



San Diego Unified School District

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Government Relations

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENT June 2007

The Board of Education approves this Legislative Policy Statement as a guide to the San Diego Unified School District's (SDUSD) efforts to achieve the five goals listed below:

1. Accelerate Gains in Student Performance
2. Provide Safe, Orderly and Well-Maintained Schools
3. Strengthen Parent, Community, Business and Higher Education Support
4. Boost Employee Morale
5. Secure Adequate Funding for Our Schools

The Legislative Policy Statement identifies specific issues that will be the focus of legislative attention, SDUSD initiatives and SDUSD Board of Education actions. It will be the responsibility of the Office of Government Relations to coordinate SDUSD's efforts to work with elected officials and their staffs and federal, state and local organizations in legislative and regulatory efforts to achieve the five goals and address the specific issues highlighted below:

Goal 1: Accelerate Gains in Student Achievement

- Increase the availability of high quality pre-school programs
- Provide early intervention programs for students at risk of academic failure or referred for special education services
- Offer high quality intervention programs for students at risk of not passing the CAHSEE or their high school graduation requirements
- Augment the SDUSD's efforts to improve and expand before and after school programs
- Prepare students for entrance into college and success in higher education
- Increase access to college education for high school graduates
- Provide schools with the resources and assistance they need to close the achievement gap
- Improve the quality of academic instruction and curriculum and address the needs of diverse student populations
- Enhance the SDUSD's ability to provide a high quality education to children of military families
- Expand and improve career technology programs and remove barriers to their implementation
- Support partnerships with local government, community and business organizations to expand and enhance innovative programs in areas such as career and technical education
- Improve the quality of professional development programs and ensure that these programs reflect school district and school needs
- Increase the number of highly qualified teachers
- Enhance the SDUSD's ability to develop high quality student and school data systems and use the data to improve instruction
- Provide students with increased access to educational technology
- Minimize state and federal mandates that negatively impact the SDUSD's ability to provide students with a school program tailored to their needs
- Enhance the SDUSD's ability to fund, develop and maintain innovative educational programs
- Expand access to programs to improve the health of our students
- Increase the alignment between state and federal accountability models and ensure that student growth is reflected in the calculation of school and district performance
- Enhance district, school and teacher "capacity" to improve student achievement

Goal 2: Provide Safe, Orderly and Well-Maintained Schools

- Safe and Orderly Schools
 - Provide support for programs in gang prevention and conflict resolution
 - Preserve, develop, and augment those programs that are directly related to dropout prevention, intervention, and recovery
 - Provide increased access to counseling and mental health services for children
 - Provide funding for training for teachers, administrators and support staff that will improve their ability to address the behavioral needs of students
 - Support the ability of school police officers to address the safety and security needs of schools
- Well-Maintained Schools
 - Increase state and federal funding for deferred maintenance, new construction and modernization
 - Streamline the process for the provision of funding for deferred maintenance, new construction and modernization
 - Provide state and federal funding for the accessibility needs of people with disabilities
 - Facilitate the construction of joint use of school facilities that meet district needs
 - Streamline the process of school site selection, construction, and repair
 - Promote energy efficiency
 - Provide access to state facilities funds and school construction bonds
 - Provide sufficient reimbursement for activities that the SDUSD performs on the behalf of charter schools

Goal 3: Strengthen Parent, Community and Higher Education Support

- Facilitate increased parent and community involvement in SDUSD schools
- Increase opportunities for the SDUSD to collaborate with public and private agencies, institutions of higher learning and the community to partner with SDUSD and our schools to develop and implement innovative programs
- Increase opportunities to construct and fund joint use facilities
- Facilitate the educational needs of students and families with special circumstances including but not limited to refugees and families of students with disabilities.
- Promote efforts to improve services to military families

Goal 4: Improve Employee Morale

- Improve the SDUSD's ability to recruit and retain high quality teachers, including but not limited to shortage areas such as math, science and special education and other critical staff
- Provide incentives for teachers to work in low performing schools
- Expand access to and funding for tuition reimbursement programs for teachers and paraprofessionals
- Recruit and retain highly qualified staff
- Improve the quality of teacher and principal training programs

Goal 5: Secure Adequate Funding for Our Schools

- Address the financial impact of declining enrollment on SDUSD's budget
- Increase the availability of unrestricted funding that can be used to target assistance to schools with large concentrations of students eligible for free and reduced lunch or second language learners
- Encourage and facilitate partnerships between governmental, community and business organizations seeking to support district programs through financial and other contributions
- Increase funding for federal Impact Aid and advocate for fairness in funding formulas
- Fully fund mandated federal and state programs and entitlements
- Limit the expansion of mandated programs and entitlements
- Provide funding for resources that expand the ability of the SDUSD to promote student achievement

- Increase resources available to provide students with healthy, high quality school meals
- Increase resources to provide high quality curriculum aligned with state standards and improve pedagogy
- Improve SDUSD's ability to receive funding from the California school facilities program
- Increase resources for special education programs and for efforts to decrease expanding special education costs
- Expand unrestricted funding and limit the expansion of restricted program funding
- Increase school districts' flexibility to use existing restricted funding
- Limit statutory and regulatory changes with a significant financial impact on SDUSD
- Provide standard cost-of-living adjustments for all programs such as special education that reflect true increases in the costs of these program areas
- Provide additional funding to enhance and expand innovative programs
- Expand existing waiver authority in the education code