

HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN INITIATIVE

“Change does not necessarily assure progress, but progress implacably requires change. Education is essential to change, for education creates both new wants and the ability to satisfy them.”

- Henry Steele Commager



San Diego City Schools is implementing new and exciting changes at its high schools beginning in Fall 2004, changes that focus on helping students achieve higher levels of academic and personal success. With national studies showing that students perform better in smaller, more personalized learning environments, the district has embarked on a high school “renaissance” and is redesigning several large high schools to better meet the needs of students throughout the district. Called the High School Redesign Initiative, there are several key goals in this endeavor:

- Improve academic achievement and student engagement in the learning process

- Increase the number of college-ready high school graduates
- Improve students’ post-secondary options, including college or technical training and future careers

At the forefront of this redesign will be three of the district’s largest comprehensive high schools, Crawford, Kearny and San Diego, which have now closed their doors and will open in September as three new Educational Complexes. Each complex will be divided into multiple small schools with approximately 400-500 students per small school. Under the redesign, students will benefit from smaller, more personalized learning communities while receiving quality academic instruction and a rigorous college preparatory curriculum.

Each small school will offer a career theme that allows students to explore their interests and make real world connections while still being able to participate in sports, clubs, prom, graduation and other activities with students from other small schools at the complex. The 14 new small schools will serve as a model for the development of other small schools, which are due to be phased in at district high schools over the next two years.

For more information on the High School Redesign Initiative, contact the Office of Secondary School Innovation at (858) 496-1843 or smallhighschools@sandi.net.

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CRAWFORD HIGH EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX

CHAMPS (School of Community Health and Medical Practices) High School

Students interested in health and medical science develop leadership skills as they learn to make a difference through helping people.

IDEA (Invention and Design Educational Academy) High School

IDEA students explore the way inventions and technology have affected their lives and shaped their community, country and world.

School of Law and Business

Students with an interest in law enforcement, the legal system or the business world explore real world opportunities through field trips, job shadows, internships and college tours.

School of Multimedia and Visual Arts

Using multimedia and the visual arts, students explore and express their creativity by creating videos, web design and graphic arts.

KEARNY HIGH EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX

School of Science, Connections and Technology

Real world experiences are combined with scientific learning so students are prepared for post-secondary education and/or skilled employment in a science-based economy.

The Stanley E. Foster Construction Tech Academy

Students interested in building and designing explore careers in construction, architecture and engineering.

School of International Business

Designed to produce culturally aware and insightful leaders, students are offered the opportunity to develop fluency in language while studying courses such as finance, marketing and international diplomacy.

School of Digital Media and Design

Students master high-level communication, technological and critical-thinking skills through multimedia projects and study of courses such as fashion, animation and film production.

SAN DIEGO HIGH EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX

LEADS High School

Students Lead, Explore, Achieve, Discover and Serve as they learn through school and community projects and develop real world connections through internships and career explorations.

School of International Studies

Internationalism is explored with students having the chance to visit, host and develop friendships with students from Russia, Argentina and Austria. In addition to a global focus, the school also offers the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

School of Business

Students prepare for careers in business as they explore topics such as finance, travel and tourism while also engaging in internships and gaining the opportunity to take supplemental business courses at area community colleges.

School of Science and Technology

Students explore the many uses of science, technology and computer technology through classroom instruction, job shadows and internships.

School of Media, Visual and Performing Arts

Artistic development is balanced with academic preparation through study of the arts including vocal and instrumental music, dance, illustration, television production and theatre studies.

School of Communication Investigations in a Multicultural Atmosphere (CIMA)

Students enhance language skills while learning about multiculturalism and career options in the communications field.