

Spring Report



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Update on Voter-Approved Local Funding Supporting Santa Monica Schools



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Update on Local Education Funding



Letter from Superintendent

Dear Parents and Neighbors,



It is an honor and pleasure to serve as the Superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD). As we come close to the end of an eventful school year, I am proud to report our schools and communities are as strong as ever, thanks to the support of our teachers, staff, parents and students.

I want to extend a big thank you for your overwhelming support of Measure SMS in Santa Monica to improve our schools. Measure SMS was approved by 72% — a testament to your unwavering dedication to supporting our students and ensuring graduates continue to achieve some of the state's highest honors and go on to attend top colleges.

The passage of local school bonds, including Measure SMS, provides our Santa Monica schools with necessary local school facility funding, allowing us to make essential repairs and upgrades to all our schools. The new construction and modernizations will support 21st-century learning, ensure student safety and encourage campus-wide sustainability practices.

Measure SMS specifically provides funding for significantly updated classrooms, labs and modern facilities to support hands-on science, math, engineering, technology at Santa Monica High. And, in partnership with Santa Monica College, local voter-approved bond funds will support the long-awaited completion of John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center to support JAMS music and arts programs.

This brochure provides updates on significant progress we are making at our schools, as well as plans for the future. Local bond expenditures will be guided by community feedback, including yours, as we continue to improve our schools.

Please visit www.smmusd.org/superintendent to get in touch.

Dr. Ben Drati

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent

Voter-Approved Bond Funds Are Modernizing Santa Monica Schools for 21st-Century Learning

Santa Monica school improvement plans and projects are well underway to ensure high-quality learning environments for all students.

Construction has begun at Santa Monica High to bring 38 new classrooms, including computer and science labs, to the north end of campus. And, completion of the new John Adams Middle School (JAMS) Performing Arts Center in partnership with Santa Monica College will be an exciting addition for the entire community, replacing JAMS' old earthquake-damaged auditorium which has been out of use since 2014. The new space will support choir, orchestra, band and dance programs, integral to the well-rounded education SMMUSD is committed to providing our students.

Local bond-funded projects currently underway include:

- Create updated classrooms, labs and modern facilities to support hands-on science, math, engineering and technology at Santa Monica High School
- Complete John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center to support music and arts programs
- Install solar and alternative energy/sustainability projects to save energy costs
- Upgrade fire alarms and security systems

Additional likely projects currently under assessment:

- Modernize science labs at John Adams Middle School
- Upgrade and improve Lincoln Middle School auditorium
- Construct new multipurpose room and kitchen at Will Rogers Learning Community
- Replace portable classrooms at elementary schools



April 2, 2019: Samohi breaks ground on "Discovery Building," housing new classrooms, computer and science labs.



School Safety and Security as a Top Priority

Our District is working to ensure students attend safe, secure learning environments each day. In the next year, we are working to:

- Improve student safety and campus security systems
- Add security cameras to the perimeters of school campuses
- Require visitors to check in and run their ID through an identity check



For more information or any questions, please visit www.smmusd.org/superintendent

SMMUSD Students Stand Out

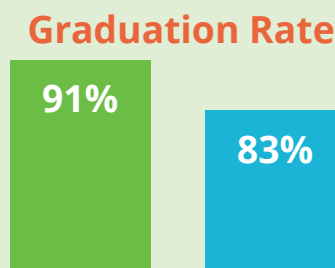
Student Achievement Shines at the National Ocean Sciences Bowl

Santa Monica High School took home the first place at the 2019 National Ocean Sciences Bowl regional competition, held in February 2019 in Pasadena, CA. Topics in the competition, including chemistry, geology and physics of the oceans, to navigation, geography and related history and literature.

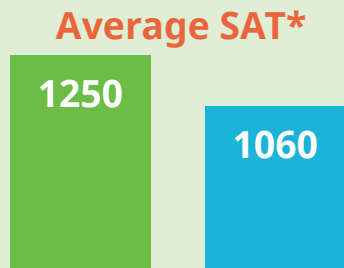
The first-place regional victory took the Santa Monica High School team to the National Ocean Science Bowl final, where they placed second, finishing in front of more than 365 teams nationwide!

Santa Monica and Malibu high schools rank in the top 5% of schools in the state and nation, according to U.S. News & World Report 2019 Best High Schools. Our graduation rates and test scores continue to outperform averages in the county, state and nationwide.

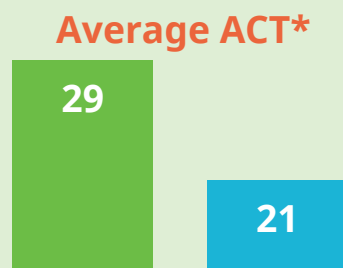
Graduation Rate



Average SAT*



Average ACT*



* SAT – Scholastic Aptitude Test; ACT – American College Testing