be able to learn from communities across the U.S., which have proportionately larger Asian populations. We're interested in steps they have taken to increase the inclusion of residents of Asian ancestry on local elected and appointed bodies as well as in parent-teacher organizations, organized sports, and other community-related activities.

In 2014, Town Meeting set aside a budget of \$15,000 (for FY2015) for a project to identify appropriate benchmark communities and to learn how they have advanced the inclusion of their residents of Asian ancestry. Since September 2015, the Subcommittee on Asian Communities, established by Lexington's 20/20 Vision Committee, has been conducting the study. The Subcommittee has accomplished the following:

- Identified eight benchmark communities in California, including Diamond Bar, and four in New Jersey. Except for their percentages of residents of Asian ancestry, which ranged from 23 percent to 64 percent in 2010 (Lexington was at about 20 percent), all have demographics not too different from Lexington's.
- In collaboration with several leaders in Lexington, developed survey questions for town managers, mayors, superintendents, heads of school boards, leaders of parent-teacher organizations, and leaders of Asian community organizations.
- Through Prof. Marian Cohen at Framingham State University arranged for a group of her students to develop a SurveyMonkey instrument based on the Subcommittee's questions and to analyze its results.

- Invited 66 leaders in the 12 benchmark communities to participate in the survey. Of the 66, 25 completed the survey, and a remarkable 21 volunteered to continue the dialogue – the real objective of the project.
- In partnership with Dr. Mary Czajkowski and Bill Hurley, Subcommittee members conducted the dialogues with seven school leaders. In partnership with Carl Valente and Joe Pato, the Subcommittee conducted interviews with eight city managers and mayors.
- School and Town leaders invited WVUSD leaders to visit Lexington. The visit is scheduled for September 28-30.

What’s so special about WVUSD that it merits an invitation?

- The diversity of its students:

Race	WVUSD	LPS
Asian	62.7%	35.1%
Hispanic	22.9%	3.2%
White	8.8%	51.8%
African-American	2.4%	4.2%
All other	3.2%	5.7%

- Innovative program for diversity management (Diversity Think Tank)
- An unusual system of parent-teacher organizations
- A Mandarin – English, dual immersion elementary school of 600 students
- An exchange program with China
- Innovative approaches for dealing with student stress

Visiting delegation

- Dr. Robert Taylor, Superintendent of the WVUSD
- Ms. Helen Hall, President of the Board of Trustees of the WVUSD (equivalent to Chair of School Committee)
- Ms. Cecilia Yeh, Active parent volunteer

What do we expect to learn from our visitors?

- Details of their innovative programs and the management of a dual immersion school. Some of the ideas we may be able to adapt soon; others may not be appropriate at this time.
- The evolution of city leaders’ strategies as the communities’ Asian populations have grown from about 20% in 1985 to over 50 percent now.

What is the agenda for the visit?

- Thursday, September 29
 - Session with LPS leaders from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
 - Historical tour from 1:45 to 2:30 p.m.
 - Meeting with a small group of LHS students
 - Forum in the Cary Library 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, September 30
 - Session with Town Staff and Board of Selectmen from 10:00 to 12:00

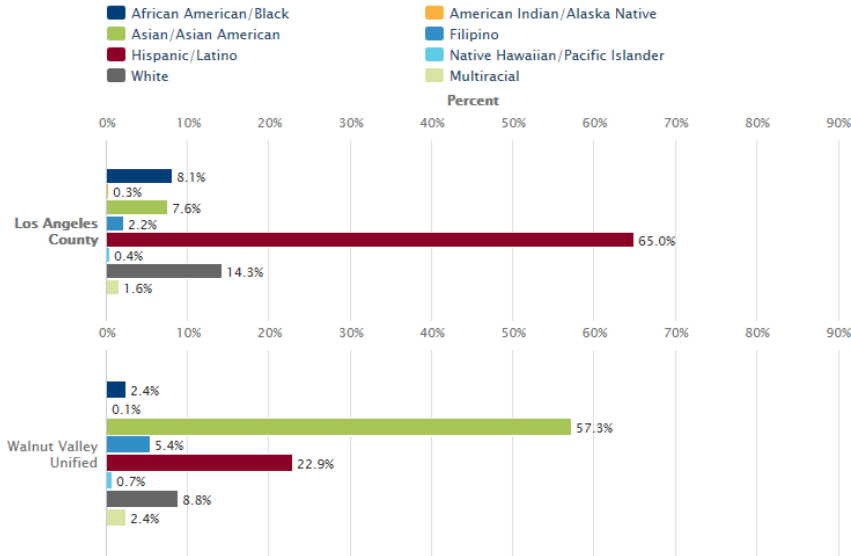
- Session with leaders of Asian community organizations from 1:30 to 2:30
- Wrap up with members of the Subcommittee on Asian Communities

Data on WVUSD and on Diamond Bar and Walnut, the communities served by WVUSD

Walnut Valley USD

Public School Enrollment, by Race/Ethnicity: 2015

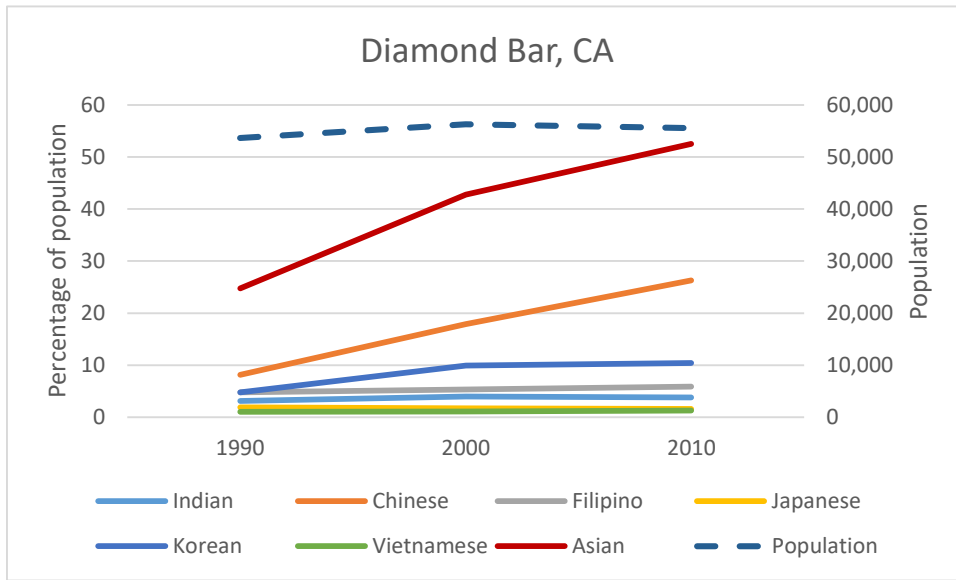
(Race/Ethnicity: All)



Definition: Percentage of K-12 students enrolled in public schools, by race/ethnicity (e.g., in 2015, 53.6% of K-12 public school students in California were Hispanic/Latino).

Data Source: [As cited on kidsdata.org](http://kidsdata.org), California Dept. of Education, California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS); National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics (May 2015).

Diamond Bar



Walnut

