

United for Success Academy

2101 35th Ave. Oakland, CA 94601 | <https://www.ousd.org/ufsa>

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Overview

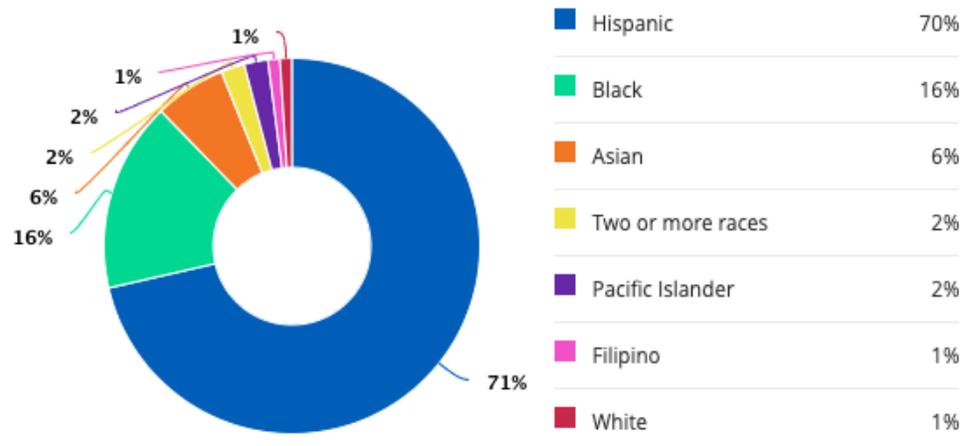
Mission: To interrupt the inequities in our community by ensuring that all students are academically and socially prepared for success in high school and beyond, and to make a positive impact on our school, in our community, and in the world.

Vision: Like the eagle, we achieve to the heights of our abilities. Like the mountain, we uphold each other and our community. Like the river, we create new possibilities. Like the acorn, we unfold into the leaders we are meant to be. Principal: Sara Allen

Demographics:

Total # of Students	Under-Resourced Students	Dual/Multi Language	Equity Rating	Students to Teacher Ratio	Students: Counselor
370	93%	39%	1/10	22:1	379:1

Race/ethnicity:



What Makes This School Unique

[United for Success Academy](#) (UFSA) opened its doors in 2006, after a committed team of parents, students, and educators worked to design a small, community-oriented school. As part of Oakland's small schools movement, the school aims to foster student success through smaller, more personalized learning communities. The goal was to build a school culture based on strong, positive relationships, and to establish an atmosphere of active engagement and an expectation of high academic achievement.

United for Success Academy features an integrated curriculum that brings learning to life and promotes sound critical thinking skills. In addition to having rigorous instruction in the core areas of Math/Science and Language Arts/History, students expand their learning through an array of enrichment activities, such as field trips, community art projects, and expo events.

In addition to its strong academic program, United for Success Academy supports families with:

- A Parent Center providing tax preparation, eligibility support for county services, job and language skills, parenting classes, and more
- A medical center offering free medical, dental, and mental health services for our students and their families
- A remarkable extended-day and summer school offering academics and enrichment

United for Success::

- is orderly, and you can hear children laughing.
- is focused on academics, and children stay for the art and sports.
- has strict discipline, and also great love and respect.
- is fixed on each student's future, and takes time to know their past.
- examines the student as an individual, and involves the family and community.

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.

UFSA's students reflect the Fruitvale neighborhood's diverse immigrant and minority populations. The students and families speak Spanish, Mam, Tongan, Arabic, Tagalog, Karen, Karenni, Nepali and Chinese. Since 45% of students are English Language Learners, the school has a rich academic program to meet their language needs. Their Newcomer Program serves up to 40 students in our community who have moved here in the last year and speak little English. We also have a rich African American student population that thrives at our school. Throughout the year, we have cultural celebrations to celebrate the histories, cultures and accomplishments of our

diverse student population. While 96% of our students are socioeconomically disadvantaged, we are rich in so many ways.

The name Fruitvale comes from the district's past as a home to many fruit orchards. This neighborhood is known as a Latinx cultural landmark in Oakland for the city's Latinx population. The increase of Latinx residents in Fruitvale was caused by major Urban Renewal projects that destroyed many homes and businesses in West Oakland, where the first Latinx community has roots. Latinx residents began the Chicano movement to fight for their civil rights and self-determination. This movement sparked different communities to form organizations such as The Chicano Revolutionary Party, Black Panthers, and *La Chispa*, a community newspaper.

When residents moved to the Fruitvale district, they organized themselves in poverty and a lack of services from the community. During this time period, the Latinx community faced inequitable access to good schools, adequate services, and housing. Importantly, police brutality was a significant concern amongst the Oakland community. ⁵

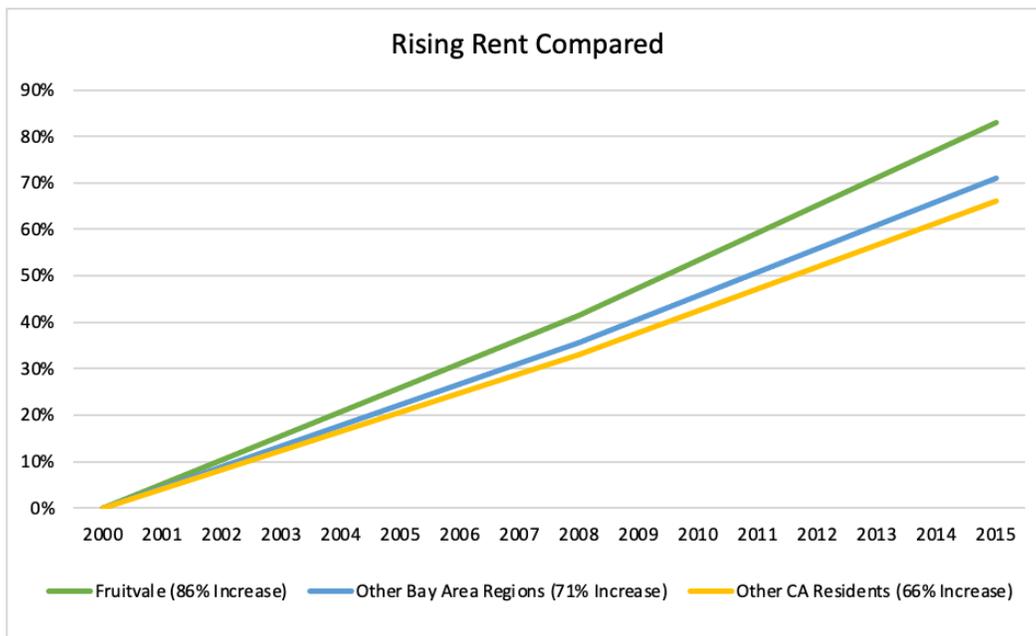
Development: The name (originally "'Fruit Vale'") comes from the many fruit orchards (largely apricot and cherry) which dominated the area in the late 19th century. During and following WWII significant numbers of African-Americans and Latinos immigrated to Oakland and located in the old part of town, West Oakland. This was followed by the "urban renewal" and the construction of the Nimitz freeway, bulldozing much of West Oakland. There was then a movement of the dispossessed residents to East Oakland. Fruitvale was in the middle extent of East Oakland, and due to its location was heavily settled by African-Americans, and by Latinos who by 1990 formed a majority of the district's residents. It wasn't until the late 1980s when the larger Fruitvale District began to attract more Latino residents. African-Americans had either relocated to the outer East Oakland area south of Fruitvale or moved out of the city altogether to outer Bay Area suburbs. Presently, Fruitvale is predominantly Latino, and is the cultural landmark for the city's Latino population.

Gentrification within the neighborhood: Gentrification is a process that includes economic and demographic changes to historically disinvested neighborhoods. It's important to be aware of the process because new, affluent residents moving to a neighborhood for housing or business can contribute to significant increases in rent and real estate prices. These increases impact the most vulnerable and pressure low-income residents to meet the demand which alters their own household/family budget.⁶ Many Bay Area neighborhoods have changed culturally and financially due to gentrification.

The Fruitvale Village is special, because it was a community-driven effort, and it acts as a centralized hub where community members can access essential services, such as: transportation, education, affordable housing, healthful and affordable food, etc. It's also maintained by the majority of existing residents, who are reflective of the neighborhood's Latinx culture.

As the Fruitvale Village has become more incorporated into the neighborhood, residents' household income grew and the number of home buyers in the area increased, indications of gentrification. Additionally, data has also shown an immense increase in higher rents in Fruitvale

by 83%, compared to 71% in other Bay Area regions, and 66% to other similar California neighborhoods.⁷ However, Latinx residents were able to stay in Fruitvale, while the Asian resident population also grew by 6%. [Long-term residents of Fruitvale noticed their community has changed](#) and have found it harder to find affordable housing. This community will continue to change drastically over time, and in response, the Unity Council, a non-profit Social Equity Development Corporation, began the construction on a 94-unit building to provide affordable housing with future plans to build more market-rate units and retail units for long-time or incoming residents. The Unity Council improves quality of life by building communities where everyone can work, learn, and thrive. As changes amongst a region take time to be implemented and seen, strides are being made to provide inexpensive housing while maintaining the cultural history of Fruitvale.



Endnotes:

1. <https://www.greatschools.org/california/oakland/17037-United-For-Success-Academy/>
2. <https://www.ousd.org/domain/3499>
3. <https://www.visitoakland.com/things-to-do/neighborhoods/fruitvale/>
4. https://localwiki.org/oakland/Fruitvale_District