



Weather: PASADENA, CA | Now: 67°F | High: 80°F | Low: 47°F | [5-Day Forecast](#)

Live Traffic: [134W](#) [110S](#) [710S](#) [605S](#) [210E](#) [210W](#) [10W](#)

Search

[Home Delivery](#) | [E-Edition](#) | [Subscriber Services](#)
[Alerts](#) | [Login](#) | [Newsletter](#) | [RSS](#)

This Site Web Search powered by **YAHOO! SEARCH**

[Home](#) [News](#) [Sports](#) [Business](#) [Opinions](#) [LA.COM](#) [Features](#) [Info](#) [Marketplace](#) [Place an Ad](#) [Jobs](#) [Autos](#) [Homes](#) [Obits](#) [Directories](#)

LISTEN TO STORY [DOWNLOAD](#)

[More Podcasts](#)

Presented By: [Adult Education Guide](#)
 Download Our Free Adult Education

[BOOKMARK](#) [Print](#) [Email](#) [Font Resize](#)

1 retweet

[Share](#)

Alhambra school district to cut adult education

By Brian Charles, Staff Writer
 Posted: 03/12/2010 05:16:15 PM PST

ALHAMBRA - California's cuts to education will eliminate at least one adult education program in the San Gabriel Valley and force another to scale back its offerings, officials said Friday.

Alhambra Unified School District plans to effectively eliminate its adult education program by the end of this school year and layoff 29 teachers.

The move will save the district \$6 million, officials said.

Baldwin Park Unified School District will lay off 30 teachers, eliminate adult summer classes and reduce the number of adult classes next fall, saving the district \$3 million, officials there said.

The news came hard for students of English language classes at the Garfield Community Adult School in Alhambra.

"If we don't have these classes in Alhambra, we have no other places to go," said student Mei Fang, who is learning English so she can become a citizen.

She carefully plotted each word she spoke in English, a language Fang began learning after arriving in the United State from China in late 2008.

"If we are going to be involved in society, it's important for us to keep studying," she said.

The Garfield adult school offers English as a second language classes, general equivalency degree

Education



Get the scoop on schools, teachers and students. Visit our [Education page](#) for more articles and photos.

[Most Viewed](#) [Most Emailed](#)

More News

[Lindamood-Bell to hold open house March 30 at the Pasadena Learning Center](#)

[Kudirka, Formalist Quartet will perform at Center For The Arts in Eagle Rock](#)

[Racing for Hope event will benefit City of Hope](#)

[Superintendent's Corner: What do you get for your money?](#)

[Orman offers simple advice for securing financial future](#)

[at L.A.'s Club Nokia](#)

[Baldwin Park rejects \\$1 million claim related to arrest of former city councilman](#)

[Volunteers, TV station unveil world's largest Rice Krispies Treat in La Cañada](#)

[World's largest flowering plant displayed in Sierra Madre](#)

[Coolidge students celebrate Read Across America](#)

[School Notes: Alverno students earn writing awards](#)

programs and vocational courses.

Only the degree courses will remain next year, district Superintendent Donna Perez said. She blamed the economy and state cuts to education for driving the district to shave \$38 million

Advertisement

from its budget since 2008.

"In normal times, we highly value these programs," Perez said. "In these times, when we are having a hard time balancing the budget, they

fall outside the realm of K through 12 education."

In 2006-07, state funding for adult education became unrestricted, Perez said, allowing districts to use the money for other purposes.

While adult education teachers will get pink slips, Alhambra isn't laying off any elementary, middle or high school teachers at the end of the school year, Perez said.

Those teachers took a big hit last year, when Alhambra Unified laid off 18 teachers at the end of the 2008-09 school year, according to district documents.

Rose Marie Barron, a teacher at the Garfield adult school, said cutting adult education will leave many Alhambra residents, particularly recent immigrants from Asia, with little hope of assimilating into the community.

"So many of our students can't go to Fresh & Easy or any market," she said. "These people cannot go into the community and be comfortable."

There is a chance Alhambra Unified could save its adult education program - by asking students to pay for classes, Perez said. A fee schedule is still under consideration, she added.

But Barron said that could pose a hardship for many of her students. "Some of our students don't even have jobs and we're asking them to pay for classes."

Students already pay \$10 per semester for classes. If the class prices shoot up to \$50 or \$100, many students will drop out, she said.

While Alhambra plans to eliminate its program, Baldwin Park Unified will desperately try to hold on to its adult education program, which teachers nearly 4,900 students, said John Kerr, senior director of the adult education program.

"The adult school has been here for 50 years. It's been a big part of the community and it's going to stay a big part of the community. This is really a state issue," said Kerr. "They need to fix this and make sure we can keep providing education for adults."

- Staff Writer Maritza Velazquez contributed to this report

brian.charles@sgvn.com

626-578-6300, ext. 4494

A world
with more
birthdays.

That's what
we want to see.

Click here to see
how we're bringing
that world to life »





Font Resize ↑ Return to Top



Click here to enjoy the Pasadena Star News home delivery!

Local businesses related to this subject [view all](#)

Pasadena Star-News

Newspaper | Pasadena CA 91106

Symes Saab of Pasadena

Automobile - Dealers - | Pasadena CA 91107

Land Rover of Pasadena

Automobile - Dealers - | Pasadena CA 91107

[advertise your business here](#)

Read all 14 comments »

Type in your comments to post to the forum

Name
(appears on your post)

Comments

Type the numbers you see in the image on the right:

Post Comment



Please note by clicking on "Post Comment" you acknowledge that you have read the [Terms of Service](#) and the comment you are posting is in compliance with such terms. **Be polite.** Inappropriate posts may be removed by the moderator. [Send us your feedback](#).

[Penny Stocks Trading Community](#)

Sign up now for 100% free penny stock alerts.
www.StockPickTrading.com

[Refinance Now at 3.4% APR](#)

\$160,000 mortgage under \$712/mo. Free. No Obligation.
MortgageRefinance.LendGo.com

[Make Less Than \\$45,000/Year?](#)

You May Qualify for a Grant to Go Back to School.
www.SeeCollegeDegrees.com/Grants

Ads by Yahoo!