

Rudsdale High School- Technology Academy

8251 Fontaine Street, Oakland, CA 94605 | <https://www.ousd.org/rudsdale>

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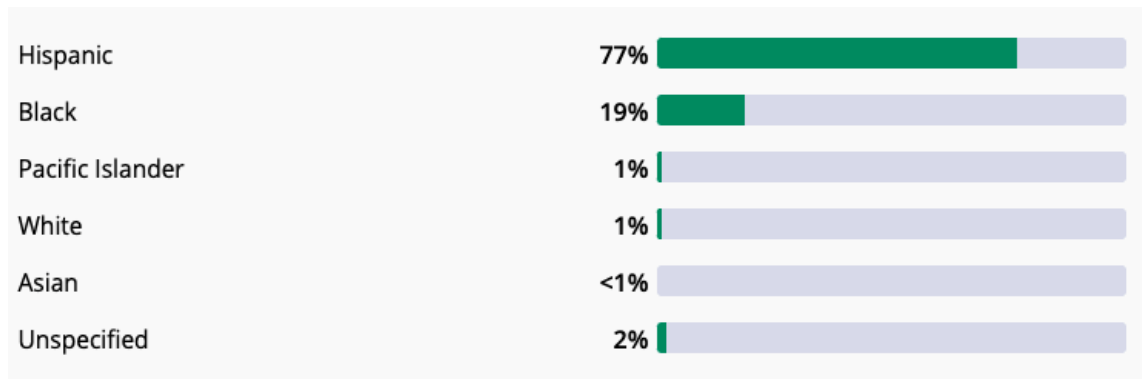
Overview

Mission/Vision: Oakland Unified School District's Rudsdale Continuation School is a voluntary program dedicated to providing educational options for students sixteen to eighteen years old who are at risk of not graduating from comprehensive high schools. Every student will have access to opportunities for completing a high school diploma, pursuing a GED and/or CHSPE certificate, and participating in career exploration and job training program. Principal: Willie Thompson Assistant Principal: Emma Batten Bowman

Demographics:

Total # of Students	Under-Resourced Students	Dual/Multi Language	Equity Rating	Students to Teacher Ratio
255	89%	55%	1/10	13:1

Race/Ethnicity:



What Makes This School Unique

[Rudsdale High School Technology Academy](#)

is a small structured school with the capability of providing instruction, behavioral support and life skills with individualized student needs in mind. Rudsdale ensures students are equipped with academic tools necessary for healthy, productive and stimulating lives as they begin their journeys in the US.



- Voluntary program that provides educational opportunities to students ages sixteen to eighteen years of age who are at risk of not graduating from a comprehensive high school.
- Opportunity to complete high school diploma, pursue GED or CHSPE Certification (California High School Proficiency Exam)
- Opportunities to participate in career exploration and job training programs
- Newcomer student community: Recently arrived immigrants between the ages of 16-21 who are working to support themselves, their families all while pursuing a high school diploma

There are four main pillars that Rudsdale Newcomer High School focuses on to ensure students are having the best educational experience possible. Those four pillars are:

1. English Language Development:

- a. Spoken and written literacy in both Spanish and English language

2. Holistic Individualized Support:

- a. Students have support systems for academic and emotional needs along with self-advocacy and resources needed to support daily life responsibilities.

3. Cultivating Lifelong Learners:

- a. Staff create new real world experiences for students through projects that promote creativity while building social emotional capacity

4. Career Exploration:

- a. Additional opportunities for students to explore careers by offering internships, vocational skills training and additional experiences outside the classroom

School and Neighborhood History

Eastmont is a [neighborhood](#) of Oakland in the [Elmhurst](#) district. The area was originally part of the Peralta ranch and later used as country homes for the Durant, Hellman Heron, Talbot and King families. Eastmont was developed in the 1920s, primarily after the [Chevrolet assembly plant](#) was built in 1916. At one point, a real estate company (the Minney Company) described Eastmont as "The Piedmont of East Oakland." Workers moved to the area, taking over what had been small farms and building houses and commercial space. By the time the plant closed in 1963 and moved to Fremont, there were 3550 employees there. One subdivision in



Eastmont, Columbia Park (not [Columbia Gardens](#)) was once known for its chickens! In 1922, the [Realty Syndicate](#) ran an ad for fertilizer based on the fact that chickens pooped so much there.¹

Before Rudsdale Newcomer High School, in 1956 the city of Oakland and the Board of Education (OUSD) agreed to purchase a 46-acre tract on Mountain Blvd. near the Oak Knoll for future development as a combined school and recreation area. They purchased the land from the heirs of Arthur Dale King, a Hillsborough millionaire, who died in 1952. Under the agreement, 19 acres of the total 46 were for the two new schools. In June of 1958, the Board of Education approved the plans for the new King Junior High School on Fontaine Street. In October of 1960, the board ok'd the name "King Junior High" for the new school in King Estates.

In 2005 two small high schools opened at the campus; they are the Youth Empowerment School and East Oakland Community High School. Now Rudsdale Continuation School and Sojourner Truth School are there.

Development: The Elmhurst district was named after the [groves of elm trees](#) that once covered the area. Real estate in Elmhurst was cheaper than in other parts of Oakland and this allowed workers in Oakland's canneries and factories the ability to enter the middle class and live in a more suburban environment. [During WWII, Elmhurst expanded](#) as the population of workers who moved to Oakland to work in defense plants and shipyards grew. Brookfield Village (west of the railroad tracks at 98th Ave) was developed in WWII as a planned community for defense workers. It included a shopping center, schools, and a park in addition to housing.

From the 1940s to the 1960s, Elmhurst was home to canneries, glass manufacturing plants, and die-casting businesses. After the war, many of these plants shut down or relocated to cheaper areas, resulting in significant unemployment. Additionally, during the 1960s to the 1980s, many residents from West Oakland who were displaced by Urban Renewal Projects (such as the Main Post Office and Grove Shafter Freeway) moved to Elmhurst. This resulted in an increase in the area's African American population. The area is home to a number of neighborhoods with close-knit communities, but continues to suffer from the challenge of persistent unemployment and its side effects.

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](#).

Elmhurst is not the image of the wealthy, white fortress that's become associated with single-family zones. Even after the neighborhood was down zoned in 1971, it became quite diverse as white people moved out. Some residents in deep East Oakland are skeptical their neighborhoods will have access to the new opportunities and land value created by the likely upzoning. Others remember urban renewal and fear their communities will be targeted—that developers, gaining new permission to build, will tear down their houses and put fancy new apartments in their place. Undoing single-family zoning could play out differently there than in wealthy predominantly white areas. East Oakland residents often describe a dual history of disinvestment and gentrification in their neighborhoods by the city and developers. Indeed, over the past century in Oakland, from the Upper Rockridge hills to the deep East Oakland flatlands, homeowners and real estate agents pushed for apartment bans, creating a pattern of housing segregation that has endured in our region, even after overt methods to maintain white-only neighborhoods were outlawed. There is a long and troubling history of exclusionary zoning being used in ways that disproportionately harm communities of color and that disproportionately undermine affordable housing.

Endnotes

1. <https://localwiki.org/oakland/Eastmont>
2. <https://web.archive.org/web/20090505132849/http://www.fopl.org/elmhurst.html>
3. <https://oaklandside.org/2021/05/13/oakland-wants-to-ban-single-family-zoning-can-the-city-get-it-right/>
4. <https://abitofhistory.website/2020/01/29/then-now-oakland-school-part-16/#more-6489>