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SERVING NORTHERN **Local News** SAN DIEGO COUNTY

VISTA

ADULT SCHOOL, NEIGHBORS INK EXPANSION DEAL

Nearby residents were concerned about possible effects of increased traffic in area

STACY BRANDT • U-T

School officials and nearby residents have reached an agreement over the expansion of adult-education classes at a former elementary school in rural Vista.

The settlement, agreed upon earlier this month, calls for gradually increasing the enrollment

at the former Crestview Elementary campus. The site now houses Vista Unified School District's adult school. Adult Education officials are calling the site their Sunset Campus.

Initially, district officials planned to have as many as 1,000 students at the campus at a time. However, a group of people who live

nearly complained about the effect that number of students could have on traffic and parking in the neighborhood that sits just south of state Route 78.

They sued last year, arguing that the district hadn't properly studied the effects the plans would have on the environment and surrounding neighborhood. The district put the expansion plans on hold shortly after the lawsuit was filed.

According to the agreement, enrollment increases will be tied with road improvements the school district has agreed to finance.

"I think it was the right thing to do for everybody," said Everett Delano, the lawyer representing the homeowners. "It really makes sense."

District officials were unavailable to comment Monday.

Initially, a maximum of 300 students will be there

at any one time. That could increase to as many as 400 by 2015.

If the district decides to increase enrollment after 2017, it would have to pay for traffic, parking and environmental studies first, the agreement states.

The deal calls for a committee of district officials and residents that will advise the school board before any future increase in enrollment at the site.

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SCHOOL • 200 now attend classes at school site

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The district also agreed to pay \$30,000 in legal fees.

Trustees voted in 2010 to close the 9-acre elementary school as part of a series of moves meant to save money and better use district property. It had been an elementary school for more

than 50 years, serving as many as 700 students at times.

About 200 students attend medical training classes there now. Educators with the adult school plan to add high school diploma classes.

Some of those classes

now are taking place at the campus that once housed Olive Elementary School. The adult school uses several campuses throughout the district for its programs.

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