



COMPACT for SUCCESS Newsletter



A partnership between Sweetwater District and San Diego State University providing a guarantee of admission upon completion of the following benchmarks:

- *Maintain Residency in SUHSD Grades 9-12*
- *Achieve a 3.0 CSU GPA or Greater*
- *Complete College Entrance Requirements (a-g courses)*
- *Take SAT Reasoning or ACT College Admission Exam*
- *Satisfy CSU Placement Exams:*
ELM - Entry Level Math
EPT - English Placement Test

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to 10th grade, where the work toward being college ready begins to be validated. It is our mission to prepare all students for college and the world of work. The younger the students are when we expect this of them the better. Our partnership with San Diego State University remains solid. We have established many activities which inform, motivate and prepare students for college admission and life as adults. In this newsletter we hope you find useful information about the academic resources and related support available at your child's school. You will be the best "coach" your child can have as you become familiar with all the requirements toward graduation and college preparatory coursework.

The partnership enables students to gain admission to San Diego State University upon completion of **all** benchmarks. We encourage parents and students to participate in **Compact** activities to carefully monitor a student's progress along the way. Strive to earn A's and B's in all academic subjects! It is vital that students place themselves at the highest competitive level possible and this starts with a strong grade point average (GPA). Strive to achieve a 3.65 or higher GPA.

Mayra Gutierrez, SUHSD Director

Lou Murillo, SDSU Director

The first measure of Student Progress 10th Grade Field Trip to SDSU

The 10th grade field trip to SDSU provides students with an opportunity to assess their college eligibility. Workshops focus on providing feedback to students with regard to CSU GPA, completion of college entrance requirements (a-g courses) and college life. Students begin tracking their progress toward completion of these requirements by creating personal accounts in CSU Mentor, the website that processes admission for SDSU.

With one year of high school completed, this is a critical review for students. It occurs at a time when students can take intervention steps easily and refocus to achieve greater success.

Students earning a 2.5 GPA during 9th grade will be invited to participate. Each school has the opportunity to take up to 150 students on a first serve basis. Please encourage your student to participate.

High School	Date(s)
Bonita Vista	Oct. 29
Castle Park	Nov. 19
Chula Vista & Sails	Oct. 27
Eastlake	Sept. 8 & 10
Hilltop	Sept. 22
Mar Vista	Nov. 17
Montgomery & COLS	Nov. 10
Olympian	Sept. 24
Otay Ranch	Nov. 3
San Ysidro	Nov. 5
Southwest	Oct. 15
Sweetwater	Dec. 1

PSAT - Early Test Preparation

Wednesday, October 13
10th Graders Take PSAT for Free

Sweetwater District will once again offer the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) free to 10th Grade students on **Wednesday, October 13, 2010**. This test measures the critical reading, math problem and writing skills your student has developed over the course of his education. The PSAT is the best preparation for the SAT. Students can take the test in the 10th and 11th grade—at the 11th grade students can qualify for the National Merit Scholarship programs. Students benefit from taking the test in the 10th grade because they'll get personalized feedback on the academic skills they need to strengthen to prepare for college early during high school. In addition to assessing students' skills, the test provides an opportunity to:

- Prepare students for the SAT Reasoning Test since it uses similar questions and the same directions
- Qualify for scholarships
- Forecast SAT scores early
- Get personalized feedback on skill strengths and weaknesses
- Use My College Quickstart to plan ahead for College and Career
- Use MyRoad's individualized study plan to strengthen students' skills in preparation for SAT

Student Score Reports are received in January. To assist families in understanding student scores and how to access the on-line resources, MyRoad and College Quickstart, a District PSAT Parent Night will be held late on January 26, 2011 (Reminders will be provided as we get close to the date).

CSU GPA - Critical for Admission Purposes

Admission Formula - CSU GPA x 800 + SAT Scores

The formula above is utilized to assess a student's eligibility for SDSU and CSU Campuses. The higher the CSU GPA and SAT scores, the higher the eligibility index and the greater the opportunity for admission especially during this time of limited space at all college systems. The average GPA of San Diego County students admitted to SDSU in 2010 was 3.65. To receive the benefit of the Compact, students must pass the college placement tests ELM and EPT. It is highly recommended that students strive for a GPA of 3.65 or higher. This provides for an added assurance just in case students cannot pass the placement tests.

The CSU GPA reflects a student's performance during grades 10-11, in a-g courses only. A student's schedule will have up to 5 academic (a-g classes); thus 20 grades make up this important GPA. Each course grade counts! Strive for as many A's possible.

College Prep Curriculum "a-g"

College admission is gained through the completion of a set of preparatory courses commonly referred to as the "a-g" curriculum. These courses are offered at all high schools and are available at various levels-- some are given a weighted point in reward of attempting higher rigor (noted by an asterick):

- Regular
- Accelerated
- Honors*
- Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate*

The set of courses must all be completed in order to be eligible to enroll in SDSU and other CSU campuses. UC campuses may require additional requirements noted as recommended.

a-g Courses	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
A		World History	US History	Government
B	English 9	English 10	English 11	English 12
C	Algebra	Geometry	Intermediate Algebra	Recommended
D		Biology	Chemistry/Physics	Recommended
E	Foreign Language	Foreign Language	Recommended	
F	Fine Arts			
G	World Geography			

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Post Secondary Initiatives - Compact for Success

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COMPACT SUCCESS

10TH GRADE CHECK LIST

- ✓ Check your schedule and ensure you are on track with college requirements
- ✓ Make sure you are present to take the PSAT Exam as well as CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam).
- ✓ Turn in your permission slip to participate in the 10th Grade Visit to SDSU.
- ✓ Add to your college/career portfolio any community service, leadership or activities.
- ✓ Focus on your academic work and meet your goals of achieving a strong CSU GPA. Strive for A's and B's!
- ✓ Plan to remediate if you received any C/D/F grade in any a-g class during 10th or 11th grade.