

Curriculum and Instruction



SMUHSD School Counseling Team

New Courses of Studies - Educators developed and the Board of Trustees approved the following new courses of study to provide additional rigorous opportunities for our students:

- ML Environmental Science
- Intro to Business
- Entrepreneurship
- Broadcast Journalism
- College & Academic Success
- Physical Education 3
- Coming in 2026-27
 - Sports Medicine
 - Health Care Careers
 - Career Exploration and Life Planning

Career Expo - More than 200 SMUHSD students and their family members attended the 5th Annual Districtwide Career Expo on February 26, at Hillsdale High School. Students learned about high-paying careers, networked with industry professionals, participated in hands-on activities and learned about various opportunities from the 35+ representatives from Bay Area companies, apprenticeships and training programs. The main goal of the Career Expo is to educate and expose students to opportunities for high-paying careers that don't necessarily require a four-year degree.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) Update - SMUHSD continues to advance its strategic goal of preparing students and educators for a rapidly changing world shaped by emerging technologies. AI represents both a significant opportunity and a critical area for thoughtful, equity-driven professional learning. On November 20, our Board approved job descriptions for an AI Capstone Teacher, an AI Fellowship #2 as well as AI Fellowship Lead Instructor and Assistant Instructor, with the ultimate goal to support the District's work in using artificial intelligence ethically and to advance student learning. Additionally, the District formed an AI Taskforce, a collaborative group of students, families, educators, and community members working together to guide how artificial intelligence is used in our schools. The group gathered input, studied research, and developed recommendations to share with the School Board, helping shape clear guidance and a thoughtful path forward for AI in our classrooms.

Professional Development (PD) - Over the course of the year, certificated educators participated in four days of professional learning in August, October and culminating in January with two days. The shared District Instructional Framework, grounded in Humanizing Pedagogy, continued to guide the work for professional learning to support strong teaching and meaningful learning for students.

Summer Leadership Professional Learning - Site leadership teams analyzed refined equity goals and collaboratively planned for the 2026-2027 school year. Leaders engaged in learning sessions focused on integrating District priorities into the instructional framework, modernizing syllabi through an equity lens, and navigating developing guidance on cell phone policies and AI in education. The two-day session, held in early June, concluded with planning time designed to ensure site leadership teams left with concrete, aligned communication strategies for staff openings this August.

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Trades Day at USS Hornet, Alameda

The Personal Finance Work Group is a cross-site team of educators charged with designing and implementing a new one-semester personal finance graduation requirement in alignment with AB 2927. The group has worked collaboratively to develop a student-centered course that builds essential financial literacy while considering how key economics concepts can be meaningfully integrated. The group addressed critical implementation logistics, including the timeline for piloting the course in 2027-28 and full graduation requirement rollout in 2030-31, how the course will coexist with or potentially replace the economics requirement, and options for scheduling across sites. The team has explored models such as pairing the course with existing electives, offering hybrid or shared sections across schools, and ensuring access even with varying enrollment levels.

Career Technical Education (CTE)

- **Update** - On March 10, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, Dr. Brian Simmons, and Kris Shouse from the San Mateo County Office of Education, presented an update to the SMUHSD Board regarding the District's CTE Program. This was the fourth update in a series of discussions which shared how the District's approach to CTE pathways, dual enrollment, and the College and Career Indicator (CCI) intersect and reviewed implications of potential CTE and elective-related graduation requirement changes, while grounding the discussion in student participation data and program realities.
- **Field Trips** - On November 13, more than 135 students, enrolled in various CTE classes at Aragon, Burlingame, Capuchino, Hillsdale, Mills and San Mateo High Schools, attended the Construction Industry Education Foundation's Trades Day event in Alameda. Students engaged with professionals across the trades and construction management fields. Other opportunities included field trips to Gilead Sciences, Autodesk and the Sheet Metal Workers' Local 104 Training Facility.

San Mateo Adult & Career Education (SMACE) proudly served over 3,500 adult learners.

SMACE's Annual English as a Second Language (ESL) Graduation

Ceremony was held April 22, and honored 20 advanced-level ESL students who successfully completed all levels of ESL coursework. These students demonstrated exceptional dedication and academic preparedness, passing rigorous assessments in grammar, listening, reading and writing.



Summer School - More than 1,900 students attended one of four summer school offerings throughout the District. Multilingual Learner Summer School took place at Peninsula High School. Two sessions of the Credit Repair/Acceleration Program took place at San Mateo High School (SMHS). The Extended School Year program, open to students identified by their Individualized Education Program Team, was also at San Mateo High School. A non-graduating class of 2026 program was also offered with an in-person (at SMHS) or remote option. 106 teachers and 77 classified staff members were on hand to support the students.