

SCHOOLS—EDUCATING COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

PROJECTED SCHOOL NEEDS

The University Community will generate a demand for elementary, middle, and high schools during its build-out (6,968 single-family and 4,645 multi-family units). As phased development of the University Community occurs, various levels of school facilities and services will be required. In addition, the generation of students within the University Community Plan area will require the expansion of local school district support facilities, including but not limited to administrative facilities, technology facilities, warehouse, maintenance and food service facilities, and transportation facilities that serve the jurisdictional areas of the school districts. The number of schools and the required support facilities that will ultimately be needed to support the University Community will depend upon its residents' demographics and the design and operational standards and requirements of the local school districts.

Experience in comparable campus-oriented communities with a large number of college students living in proximity to a campus, such as Davis, Santa Cruz, and Chico, suggests that fewer public school-age children are generated and the number of required classrooms are less in comparison with typical residential communities. Additionally, there are trends throughout the state to develop efficient sites by the joint use and sharing of school facilities and other public facilities as a means to reduce costs in this era of limited financial resources. These trends, coupled with opportunities to develop facilities within UC Merced, may enhance the efficiency of utilizing land and constructing facilities that may be required in compliance with the standards and requirements currently used by the Merced area school districts.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Goals, objectives, and policies for the education of K–12 University Community students and residents are intended to provide adequate facilities to meet population needs, ensure that facilities are available concurrently with the development phasing of the Community, ensure that they are integrated into the fabric of the Community to enhance its livability, and provide programs that support and nurture the residents through all ages of their lives.

SCHOOL FACILITIES THAT ENRICH THE COMMUNITY

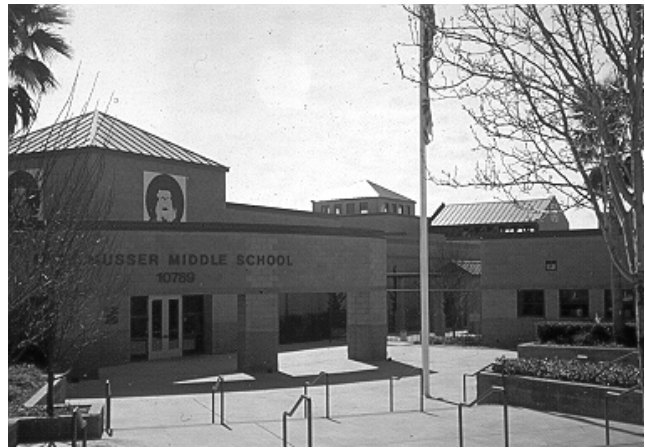
Goal

Adequate school facilities to meet needs of population.

Objective

PE 1.0

To provide sufficient school facilities within the University Community for its residents, in accordance with Merced City School District and Merced Union High School District standards.



Policies

PE 1.1

Designate sufficient lands for school sites within the University Community planning area to meet local population demands. (Imp 2.5)

PE 1.2

Require that developers consult with applicable school districts during the formulation of a sub-area Specific Plan to mutually confirm the number of public school age children to be generated by the proposed development, school site and facility needs, and a program and responsibilities for site acquisition, facility development, and funding. The program shall be incorporated into the sub-area Specific Plans and Development Agreements, which shall be reviewed and approved by the County. (Imp 2.5, 2.7)

PE 1.3

Cooperate and coordinate with the Merced area school districts in the County’s administrative and legislative actions to ensure that elementary, middle and high school sites and facilities adequately serve the needs and requirements of the University Community residents consistent with the standards and requirements of the school districts and within the authorities and limits prescribed by state legislation. *(Imp 4.7, 5.8)*

PE 1.4

Condition the approval of new development within the University Community upon the requirement that school impact fees shall be paid to the applicable school districts consistent with state law, or as may be voluntarily negotiated by project developers with the school districts. *(Imp 4.7, 5.8, 6.4)*

PE 1.5

Encourage landowners and developers to enter into voluntary agreements with school districts where state-mandated fees may be insufficient to meet the full costs of school and facility development, to supplement funding or provide other support for the acquisition and construction of school facilities needed for the planned development. *(Imp 4.7, 5.8, 6.4)*

PE 1.6

Promote the use of creative financing methods to fund the construction of schools and associated community facilities where possible, such as access to federal grants, partnerships with corporate commercial developers and private foundations, and comparable techniques. *(Imp 5.8, 6.1–6.4)*

PE 1.7

Promote the development of a magnate high school within the University Community to serve the local residents and the greater region. *(Imp 2.5, 4.7, 5.8)*

PE 1.8

Phase development within the University Community concurrently with the funding and/or availability of school facilities required to serve the development needs and requirements of the residents within the Community, or as otherwise agreed upon by the County and school districts in an approved sub-area Specific Plan and implementing Development Agreements. *(Imp 2.5, 2.7)*

Objective

PE 2.0

To support the development of UC Merced.

Policies

PE 2.1

Support and, as appropriate, cooperate with UC Merced in administering community educational programs. *(Imp 3.3)*

PE 2.2

Encourage the development of a “university laboratory school” on the UC campus for University Community students. *(Imp 3.3)*

PE 2.3

Encourage local industry and businesses to donate services or funds towards programs and/or scholarships for local youth for UC Merced. *(Imp 5.10)*

SCHOOL FACILITIES THAT ARE THE CENTERPIECE OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE

Goal

Educational campuses/sites for elementary, middle, and high schools that function as centerpieces of community identity and activity.

Objective

PE 3.0

Establish schools as focal points of neighborhood identity.

Policies

PE 3.1

Work with the school districts to establish a process for coordination with developers in the planning for the location and design of schools to be integrated with and serve as the focal point of neighborhood activity and identity, consistent with UCP urban form objectives and policies. Schools should become a multi-purpose gathering place for local residents for education, events, and socialization. As generally depicted on the illustrative

land use concepts (Figures 4 and 5), the schools should be integrated with uses that serve both students and neighborhood residents including public parks, multi-purpose facilities, libraries, auditoriums, gymnasiums/athletic facilities, and similar uses. These may be physically sited on a common site, where facilities are shared, or in proximity to one another. The design, size, and configuration of schools shall be in accordance with the standards and requirements of the local school districts. Should these conflict with the urban design intentions for the Community, as specified in this Plan, the County shall work with the applicable school district to identify how these differences shall be resolved in accordance with procedures specified for the resolution of disputes and differences that shall be incorporated into each sub-area Specific Plan. *(Imp 2.5, 4.7, 5.8)*



PE 3.2

Locate preschool and day-care facilities in appropriate areas within neighborhood villages, possibly within or directly adjacent to local commercial facilities. *(Imp 2.5)*

PE 3.3

Encourage the school districts to site buildings and design the campuses to promote continuity with the development fabric of the adjacent residential uses. Avoid the establishment of an isolated, “walled” school environment. *(Imp 2.5, 4.7, 5.8)*

PE 3.4

Establish walkways, bicycle paths, greenways, and other elements that link school sites with surrounding uses. *(Imp 2.5, 4.1, 4.8)*

Goal

Community schools that sustain natural environmental resources.

Objective

PE 4.0

To create a sustainable approach to new building construction and maintenance.

Policies

PE 4.1

Promote the establishment of energy-efficient standards for school facilities. *(Imp 5.8)*

PE 4.2

Encourage the implementation of Bright Schools program for energy efficiency. The Bright Schools Program is sponsored by the California Energy Commission and offers specific services for new schools construction in designing cost-effective energy-efficient systems. Bright Schools can provide design consultation, identify energy saving measures, compare technologies, and other services (application process required). *(Imp 5.8)*

PE 4.3

Promote the School Districts’ use of mixed-use facilities on school campuses in the University Community such as buildings that serve as two or more of the following: cafeteria, auditorium, library, community, and multiple-use rooms. *(Imp 5.8)*

PE 4.4

Encourage the School Districts to construct buildings that are reusable, recyclable, and adaptable over time. *(Imp 5.8)*

NURTURING LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Goal

Quality long-term educational opportunities for all stages of life.

Objective

PE 5.0

To support life-long educational opportunities for the University Community’s residents through UC Merced, Merced College, Cal State Stanislaus, and other institutions and private entities.

Policies

PE 5.1

Support and cooperate, where appropriate, with UC, Merced Community College and Cal State Stanislaus in developing courses and educational programs that support the life-long educational needs of the University Community's residents including classes conducted on their campuses, in the Community, or through electronic media. *(Imp 3.3, 5.8)*

PE 5.2

Support UC Merced, other educational institutions, and local industries in the development of programs that enhance the educational skills of local residents to enable them to take advantage of new job opportunities that may emerge due to UC Merced' academic and research programs. *(Imp 3.3, 3.5, 5.8, 5.10)*

PE 5.3

Encourage UC Merced and Merced Community College to establish or expand existing mentoring programs to serve the youth of the University Community. *(Imp 3.3, 5.8)*

PE 5.4

Promote the use of enriched academic and support programs to promote student retention and academic success by local educational institutions. *(Imp 3.3, 5.8)*

PE 5.5

Encourage local industry and businesses to participate in internship, mentoring, teaching, job training, and other programs that increase the opportunity for residents to be employed locally. *(Imp 3.5, 5.10)*

EDUCATION IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

Objective

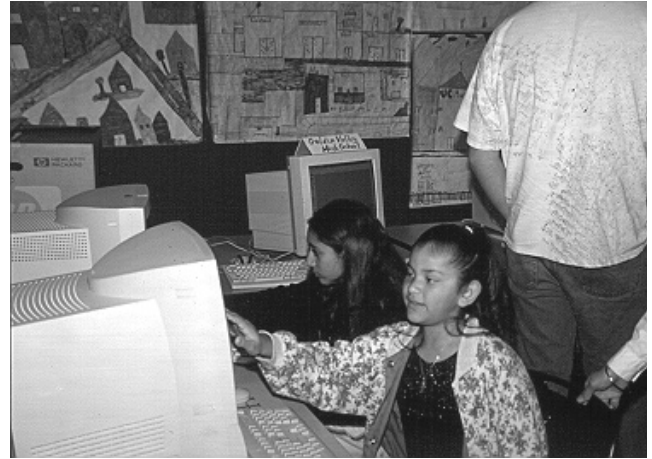
PE 6.0

To enable the University Community to benefit from the latest technological advances for education and bringing information to its residents.

Policies

PE 6.1

Promote the development of a telecommunications network that interconnects all residents with the Internet, local schools, UC Merced, libraries, government, health facilities, and other institutions to provide opportunities for education and communication (refer to Telecommunications Infrastructure policies). *(Imp 2.5, 3.3, 4.3)*



PE 6.2

Consider the establishment of a local community Intranet to facilitate e-education opportunities. *(Imp 2.5, 3.3, 4.3)*

PE 6.3

Work with the school districts, colleges, and universities to establish distance education programs for web-based education training for all Merced residents. *(Imp 3.3, 5.8)*