



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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### **SMMUSD Wants to Hear Input on Future Learning Spaces**

As part of its process to plan the future of school learning environments, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is holding a series of public meetings to discuss the set of standards and requirements being developed to update district campuses, buildings and classrooms. The district is seeking input from parents, students, staff and community members.

The plans in development are known as educational specifications. What are ed specs? Simply put, they are planning documents that specify physical requirements of learning environments aligned with the goal that all students graduate ready for college and careers from schools that are safe, socially responsive and academically rigorous.

The meetings will take place at:

**McKinley Elementary Auditorium**

Jan. 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
2401 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Santa Monica, 90404

**JAMS Library**

Jan. 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
2425 16<sup>th</sup> St.  
Santa Monica, 90405

**Webster Elementary MPR**

Jan. 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
3602 Winter Canyon Road  
Malibu, 90265

The California Department of Education states that generally, a district's educational specifications should address:

- Ideal enrollment and class size for each grade level, including how much physical space each class needs.
- The specific needs of content of the curriculum and the preferred / envisioned teaching methodology (lecture-style instruction versus demonstration lessons versus role playing).
- The specific functions of multi-use spaces (art room / music room).
- Community needs that must be considered (shared community use of meeting spaces, playing fields, etc).

After gathering public feedback, the plan will be submitted to the Board of Education for approval. SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati said he is looking forward to this part of the process.

"We often talk about aligning our teachers' efforts with our instructional and social justice goals," Dr. Drati said. "It is just as vital to make sure our schools can physically support these goals."

GKK/Cannon Architects will lead the meetings, with support from educational services and facility improvement projects staff. The meeting will start with a presentation of the draft plan, followed by a Q & A and comment period.

**Written by:** *Chris Clonts, Communication Specialist*