

**4/6/2021 14:13:47**    **4/6/2021**    **Rebecca Greb, YCOE**    **N/A**    **Recognition of Visitors** I am writing this public comment to voice opposition for the Adult Living Skills program move from DJUSD Adult Wing to Davis High School. I feel the move is harmful (a step back) for our students. Graduation from High School and moving on is an important part in a persons social, emotional and academic development. They take great pride in being independent and leaving the past behind them. I believe if the students were asked if they would like to be sent back to the High School campus they would refuse as they are adults now. Parents and the community would see this as a bad idea. The stigma of adults with disabilities going back to High School can be damaging to their emotional and mental health. Many of our past students were bullied on the High School campus due to their disabilities and were so happy to get away from that situation. I feel returning them to the campus will bring back those feelings of anxiety and frustration, thus causing behavioral and academic challenges that can be easily avoided.

I personally feel that a college campus or a housing situation would be a much better choice for the next step in their development as individuals and adults. On a college campus they would be around peers their own age which is a much more appropriate placement for our students. In a house situation they would be responsible for the upkeep of the house which would be a wonderful hands on learning tool for our Adult Living Skills program. Both of these options would also allow for the students to better access community resources like jobs, recreation facilities, public transportation, etc etc.

Please consider adding this item to the agenda for public comment or debate. Our parents, students and community members are currently not aware of this decision and the move is emanate for ALS1 and possibly ALS2. Please also consider supporting us in helping to ensure that our students have an appropriate program placement that will ensure that they have access to the resources they need without the stigmatization and limitations of being sent back to High School.

Thank you

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**4/5/2021 10:20:03**    **4/6/2021**    **Cory Wiegel / YCOE and YEA**    **N/A**    **Adult Living Skills Move to Davis Senior High School** On April 1st, 2021, the Adult Living Skills program operated by YCOE was notified by Special Education administration that it would be moved from its site at the DJUSD Adult Education wing to Davis Senior High School. The purpose of this public comment is to voice opposition to YCOE's decision and to call upon the Yolo County Board of Educators to support halting the ALS program's move until its impact on the staff, students, families, and community can be properly evaluated. It is also asked that YCBE provide a recommendation for alternative action more in-line with the students' best interests.

ALS-1 is scheduled to move after April 16th. This is a decision that denies staff, parents, students, and the community adequate time to participate in meaningful public comment and debate. Some ALS staff suspect that this was intentional to minimize opposition. Instruction for staff and students, as well as proper family supervision, will be disrupted for the week of April 19th while YCOE moves sites and sets-

up a temporary classroom for ALS-1. In-person instruction is expected to resume April 26th. ALS-2 is expected to move over the summer break and begin instruction at the start of next school year. Although an explanation for ALS-1's move has been provided, an explanation for ALS-2's move has not.

Worse, ALS-1 and ALS-2 will be provided inadequate and inappropriate facilities in violation of California's Williams Settlement Legislation (August 2004), the right to Free and Appropriate Public Education (USA Rehabilitation Act of 1973), and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004). Specifically, adults with disabilities are being denied the right to the least restrictive environment available with the necessary resources to meet their rehabilitative, social, and educational needs. Furthermore, YCOE's decision is out of alignment with the Common Core State Standards Initiative (NGA and CSSCO, 2010) in that students should be prepared for entry into a two- or four-year college or into the work force upon exiting high school.

In accordance with these laws and initiatives, adults with disabilities have the right to be treated with dignity and respect, as well as to be serviced in decent facilities that are adequately equipped to meet their needs in the least restrictive environment possible and provided with opportunities for meaningful inclusion with age-appropriate peers. Furthermore, educational leaders have a moral and ethical responsibility to community transparency and prevention of harm to all students. In these ways and others, YCOE administration is failing our students with their actions.

When considering the requests made in this public comment, it is recommended that YCBE considers the practices of other counties and districts that operate transition programs such as ALS and consider the use of community college campuses, homes, community centers, and even separate buildings as more appropriate settings.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. 5303833810 [cory.wiegel@ycoe.org](mailto:cory.wiegel@ycoe.org)

**4/6/2021 14:37:57 4/6/2021 Isaias Lopez/ Adult Living Skills Paraeducator N/A**

Recognition of Visitors "I am leaving a public comment on this page to express my opposition to our Adult Living Skills mid-year classroom transition.

We recently received notice from our administrators that our Adult Living Skills program would be moving from a wing at the Davis Joint Unified School District office to a high school that is in our district.

Our students are 18 - 22 years old when they come into our living and work skills academy. If you can remember when you were in high school and it came to the point when you were a senior that was transitioning to your next adventure, I am sure you wouldn't expect to stay in high school for another 4 more years. Many of our students went to this very same high school that we are getting moved to.

Not only did we get a short notice, but many of our students simply want to be done with high school and pick up working, living, social and community skills as they become young adults.

This move is a step backwards to our students who may have been bullied or simply had the experience of high school and all of the drama included. One notable difference between our current location and

the high school location is that our proximity to our work sites and community would be increased and public transportation would take longer, thus reducing the amount of valuable time our students spend learning.

Our administrators expressed that this was going to be a temporary move until they can retrofit a classroom that we will be in for at least the next three years.

I don't have all of the information about this process, but from what I have gathered, this move is not in the best interest of our students. In a perfect world, our students would learn from a home or college setting where they can thrive socially and emotionally, in an appropriate setting.

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#### Public Comment given at meeting:

##### Cyndi Hale, President YEA

So I would like to start I know in the past the Corey has indicated in public comments that he is representing YEA and I would like to make it known he does not speak for all of YEA. I was made aware of the upcoming moves for ALS 1 & 2 last week by director Burrone and discussions about the program. I was made aware of the conflict with this move and paraeducators comments came later and I was notified that there was public comment regarding the move. I was made aware of the move and that it was necessary due to the fact that the current classroom is not ADA accessible. So the claim that it doesn't take into consideration the ADA act is false and as such Davis has made accommodation for temporary move to a classroom on the Davis High site while the arrangement made for a classroom that is ADA compliant. I don't think staff members time wasn't taken into consideration. I have been told they have been given a couple of days to provide asynchronous learning while they set up classroom and move is taking place on a non instruction day. In person instruction will resume on the 21<sup>st</sup> and they have a new student on the 26<sup>th</sup>. ALS 2 has a plan to move prior to fall semester but final details are still pending on move. I don't doubt that staff will be included in planning and preparation once the timeline is confirmed. It does make sense that both ALS classrooms stay on same campus due to collaboration. I do think ALS program support students preparation for exit thorough IEP and through IEP process in an as needed basis if needed more frequently than annually. The neighboring districts we work with their ALS programs are on high school and junior high. So its not abnormal for ALS program to be set on high school site. I am aware that there are discussions through ASC to have the ALS on a more age appropriate setting or community college site but at this time there isn't a site yet but we are working on it.

##### Sharon Gendelman-Wilson, Vice president of YEA.

Echo what Cyndi Hale said. Corey does not represent how all of YEA feels in his statement.

##### Cyndi Bauer, School nurse for YCOE, Secretary for YEA

I agree with everything Cyndi Hale mentioned. Prior to this the week I became aware of the situation at the end of February when I was doing training to prepare ALS for in person instruction April 1. So after that a week and half later we have some different options we use teacher, myself and parent we spent

time researching as well. Those sites were not viable and staff was made aware of that. Subsequently We had IEP meeting with parent. Parent informed us of decisions made. Throughout process they have had input and been included. College campus would be great that opportunity and that process is now be started with our director to see what will happen in future. Communication moved quickly and it has been shared. I support what Cyndi said and Corey does not speak for YEA.