

Administrator Turnover Rate Raises Concerns

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Administrator turnover rate in education is defined as the rate of which administrators in a school leave their jobs. A recent study by the National Education Policy Center (NEPC) shows that high principal turnover rate often leads to greater teacher turnover, which in turn can have a negative impact on student achievement.

“Constant change does make me feel unsafe and lack a sense of belonging,” sophomore Miriam Diallo said.

High turnover rate has been attributed to conflicts with school boards about implementing reforms, lack of support from board members and an increase of retirement by baby boomers.

“The saddest part is that some administrators left even before we got to know them well. Every new administrator [has] different mindsets with different goals as they come to the school. For [everyone], the negative sides of high administrator turnover outweigh the benefits of getting new ideas introduced,” math teacher Aya Kamimura said.

Nationwide research conducted by School Leaders Network focuses specifically on principal turnover rate and shows that 25,000

principals in the nation leave their school each year and 50 percent of new principals in California quit before or in their third year in the role. In other words, half of the high school principals in California will not see their first freshman class graduate.

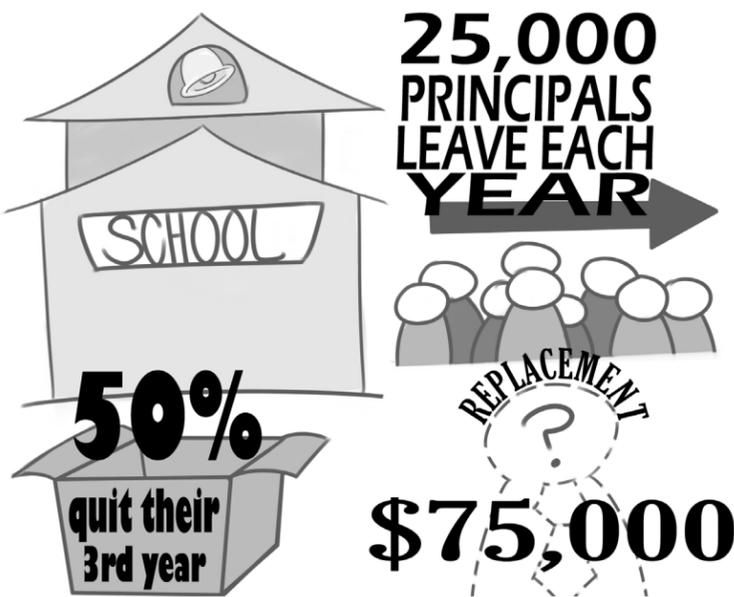
“[Turnover] happens for many reasons [...] I just go where I can best serve kids,” Principal Duane Russell said.

door for the administrators and it is really hard to build continuity between teachers and superintendents. We need more stability in administration,” social science teacher Chris Cosby said.

According to NEPC, the high-poverty low-performing schools that most need experienced superintendents make up the majority of schools that are greatly affected by administrator turnover, as the schools hire replacements on an average of every three years. According to 2013-14 statistics collected by AHS’ Guidance Office, AHS was designated as a high-poverty school, as over 70 percent of AHS students received either reduced or free lunch. Administrators who voluntarily left AHS in the past two years have mostly been getting promotions and accepting higher positions in district office instead of leaving the education field.

“I think it is a good sign that students and teachers want their administrators to remain at their sites,” Superintendent Laura Tellez-Gagliano said. “We do think through every administrative move in executive cabinet and try to make decisions based on the welfare of the district as a whole.”

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN



As stated by Deseret News, the transitional cost of replacing a principal is approximately \$75,000 each time. At the same time, the loss of experienced leaders raises more concern than economic matters.

“I feel like AHS has been like a revolving

State Senate Proposes Phasing Out Middle Class Scholarships

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In recent times, the tuition for Universities of California (UCs) has increased. However, according to the Los Angeles Times, tuition for in-state students, around \$12,200, will be raised in the next few years as much as 5 percent a year. In the last 10 years UC tuition rates have increased 190 percent and Cal States 145 percent, according to the official Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) website.

State Senate leader Kevin de Leon’s solution to this problem is to phase out MCS. The first year scholarship program provides money for students whose family income is between \$150,000 and \$800,000, which is too high to receive need-based financial aid. If this scholarship is cancelled, each UC and Cal States will receive an extra \$75 million to be directed to creating more courses and expanding enrollment, according to the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

“Since this year I am a junior and I do plan on applying to Cal States and UCs, I think cancelling middle-class scholarships would benefit me, especially since tuition is becoming more and more expensive,” junior Ivan Ly said.

According to San Jose Mercury News, cancelling MCS may be difficult since half of UC students have all their tuition paid by federal grants and scholarships.

Moore Spotlight: Violin Prodigy Lavinia Chen

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“No pain, no gain,” junior Lavinia Chen said.

After twelve years of studying violin and eventually getting leadership positions in the organizations she is in, Chen understands the meaning of the saying more than anyone else.

Chen is currently the concertmaster and president of the Tri-City Orchestra for AUSD. She was previously the concertmaster of the Little Angels Symphony Orchestra, an internationally touring orchestra, during their Malaysia tour. Before, she performed with GuangZhou Youth Orchestra after passing an audition process involving over 1,000 applicants.

“There have been so many hardships that I really don’t know how to describe,” Chen said. “I really love my violin because [...] [it] is always here when I am lonely and [in] despair.”

Throughout the years, she has won a Gold Award for her violin solo at the Macau Second Annual Chinese Juvenile Art Festival and the Outstanding Musicianship Award for the Forum Music Festival in San Francisco.

Confirmed by herself, like any violin learner, Chen’s childhood became hectic but colorful because of music. Starting her journey of pursuing her dream of being a professional violinist in GuangZhou, China, Chen’s weekends were filled with rehearsals. Sometimes, she had to sacrifice her dinner time for the practices. Now looking back, the tough memories were extremely meaningful and they are the ones she most cherished.

“When I left China, the saddest thing for me was to leave the orchestra that I had joined for more than eight years,” Chen

said. “After saying goodbye to all my friends and rehearsal rooms in China, I came to the U.S. two years ago. I was so lost since the transportation [was] inconvenient and there were so many obstacles for the whole family to overcome.”

Although she was not able to take violin lessons, Chen did not give up as she practiced and learned as much as she could on her own. Trying her best to balance both academic work and violin practice, life is not easy for Chen. In order to save time for violin practice, she frequently stays up late at night and gets up at 4:00 a.m. to finish her homework.

“Sometimes my tears unconsciously run down my face,” Chen said. “I can only tell myself ‘Be tough! What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger!’”

Once again, “Opportunities are only reserved for those who prepare well.” After an audition, Chen’s stage transformed from the lunch table outside of AHS cafeteria to the stage at Glendale Youth Orchestra (GYO).

“I feel extremely grateful to the GYO’s manager Elinor Lloyd who provides me free rides to every Sunday’s rehearsal and conductor Brad Keimach who gives me this wonderful chance to perform as a soloist,” Chen said. “Also, I really want to thank my parents, Mr. Trulson and my violin teacher John Wang who has given me [constant] encouragement [and support] which help move me closer [toward my dream].”

In November 2015, Chen will perform at the Alex Theatre and she hopes more people will come to examine the quality of the efforts she dedicates to playing the violin.

“Some of my relatives think I am wasting time. I really wish that one day, I can prove [to] them [that] music is not useless, but the best medicine for [the] soul,” Chen said.



A SOLO SPOTLIGHT AHS Tri-City Orchestra President and Concertmaster Lavinia Chen performs with the Glendale Youth Orchestra on Nov. 13 at the Alex Theatre.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAVINIA CHEN

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