

**CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EXHIBIT/DOCUMENT LOG**

MEETING DATE & AGENDA NO. 05/19/2026 #35

STAFF DOCUMENTS (Numerical)

No.	Presented by:	Description:
1	Staff	18-Page PowerPoint

2

3

4

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PUBLIC DOCUMENTS (Alphabetical)

No.	Presented by:	Description:
A	N/A	

B

C

D

E

F



Item #35: Initiate Transition of San Pasqual Academy (Academy) and Continue Community Engagement to Identify Feasible and Sustainable Options for the Future of the Academy

Elizabeth Hernandez, Ph.D., Interim Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency

Alfredo Guardado, Director, Child and Family Well-Being

May 20, 2026

Youth at the Heart of All We Do



Changing Landscape



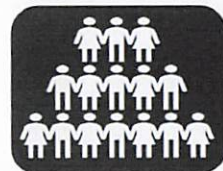
2001



General residential support
and educational alternatives



Fewer restrictions on group
placements under Title IV-E



8,450 youth in
out-of-home care

2025



Severe, complex trauma
requiring intensive therapeutic
interventions



Laws increasing support for
kinship and community-based
placements



2,320 youth in out-of-home
care (Over 70% reduction)

Key Board Actions



2021

Transform Academy into a continuum of care, multipurpose campus

2025

Conduct stakeholder engagement for Academy future use

2026

Return to Board with stakeholder feedback/recs





Data Trends

		Initial FY (FY 01/02)	Recent FY (FY 24/25)	% Change
	Total Youth In Foster Care	8,450	2,320	↓ 73%
	Academy Eligible Youth (Ages 12-18)	2,348	555	↓ 76%
	Academy Placed Youth	77	49	↓ 36%



Academy Today

433 Eligible Youth
(May 1, 2026)

322



76% placed
with families

59



14% served in
specialized
settings

41



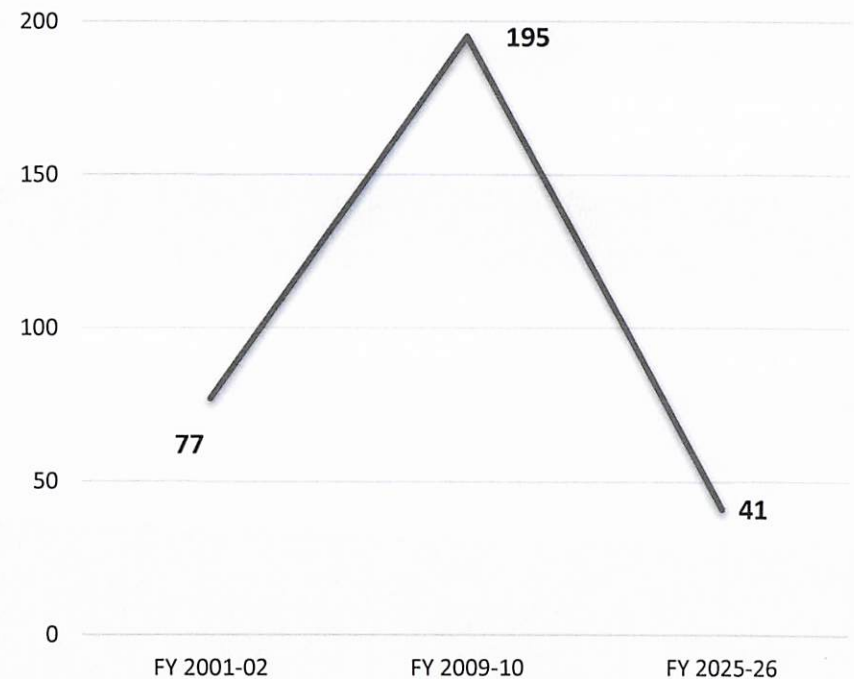
8% placed
at the
Academy

11



2% in
Transitional
or PCC

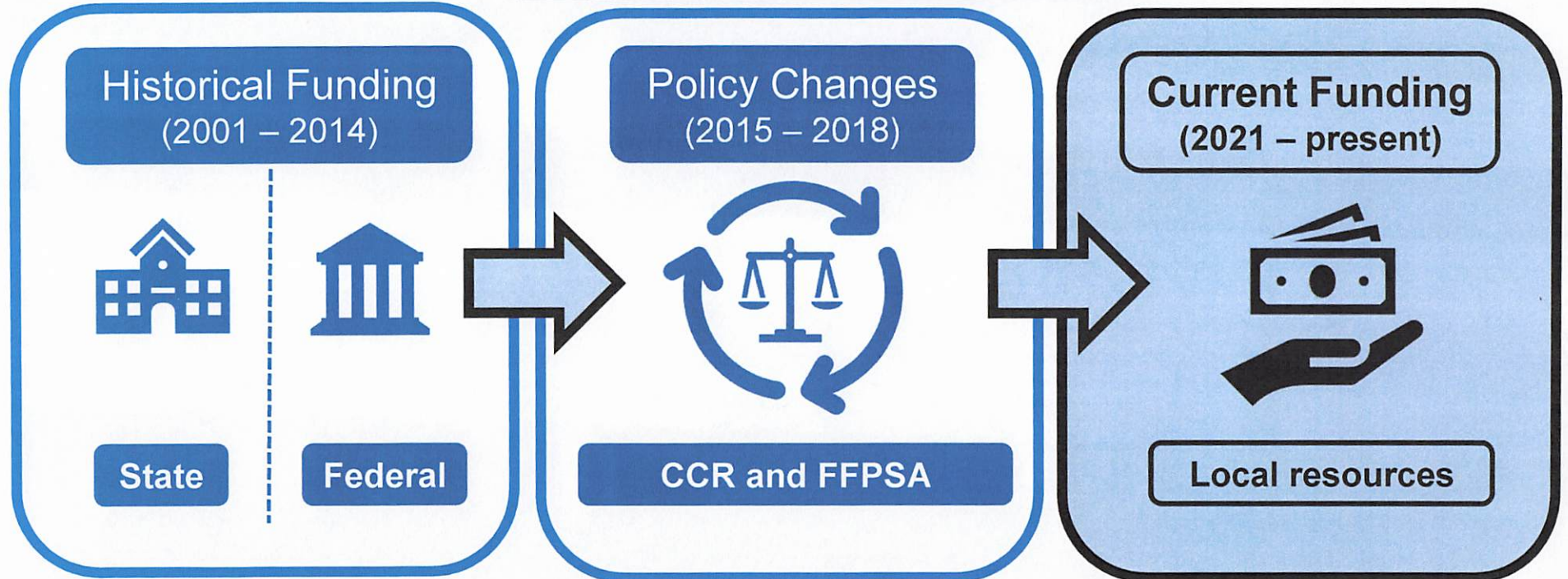
Placements at the Academy



Academy Funding



Current Adopted Budget:
\$18.9 million



Community Engagement



Outreach



13

Sessions

270+

Participants

Stakeholders Engaged

- Academy founders
- Friends of San Pasqual Academy
- African American Wellness Center
- Former foster youth
- Current foster youth
- and many others

Engage San Diego County



Published
January 2026

2.5k

Visits

184

Survey submissions



Social Media

19 posts
3 platforms

164k

Impressions



Paid Messaging



77.8k

impressions

187

clicks



58.6k

impressions

463

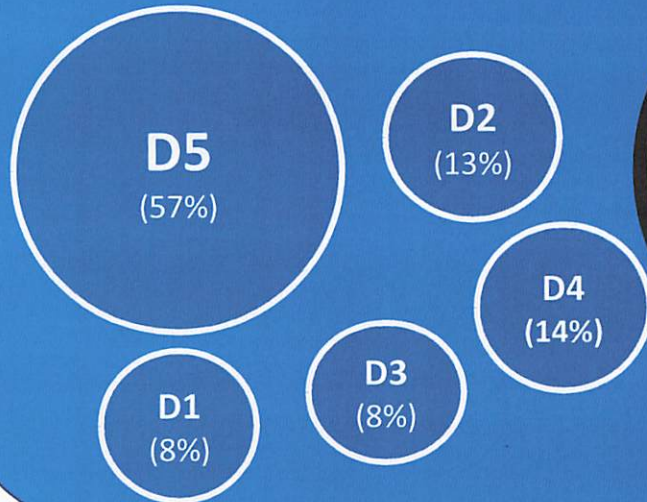
clicks

1/14/26 - 4/1/26

Engagement Participants



Engage website by supervisorial district



Top 3 participant affiliation

■ Educator ■ Advocate ■ Other

Highest zip code response



Escondido Area
(92027; 92025; 92029)

What We Heard From Community



Top Themes

- 1) Expand youth population
- 2) Broaden community use of Academy campus to maximize regional benefit



Theme 1: Expand Youth Population



Pathways to expand

Regional partnerships

- ☐ Outreach to neighboring counties
- ☐ Counties identify youth with similar needs

Non-profit referrals

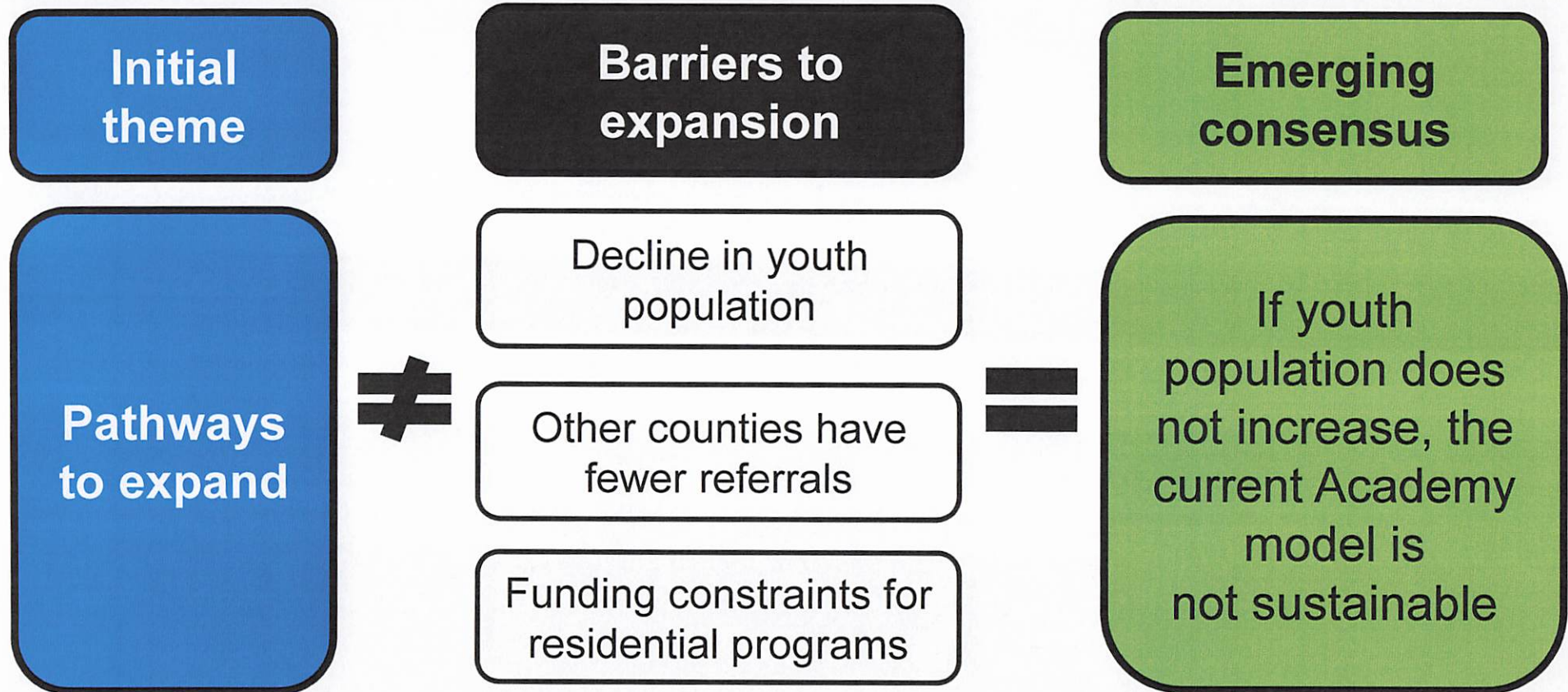
- ☐ Partner with community organizations and residential providers

Youth housing options

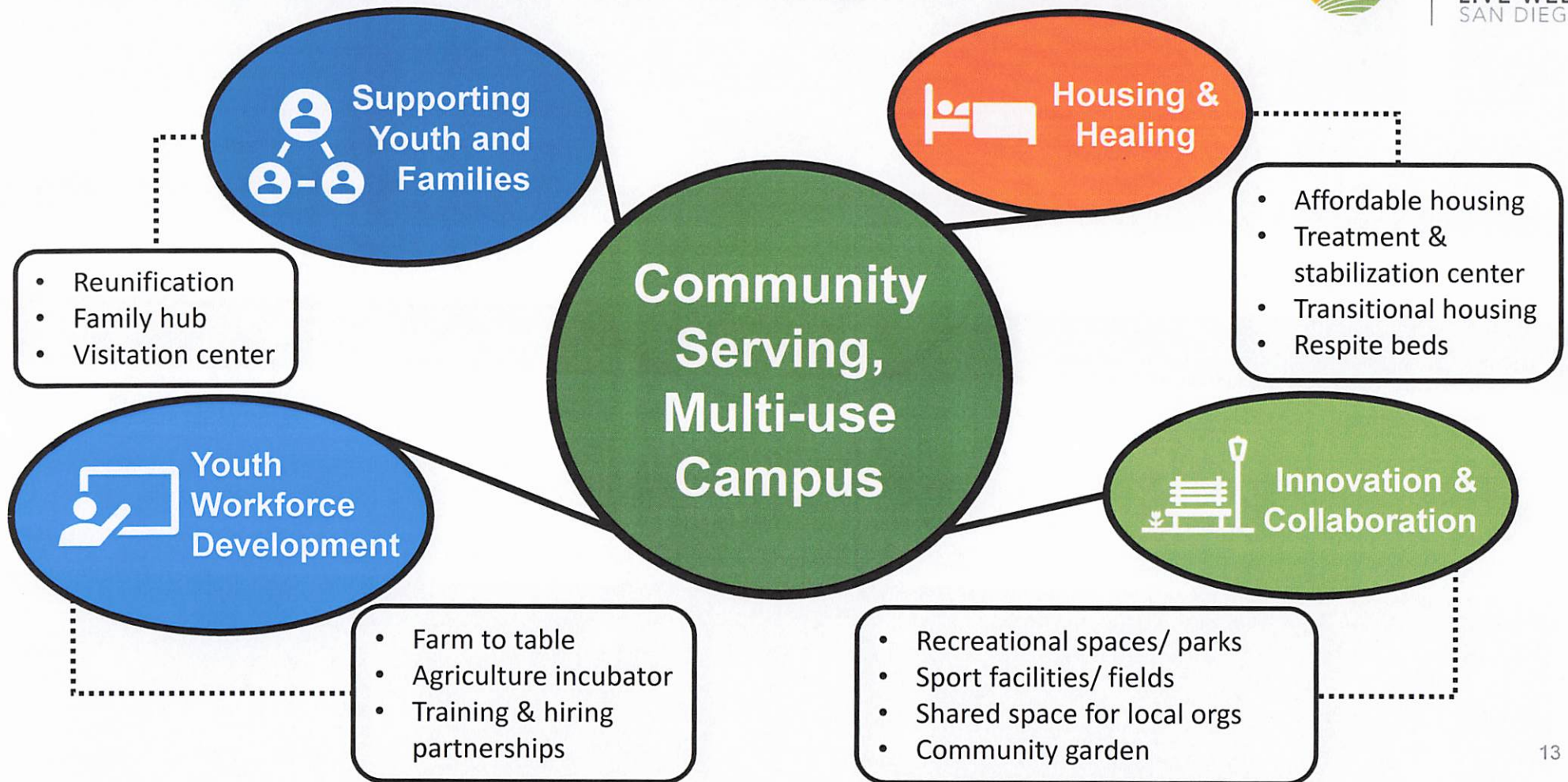
- ☐ Resources Family Homes
- ☐ Group setting
- ☐ Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP)
- ☐ Transitional Housing



Theme 1: Expansion Consensus



Theme 2: Community Use for Regional Benefit



Factors Driving Change



Legislative mandates



Declining number of youth in foster care

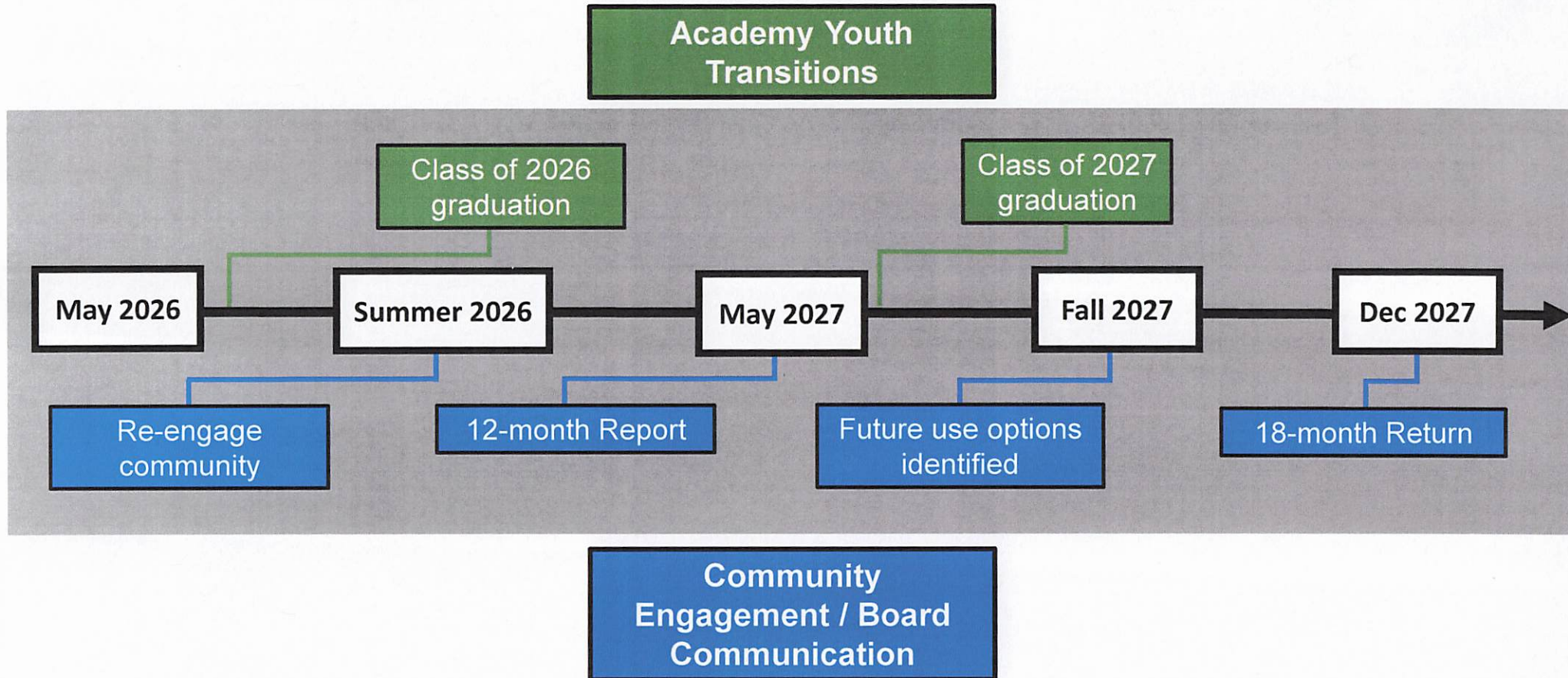


Funding alignment



Community consensus

Proposed Timeline



Recommendation(s)



Direct the Chief Administrative Officer, or designee:

1. To initiate a transition of the San Pasqual Academy (Academy) through a planned and phased wind-down; and develop thoughtful, trauma-informed, individualized transition plans with each youth at the Academy.
2. To continue a broad, collaborative and inclusive community engagement process to identify feasible and sustainable options for the future of the Academy campus that reflect community need and input and maximize benefit to all residents to inform campus reuse decision.
3. To report back to the Board within 12 months with a status update on the overall transition of the Academy and viable and sustainable use scenarios for the Academy campus, to inform the development of actionable options for future Board consideration and action; and return to the Board within 18 months with recommendations for consideration.



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May 20, 2026

Current Academy Programs



ROP	CFWB	SDCC	SDCOE	Workforce/ Access	Friends of SPA
• Campus operations & daily supports • STRTP homes, recreation, enrichment • Intergenerational Program, Alumni supports • Dragon Organics, animal-assisted programs	• On-site case management • Independent Living Skills (ILS) • Connection to community supports	• Outpatient mental health services • Individual & group therapy • Psychiatry and clinical support	• On-site high school (grades 9–12) • Academic support and credit recovery • School stability during placement	• Workforce readiness, training, counseling • Job opportunities on and off campus • Dragon Lounge student-run café	• Philanthropic and community support