



## Naming New Schools

As part of Proposition MM, San Diego City Schools is constructing 12 new and three rebuilt schools to alleviate overcrowding in the city's most densely populated and rapidly developing areas. Proposition MM is a \$1.51 billion bond measure passed by 78 percent of San Diego voters in 1998.

The school district engages the community to name these new schools. This fact sheet provides the appropriate guidelines for naming.

### Process for naming new schools:

- 1) The Community Relations Department solicits name suggestions by sending letters to community groups and placing articles in community newspapers and school newsletters. Anyone is allowed to submit a name suggestion.
- 2) When submitting a name suggestion, nominators are asked to submit rationale for a location name or a biography of the individual being honored and a letter of permission from the individual or family.
- 3) All name suggestions will be reviewed and voted upon by the School Names Committee, a 12-member group comprised of community members, principals, students and district representatives.
- 4) All name suggestions, once approved by the School Names Committee, will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for review and to the Board of Education for approval.

### Naming guidelines:

Full information regarding the naming of new schools is outlined in Procedure 3300 ([www.sandi.net/policy/pdf/pp3300.pdf](http://www.sandi.net/policy/pdf/pp3300.pdf)). Here are a few highlights:

- New schools may be named after a **location or a person**.
- When naming a new school after a person:
  - Preference is given to individuals who are deceased.
  - Preference is given to individuals who have made a significant contribution to *education* in the community, state or nation.
  - Names of district employees are eligible posthumously, or three years after their retirement from the district.
- Names should have broad multicultural relevance.
- Schools cannot be named for corporations or corporate donors.

## Summary

New schools already named:

- ❖ **Florence Griffith Joyner Elementary:** Olympic track star who advocated for urban youth.
- ❖ **Golden Hill Elementary:** Named by two Brooklyn Elementary third-graders in honor of surrounding neighborhood.
- ❖ **Laura Rodriguez Elementary:** Tireless Logan Heights activist who founded Chicano Park and Logan Heights Family Health Center.
- ❖ **Herbert Ibarra Elementary:** First Latino principal in San Diego City Schools.
- ❖ **Cherokee Point Elementary:** Named for neighborhood area, in which streets create shape of an arrowhead.
- ❖ **Walter Porter Elementary:** Community leader who served as president of NAACP San Diego, started Martin Luther King Parade, and was founding Dean of Student Services at the Education Cultural Complex in Southeast San Diego.
- ❖ **Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary:** Well-known philanthropist who established numerous health, educational and cultural institutions throughout California.
- ❖ **Thurgood Marshall Middle:** Well-known figure in civil rights history and the first African-American Supreme Court Justice.
- ❖ **Mary Lanyon Fay Elementary:** Civic leader who served as Board member from 1937-1955, organized League of Women Voters, and advocated for the hiring of African-American teachers.
- ❖ **Normal Heights Elementary:** Named for neighborhood area, in which San Diego State University was first established as a "normal" (teacher's) college.
- ❖ **Jonas Salk Elementary:** one of the most influential medical scientists of the century who is known for the development of the polio vaccine.

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Serving nearly 136,000 students, San Diego City Schools is the second largest school district in California, with 202 educational facilities and more than 14,500 full-time equivalent positions (representing more than 15,800 employees). SDCS is improving student achievement by focusing on challenging instruction in reading, writing and mathematics in pre-kindergarten through Grade 12. The district is committed to supporting schools and enhancing the classroom learning environment through modernized facilities and resources and through parent, teacher and community involvement in the educational process.

The mission of San Diego City Schools is to improve student achievement by supporting teaching and learning in the classroom.