

# Fall 2025 UPDATE



A Santa Monica Schools Update from Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District



Santa Monica-Malibu  
Unified School District  
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## SMMUSD Goals for All Students

### Goal 1: College and Career Readiness

All students will be college and career ready through socially just pathways rooted in curiosity, belonging, and empowerment.

### Goal 2: Multilingual Learners

Multilingual learners will become proficient in English while engaging in a rigorous, culturally and linguistically responsive, standards-aligned core curriculum.

### Goal 3: Connection and Belonging

All students and families will feel connected and informed while engaging in safe, well-maintained, and culturally responsive schools that support future-ready learning.



### Join Our Neighborhood News Mailing List

Never miss an update from your SMMUSD neighborhood school. To learn more about projects and events at your neighborhood school, visit: [smmUSD.org/Page/6878](https://smmUSD.org/Page/6878) or scan the QR code.



## Community Engagement

We are fortunate to have an engaged and supportive parent network at every school, along with our Santa Monica-Malibu Council of Parent-Teacher Associations. Visit your school's website or [smmpta.org](https://smmpta.org) to learn more.

All parents, guardians, staff, and community members are also welcome to join our PTAs and support our schools.



Dear Parents and Neighbors,

We're excited about this new school year, with teachers and staff committed to providing all students with a truly great learning experience, supported by dedicated educators and an engaged community.

**Whole-Student Focus:** Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's commitment goes beyond academics—we are focused on helping the whole student and continually seeking new ways to engage every learner.

**Students are the experts of their experience:** By listening to our students and placing their voices at the center, we are advancing student-driven learning that prepares them to become future-ready leaders.

**Early Learners:** Our commitment to excellence begins with our youngest learners in Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten (TK). Recent classroom construction projects have created transformative spaces designed to spark creativity and curiosity from day one.

**Middle School Innovation:** For middle school students, we are exploring innovative approaches that align with their interests, building bridges to deeper engagement.

**High School Career Pathways:** At Santa Monica High School, specialized programs provide hands-on experiences in engineering, health sciences, and the arts—helping students explore career paths while developing skills that matter in today's world. These efforts contribute to SMMUSD's high school graduation rates and student admissions into top colleges.



National Poll Ranks SMMUSD Among California's Best Districts

**Safe, Modern Learning Environments:** Thank you to our community support for passage of Measure QS on the November 2024 ballot. Measure QS is already making a difference for Santa Monica students, as detailed in this brochure. Over the summer, we advanced critical classroom and campus improvement projects, building safe, modern learning environments that reflect SMMUSD's commitment to the needs of today's students.

**Equity, Diversity & Inclusion:** At the heart of all this work is our dedication to providing every student with the opportunity to thrive, and we are committed to ensuring our programs and classrooms reflect and celebrate the diversity of our community.

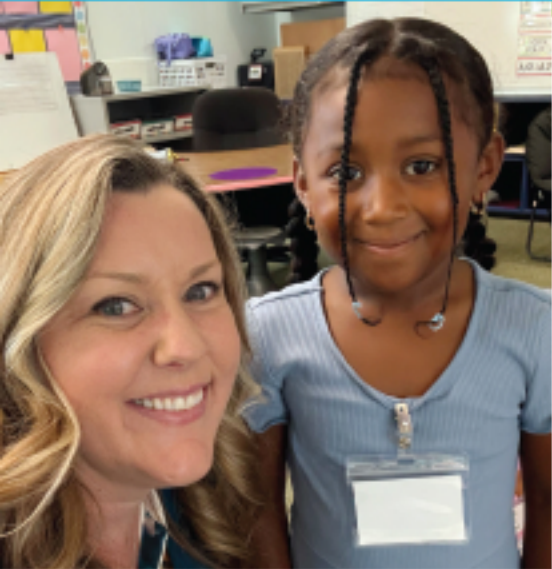
SMMUSD is shaping the future of public education through meaningful learning, modern spaces, and a laser focus on providing high quality instruction for all students. Together, we are preparing students not only for academic success, but also for lives of purpose, resilience, and achievement.

Warmly,

Antonio Shelton, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District



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Passage of Measure QS

Across the District, promised school improvement projects are underway, made possible by voter approval of Measure QS:

- Improving school safety and security systems
- Updating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) facilities
- Modernizing and replacing outdated learning centers at elementary and middle schools
- Building new TK classrooms and improving learning spaces at elementary schools



Improvements Underway Across Santa Monica Schools

Projects Underway:

- Roosevelt Elementary: New early childhood building and library
- Grant Elementary School: Updated library and a new classroom building
- John Adams Middle School: New STEM building
- Lincoln Middle School: Modernization of classroom building—originally built more than 70 years ago—to house new 8th grade STEM classrooms and labs

Projects Breaking Ground Next Year:

- Franklin Elementary School: New early learning building and playfield
- Michelle & Barack Obama Center for Inquiry & Exploration: Preschool modernization and special education program
- Santa Monica High: Student Services/Student Center Building, including new Black Box Theater

View the full list of SMMUSD school improvement projects at: [ca50000164.schoolwires.net/fip](https://ca50000164.schoolwires.net/fip)



Celebrating 18 Years of College Readiness

On July 31, 2025, 60 SMMUSD Young Collegians completed Santa Monica College summer courses. Now in its 18th year, this partnership offers a head start for many students who would be first in their families to attend college by earning up to 14 credits that also count toward high school graduation.