

Skyline High School

12250 Skyline Blvd, Oakland, CA 94619 | <https://www.ousd.org/skyline>

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Overview

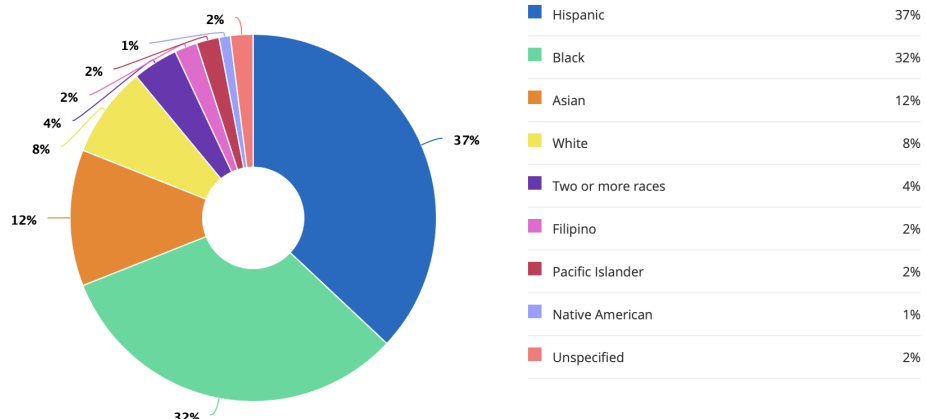
Mission/Vision: The Skyline High School community will engage students by embracing an education that values critical thinking, academic rigor, cultural responsiveness, and healthy relationships. Skyline strives to create equitable and meaningful learning experiences in which students thrive in college, career, and community with confidence, courage, and joy.

Principal: Dr. Bianca D'Alessandro

Demographics:

Total # of Students	Under-Resourced Students	Dual/Multi Language	Equity Rating	Students to Teacher Ratio	Students: Counselor
1,592	73%	13%	4/10	18:1	619:1

Race/ethnicity:



What makes this school unique

Academics at Skyline promote rigor, in-depth study, challenging coursework, and a range of study that compliments a variety of student interests. Our curriculum is college preparatory, filled with honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes, comprising four Linked Learning Pathways and a wide range of electives all of which allow for students' to follow their aptitudes and interests during their time at Skyline.



[Skyline High School](#) has Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses designed so that students have the opportunity to develop relationships within teams to collaboratively solve problems and develop leadership skills. Hence, the courses not only improve the academic component of the students' lives but also provide valuable life lessons that can be applied to solve tomorrow's problems in the real world.

STEM students will:

- Utilize advanced technology and equipment in their STEM courses
- Investigate a wide variety of STEM-related fields such as robotics, renewable energy & sustainable living, architectural engineering, biomedical engineering, electrical engineering, and computer science
- Design and build advanced engineering projects with our Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab) and at the [Innovation Center](#).
- Create a senior design project for presentation at CU Boulder's [Design Expo](#)
- Earn a STEM certificate upon graduation signifying a readiness for success in post-secondary education.

In 2009, Skyline launched Atlas, an innovative new program for Freshmen. In this structure, teams of ninth grade students share the same four teachers for English, Social Studies, Math, and Science, providing a greater opportunity for teachers to communicate with each other regarding their students' social well-being and academic development. Freshmen also attend a bi-monthly "advisory" period hosted by the Atlas Lead Teacher during which they receive lessons in academic and career planning, study skills, interpersonal development and citizenship. Each teacher serves as an advisor for only 25 students, the Atlas system permits a greater connection to be established between teachers, students, and families. As one teacher succinctly stated, "No one falls through the cracks."

All students are required to take core classes in English, Social Studies, Math, and Science. In 10th grade students choose one of Skyline's four Pathway (formerly academies) and will find that their core classes have a focus in the area of their pathway. Pathway curriculum ushers the students through a series of classes that build with interest and complexity as they progress to graduation.

The Four Pathways Academies Are:

1. Computer Science and Technology Pathway
2. Education and Community Health Pathway
3. Green Energy Pathway
4. Visual and Performing Arts Pathway

School and Neighborhood History

The [Ohlone and Chochenyo nations](#) inhabited the coastal region of Central and Northern California that includes Oakland.⁴ Due to [Spanish colonization of the Ohlone and Chochenyo lands](#), there was a drastic change and evolution of the region over the years that leads us to its physical layout today.

Talks about a new Hill-area high school began in the early to mid-1950s. After weeks of field trips and meetings the possible sites for the new school were reduced from eight to three. They finally decided on a 31-acres site at Skyline Blvd and Fernhoff Road. School board members received suggestions that the new Hill Area high school be named Sequoia or Skyline High. In February of 1961, the OUSD Board voted at their regular meeting to call the \$4.5 million school "Skyline High School". In January of 1961, Dr. George C. Bliss was appointed the first principal of Skyline. Dr. Bliss had been with the Oakland schools for 36 years, most recently as the principal of Technical High School.

Skyline High School is located in the crest of the [Oakland Hills](#). The hills also contain some of Oakland's most popular attractions. At the south end of the hills is the Oakland Zoo, ranked among the top visitor destinations in the Bay Area. Other hill area landmarks include the Mormon Temple, the Chabot Observatory, the Woodminster Amphitheater, the historic Dunsmuir House and Gardens, and Joaquin Miller Park.

Skyline Boulevard runs along the crest of the hills, separating Oakland's neighborhoods from an immense network of regional parks that provides a near-wilderness experience within minutes of the city. Sibley, Redwood, and Chabot Parks cover 5,000 acres and offer

some of the best hiking in the Bay Area. You can walk through a lush redwood forest, explore a 10 million year old extinct volcano, and enjoy scenic views from ridgeline trails.

Development: The Oakland Hills present unique city planning challenges. This was the site of one of the most catastrophic urban wildfires in US history- some 3,400 homes in the North Hills burned to the ground in October 1991 and twenty-five lives were lost. The North Hills neighborhood is worth a visit, if for no other reason than to check out the architectural kaleidoscope that resulted as more than 2,000 owners rebuilt custom homes in the span of 10



years. There are current city plans to create safer conditions in the [Oakland Hills](#) to ensure travel for emergency vehicles and residents in times of emergency. The City of Oakland Hills Fire Safety Project wants to raise community awareness about parking choices and how they affect residents living and visiting the area. The project will utilize a pilot program where the City identifies problem streets, restricts parking on narrow streets, and enforces parking. Community organizers in the area are creating educational materials about safe parking habits, Red Flag days, residents' and city's emergency needs and saving human and animal lives in emergency situations.

Gentrification within the neighborhood: White Flight is the phenomenon of lower-, upper- and middle-class whites moving from cities to the suburbs. Its opposite (but related phenomena) is [gentrification](#), a process in which wealthy whites move back into an urban area, displacing the current residents and rapidly driving up the cost of living so that the previous residents are forced to move. Both practices have been extensively documented by students of demographics and urban development. White flight, in particular, has negative connotations, especially for those left behind in the suddenly impoverished neighborhood.

White Flight was a major contributing factor in the changing racial demographics of Oakland neighborhoods in the 1960s. With the societal shifts brought about through the civil rights movement, predominantly white public schools began to be integrated by African American children being bussed in from neighborhoods in [East](#) and [West Oakland](#). Neighborhoods that had been almost exclusively working-class and lower middle class whites started to be integrated with African American families moving out of declining areas to live closer to better schools. This in turn caused many white families to either

move out to the suburbs, such as the Contra Costa County cities of Pinole, Hercules, Concord, Walnut Creek, Orinda, Moraga, etc., move to the more upscale neighborhoods of [Montclair](#), [Piedmont](#), and Skyline or enroll their children into private schools.

Similar to the phenomenon happening across the country, Oakland's people of color were impacted by the 1940/50s federal housing redlining policy which excluded communities of color from the wealth building opportunity of homeownership. These neighborhoods were frequently abandoned due to urban decay after the White flight movement towards the suburbs. The heart and soul of the black community was disrupted, and economic viability was cut off from Downtown as Highway 17 (now I-880 or Nimitz Freeway) was built. Many homes and local businesses were destroyed through the building of the Cypress Viaduct and the rest of I-880. Urban renewal developments for Acorn High Rise apartments caused more destruction in the area around Market and 7th street. Urban renewal thrust in West Oakland continued well into the 1960s with the construction of BART and the Main Post Office Building at 1675 7th Street. During this time, many Black and Latinx families were displaced from their home in West Oakland. African Americans relocated to East Oakland, especially in the Elmhurst district and surrounding areas; Latinos moved into the Fruitvale neighborhood.

Endnote:

1. <https://norcalapa.org/2015/02/oakland-hills/>
2. <https://native-land.ca/>
3. [https://localwiki.org/oakland/History of Mexican and Latino Americans](https://localwiki.org/oakland/History_of_Mexican_and_Latino_Americans)
4. <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/gentrification-explained>
5. <https://metroideas.org/blog/gentrification-what-it-is-and-why-it-matters/>
6. <http://innovation.svvsd.org/>
7. https://itll.colorado.edu/design_expo
8. <https://www.ousd.org/Page/14948>