

Superintendent Rick Schmitt's Monthly Update

February 2015

Superintendent Schmitt plans to update the greater San Dieguito Union High School District community through our local media with a monthly update. Topics covered will include curriculum, facilities, budget, enrollment, safety, and other specific and special interest topics. Today's update focuses on middle and high school enrollment.

2015-16 High School Enrollment

SDUHSD will employ its current enrollment practices for the 2015-16 school year with the High School Selection process beginning on February 2, 2015. Each incoming 9th grade student is required to select the school he or she would like to attend in the 2015-16 school year. In order to participate in the SDUHSD High School Selection process, the student must live within the SDUHSD boundaries. The High School Selection window closes at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2015. Current SDUHSD 8th grade students who make no high school selection will be automatically enrolled in their school of residence (LCCHS or TPHS). Students already enrolled in SDUHSD high schools need not make a high school selection for 2015-16 unless they want to change schools. If more students apply for enrollment in a school than capacity can accommodate, we will conduct a random lottery to determine which students are enrolled. While we cannot guarantee that every student will get into his or her first choice school for 2015-16, we are committed to doing our absolute best to enroll as many students as we can in their first choice school and we have a history of success with this effort. For more information on 2015-16 high school enrollment, please [click here](#).

High School Enrollment Study Group

In the summer 2014, the SDUHSD Board of Trustees asked staff to establish a group of parents, students and staff members to explore various options for enrolling students in our high schools. The group was established due to concerns expressed by community members about the lottery enrollment process at two high schools and due to the need to examine long-term high school enrollment projections and demographic shifts in our community. Participants for the group were solicited in the early fall of 2014 and the group was established as the High School Enrollment Study Group (HSESG). The group is not a decision-making body, but rather an information gathering effort focused on the following tasks:

- Examine the long-term demographic and enrollment projections that could influence HS enrollment in SDUHSD
- Examine current District enrollment practices and relevant state law in order to arrive at a list of potential ways we could enroll students in our high schools
- Analyze each potential option to identify benefits and drawbacks of each option
- Share these options, along with benefits/drawbacks, with the broader community and seek feedback on each
- Report findings to the School Board

The group has met three times to date and will begin seeking input from the broader community this spring. While the exact timeline is unclear, the group expects to report its findings to the School Board late in the spring or summer of 2015. Given this, it is important to realize that should the Board decide to make changes in how we enroll students in our high schools, these changes would take place beginning with the 2016-17 school year, not the 2015-16 school year. For more detailed information about the work of the HSESG, please visit the group's webpage [here](#). Summaries of each of the group's meetings are posted here as well as information about community forums and other community input opportunities.

Middle School Intra-District Transfers

Students who will attend SDUHSD middle schools in the 2015-16 school year have the opportunity to apply to attend a school other than their school of residence. Beginning Monday, February 2, 2015, incoming 7th and 8th grade students can apply for intra-district transfers. The intra-district transfer window will close March 2, 2015. After this deadline, we will grant transfers on a space-available basis. If more students apply for transfer to a school than capacity can accommodate, we will conduct a random lottery to determine which transfers are granted. Historically, each of our middle schools has accommodated all transfer requests with the exception of Carmel Valley MS. There has never been the need to conduct a middle school lottery. Students accepted on an intra-district transfer are responsible for their own transportation. Detailed information on district schools is available via our [district website](#) and further information about intra-district transfers is available [here](#).

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