

Chapter V.
PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ELEMENT

PURPOSE

The Schools and Libraries Element discusses the educational and library facilities in the Town of Apple Valley and its sphere-of-influence. It describes the services, resources and opportunities that are currently available through local school and library systems. Decision-makers can use this information to assist them in planning for future needs, and to plan for expansion that will ensure the provision of adequate and accessible educational facilities to the community. In this Element, the Town's role in planning and siting new school and library facilities is discussed, and goals, policies and programs are set forth to enhance the educational experience of the Town's residents.

BACKGROUND

The Schools and Libraries Element is related to several other General Plan elements. Most directly, it relates to the Land Use Element, which considers the need for adequate and conveniently located public lands on which to site educational facilities. It relates to the Noise Element, since schools and libraries are impacted by community noise levels and are considered sensitive noise receptors. The Town's planning efforts include protection of schools and libraries from excessive traffic, which is covered in the Traffic and Circulation Element. Schools and libraries are defined as public facilities, the identification and location of which is discussed in the Public Building and Facilities Element.

As established in California Government Code Section 65302(a), the General Plan is required to assess the general distribution, location and adequacy of educational facilities. State legislation has been adopted that authorizes school districts to charge development fees to fund the construction and reconstruction of public school facilities (California Government Code Section 65999(b)). Fees are levied on a per square foot basis for residential and commercial development. Currently (2008), school developer impact fees are \$0.47 per square foot for commercial development, and \$3.60 per square foot for residential development.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Public Schools

Apple Valley Unified School District

Public educational services for kindergarten through 12th grade are provided to the Town of Apple Valley by the Apple Valley Unified School District (AVUSD). In 2007/2008, there were an average of 14,725 students enrolled in a total of 18 AVUSD schools. Of these, 9 are elementary, 3 are middle schools, 2 are high schools, and one is a continuation school. The District also includes an alternative education center that offers adult education, a magnet school, and a charter school. These are further discussed below. In general the District has seen enrollment grow from 1.5 to 5 percent annually, although since 2007 there has been an

approximately 2 percent decline, which corresponds to downward trends in the local housing market. As shown in Table V-1, below, many District schools currently have excess capacity.

Student-teacher ratios are currently (2008) as follows: 20:1 in grades kindergarten through third; 32:1 in 4th and 5th grades; 29:1 in grades 6 through 8; 20:1 in grade 9; and 29:1 in grades 10 through 12.

Following is a list of AVUSD schools, with current (2008) per school grade configurations and student enrollments.

Table V-1
Apple Valley Unified School District Schools

School	Location	Grades Served	Enrollment (2007-08)	Capacity
Elementary				
Desert Knolls	18213 Symeron Drive	K-5	529	795
Mariana	10601 Manhasset Rd.	K-5	609	702
Mojave Mesa	15552 Wichita Rd.	K-5	607	655
Rancho Verde	14334 Pioneer Road	K-5	716	725
Rio Vista	13590 Havasu Road	K-5	693	795
Sandia	21331 Sandia Rd.	K-5	757	795
Sitting Bull	19355 Sitting Bull Rd.	K-5	569	761
Sycamore Rocks	23450 South Road	K-5, Visual & Performing Arts	557	725
Yucca Loma	21351 Yucca Loma Road	K-5	669	865
Middle				
Apple Valley	12555 Navajo Road	6-8	921	1,664
Sitting Bull	19445 Sitting Bull Road	6-8, Technology	1,267	1,231
Vista Campana	20700 Thunderbird Road	6-8	876	1,408
High Schools				
Apple Valley	11837 Navajo Road	9-12	1,978	2,813
Granite Hills	22900 Esaws Road	9-12	2,140	2,494
Willow Park	21950 Nisqually Road	9-12	147	406
Other				
Alternative Education Center	13063 Pawnee Road	K-12	498	N/A ¹
Academy for Academic Excellence (Lewis Center; Charter)	20702 Thunderbird Road	K-2	120	120
Academy for Academic Excellence (Lewis Center; Charter)	17500 Mana Road	3-12	855	880
Vanguard Preparatory (Magnet)	12951 Mesquite Road	K-8	1,192	1,086
Adult Education				
Sources: AVUSD, February 12, 2008; Teresa Dowd, Academy for Academic Excellence, April 10, 2008.				
¹ Independent Study.				
² Independent Charter.				
³ At Alternative Education Center				

As noted above, the Vanguard Preparatory School is a magnet school that serves students in kindergarten through 8th grade. Its focus is on academics, communication, and character building. There is currently a waiting list for enrollment at Vanguard.

The Academy for Academic Excellence (AAE) is an independent charter school focusing on science and technology, with particular emphasis on aeronautics and the space program. The Thunderbird Road campus was opened in 1997 as a K-12 school. In 2000, AAE opened its Manna Road campus for grades 3 through 12. Both schools operate at or near capacity at all times, with any openings generally occurring in grades 11 and 12. There is currently a waiting list. Students from the waiting list are selected for enrollment based on a random lottery system.

Redlands University offers college courses using facilities at the Manna Road campus in the evenings. The Town and the AAE are considering the possibility of locating a four-year college/university at Manna Road. This is further discussed under Higher Education, below.

Adult Education

Currently (February 2008), there are 39 adults enrolled in GED studies through Adult Education, which is offered at the Alternative Education Center.

Other District Programs

The District also offers a number of special programs, including Gifted and Talented Education (GATE), for which students are recommended based on academic achievement or because of a specific artistic talent. Special education services are available to students who qualify based on testing and performance at less than grade level.

After-school programs are offered for students in levels Kindergarten through 5th grade. Many District schools offer Intercession sessions during seasonal school breaks. Intercession provides students with an opportunity to raise a failing grade or receive individual tutoring in specified subjects as needed.

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is for middle school students whose socio-economic background or school performance do not presuppose college attendance, but who have a desire to attend college. In peer tutoring with high school students, they learn to improve note-taking, study skills, and how to complete college applications.

Peer tutoring occurs on two different levels: volunteer tutoring by middle schoolers to elementary school students, and compensated tutoring by high schoolers to middle school students through the AVID program. The District has optimized opportunities for the latter at the recently-constructed Sitting Bull campus, which incorporates both elementary and middle schools at one location.

Other special programs include pre-school programs and intra and inter-mural athletics programs.

Master Planning Process

The District completed its Master Plan update in 2007. It plans for facilities over the course of a six-year period, though 2012. In general, the District purchases property and plans for new facilities near areas where the City has approved tract maps.

Private Education^{1,2}

The Town of Apple Valley contains a number of private schools. These schools vary in their enrollment numbers and religious affiliations. Details on specific private schools within the Town are listed below:

Apple Valley Child Care Center

This early childhood day care located at 18609 Corwin Road serves 95 pre-kindergarten and kindergarten age students. The private elementary school is able to offer a student teacher ratio of 12 students to each teacher. Although not associated with a specific denomination, the school is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).

Apple Valley Christian School

Located at 22434 Nisqually Road, the Apple Valley Christian School serves 478 students that range from preschool through 12th grade. The school is a ministry of Apple Valley Baptist Church, and a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). The student to teacher ratio is 8.66 students to each teacher.

Valley Christian Schools

This private Christian school located at 19923 Bear Valley Road, offers education for preschoolers through 8th graders. Current enrollment is 32 students, and the student to teacher ratio is 6.4 students to each teacher.

Apple Valley Private School Learning Center

Kindergarten through the tenth grade of high school is taught at this small private school. There are a total of 28 students currently enrolled, and the school's student to teacher ratio is 5.26 students to each teacher. The school is not affiliated with any religion. This school is located at 13911 Pioneer Road in the Town of Apple Valley.

Apple Valley Village School

This alternative school offers education for elementary students from pre kindergarten through 7th grade. The school is located at 21482 Yucca Loma Road within the Town of Apple Valley. There are 108 students currently enrolled and 8 teachers; accordingly the student to teacher ratio is about 14 to 1.

¹ <http://www.privateschoolreview.com/> accessed on February 12, 2008.

² <http://California.privateschoolsreport.com/schools/CA/AppleValley.html> accessed on February 12, 2008.

High Desert Haven

This special education school offers education to elementary and high school aged children. There are currently 28 students enrolled at this coed school, and 2 teachers. The school is located at 20162 Highway 18 within the Town of Apple Valley.

St. Timothy's Episcopal School

Education for preschool through 8th grade is offered at this private school located at 15757 St. Timothy Road. There are 145 students enrolled in this coed Episcopal school, and the student teacher ratio is 9.51 students to each teacher.

St Mary's Regional Catholic School

This Catholic school offers education for pre kindergarten through 8th grade. There are a total of 266 students, and the student to teacher ratio is 19.74 students to each teacher. The school is associated with the Roman Catholic denomination.

Mojave Christian

The Mojave Christian School serves 29 elementary and high school aged students. It is a private, Baptist-affiliated school that offers a student to teacher ratio of 14.5 to 1. The school is located at 19350 Highway 18 within the Town of Apple Valley

County Educational Facilities and Programs

The County of San Bernardino currently serves many special needs students through private placement or by means of staffing provided at public (AVUSD) elementary schools. The County plans to build three facilities in Apple Valley to consolidate these services, including two early education centers and one junior high/high school.

An early education center with a capacity of approximately 130 students is planned adjacent to the Sandia Elementary School. The proposed early education center at this location will also include a separate facility to provide State-mandated medical-therapy services, such as braces and casts, for special needs students. The center and medical-therapy unit are expected to be completed in 2009.

A second early education center is planned near the intersection of Nakash Road and Palmero Road, in proximity to St. Mary Medical Center. This facility will have capacity to serve approximately 156 students, with four classrooms dedicated to serving autistic students. It is expected to be completed in summer 2010.

A third campus will be developed to serve junior high and high school special needs students, on Powhatan Road west of Pawnee Road. The 6.1-acre campus will provide 12 classrooms and capacity for approximately 156 students, and is slated for completion approximately summer 2010.

All three campuses are planned primarily for students living within the AVUSD boundaries, however, the Nakash Road facility is also expected to serve regional needs.

Colleges and Universities

Victor Valley College is a 253-acre community college located south of Apple Valley within the City of Victorville. Currently (2008) there are approximately 11,000 students enrolled in classes on campus. The school offers services to student with disabilities, and provides students with a number of opportunities for academic support. The campus library offers a diverse collection of books, periodicals, newspapers, videos, CD's, and microfilm for research opportunities on campus and provides a comprehensive electronic database for off campus research. As a community college, Victor Valley offers associate degrees for more than 40 majors and certificates for vocational and technical classes or programs.

As noted above, Redlands University courses are offered in the evenings at the AAE on Mana Road. The AAE and Redlands are exploring the potential to develop a four-year college or university at the campus in the future. While still in the discussion phase, the college is currently envisioned as a partnership between several colleges and universities in the region and would focus on providing teacher education and credentialing.

Other Educational Initiatives

The San Bernardino County Museum, located in Redlands, is a regional cultural and natural history museum with branches at historic sites in Yucaipa, Colton, Chino, Rancho Cucamonga and Daggett. The Museum houses collections focusing on anthropology, biological and geological science, and history. It offers special programs and events for families, school children, and scout troops. The Town is currently (2008) exploring the possibility of offering a branch of the Museum in Apple Valley. This is further discussed under Future Directions.

LIBRARY FACILITIES

The Town of Apple Valley contains a 19,142 square foot public library located off of Dale Evans Parkway adjacent to Town Hall. The Newton T. Bass Apple Valley Library is part of the San Bernardino County library system. It serves the Town of Apple Valley by offering a number of resources, programs, and community events. Construction and operation of this facility was made possible through a joint effort of local, county, and state funding.



According to the County's General Plan, the desirable size for public libraries in the County system is 0.5 to 0.6 square feet per capita for communities that have between 35,000 and 100,000 persons. To meet this standard in

Apple Valley the library size would need to be at least 35,200 square feet. Library staff work with the Town and the County of San Bernardino to monitor library usage and to ensure that resources are available to residents. Presently, there is no indication that the public library facility within Apple Valley is over utilized or unable to meet the demand generated by residents.

Collection and Resources³

This public library facility offers Apple Valley residents access to over 20,000 hardcopy books within its collection. In addition, the library provides access to an online database that contains electronic periodicals, magazines, and encyclopedias. General Internet access is also available on any of the 23 computers contained within this facility. There are two study rooms available for library users.

The library provides resources for illiterate and visually impaired residents by offering books on tape and CD, as well as some large print books.

Community Programs

The library serves as a community facility by offering a diversity of events and programs. The LITE program is designed for younger children and includes parent/child story time, crafts, and song circles. The Kids and Crafts program offers a variety of hands on crafts to children between the ages of 5 and 12. Teen programs are also available and include an anime and scrapbooking club, and teen chef, which are offered on a weekly and monthly basis. There are also programs intended for adults including a free adult literacy program, book and poetry clubs, and volunteer opportunities with the Friend of the Library program.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Future expansion of the Apple Valley Unified School District will need to accommodate growth in student populations that may be associated with development in the Town and its sphere-of-influence. Although in the past year the District has experienced a downturn in student enrollment, it is reasonable to expect that in future economic conditions will again result in increased development and student population growth. AVUSD, as with all public school districts, is considered a “responsible agency” and has “lead agency” status for siting, planning and processing development plans for its own facilities. Most decisions rest with the District, although consultation with the Town is required. The State Architect’s Office processes and approves building, planning and design plans. Nonetheless, the Town has a crucial role to play in assisting and coordinating with AVUSD, and where applicable, with San Bernardino County and state agencies, to ensure that adequate educational facilities and services are provided, including those to special needs populations.

The Town should also continue to encourage and support educational initiatives that include development of a four-year college/university and location of a branch of the San Bernardino County Museum within the Town.

³ Personal communication, Cheri Cervantes, Apple Valley Library References, February 12th, 2008.

Library facilities within the Town are and will continue to be an important resource for residents and the community. As the population in Town increases library resources and facilities may need to be expanded to meet the growing demand. The County of San Bernardino and the Town monitor circulation numbers and plan for expansion of services and facilities as needed.

GOALS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Goal 1

The provision of accessible, safe and conveniently located school, library and other educational facilities that provide a range of adequate and quality services to the Town and community.

Policy 1.A

Sensitive receptors such as schools and libraries shall be protected from excessive noise and traffic conditions to the greatest extent feasible, and shall be sited in appropriate locations with compatible land uses.

Program 1.A.1

The Town shall routinely evaluate and update the Land Use Element to assure that existing and future schools and libraries are sited in areas that represent compatible uses.

Responsible Agency: Planning Division

Schedule: Ongoing

Program 1.A.2

The Town shall coordinate with the Apple Valley Unified School District to ensure and improve the safety of students traveling to and from school, including but not limited to the provision of separate, safe pedestrian and bicycle access, particularly near middle school and high school campuses.

Responsible Agency: Apple Valley Unified School District, Public Works Division

Schedule: Ongoing

Policy 1.B

The Town shall assist Apple Valley Unified School District in securing school impact fees from developers, in accordance with state law.

Policy 1.C

The Town shall assist and coordinate with the Apple Valley Unified School District to ensure that the level and quality of public education shall be improved wherever possible.

Policy 1.D

The Town shall support and encourage local institutions of higher learning that improve and enhance job skills and personal growth, and promote employment opportunities.

Policy 1.E

The Town shall continue to coordinate and cooperate with private and charter school sites for development including new campuses and future growth of existing campuses.

Program 1.E.1

Encourage that the expansion plans for the campus of the Academy for Academic Excellence be accomplished through a Specific Plan to allow for a variety of educational opportunities, including the preservation of natural resources in the adjacent Mojave River bed.

Responsible Agency: Planning Division, Apple Valley Unified School District, Academy for Academic Excellence

Schedule: 2008-2009

Program 1.E.2

The Town shall continue to coordinate with the Apple Valley Unified School District and Redlands University, California State University-San Bernardino and other regional appropriate four-year colleges and universities to explore and encourage the establishment of a four-year institution of higher education within Apple Valley.

Responsible Agency: Planning Division, Apple Valley Unified School District, Academy for Academic Excellence, Redlands University, California State University-San Bernardino

Schedule: 2008, Ongoing

Policy 1.F

The Town shall continue to coordinate with the County of San Bernardino to assure that adequate library resources and facilities are available to meet to needs of the community.

Policy 1.G

The Town shall continue to explore the possibility of locating expanded educational resources, including museums, within the Town.

Program I.G.1

Confer and coordinate with the San Bernardino County Museum to consider locating a branch of the Museum within the Town.

Responsible Agency: Planning Division, Town Council, San Bernardino County Museum.

Schedule: 2008-2009

Goal 2

Establish school and library facilities that function as venues for cultural and social events within the community and provide a forum for community gathering and events.

Policy 2.A

The Town shall continue to recognize the importance of the library as a community center for educational and cultural development within the community.

Policy 2.B

The Town shall continue to coordinate, cooperate and assist with the Apple Valley Unified School District and applicable state agencies to identify, acquire and develop school sites necessary to meet the demands of future growth. The Town shall encourage that potential school

sites be selected in areas that are centrally located in relationship to existing or future residential development.

Program 2.B.1

The Town shall review master plans, development proposals and environmental documentation prepared by Apple Valley Unified School District. It shall advise and otherwise coordinate and cooperate with AVUSD to ensure that the provision of educational facilities are safe, conveniently located to existing and future development, and effective in meeting the needs of student populations.

Responsible Agency: Apple Valley Unified School District, Planning Division, and Town Council.

Schedule: Ongoing