

# COMPACT for SUCCESS



## Newsletter



### Senior College Reviews

Shortly after the start of the year, counselors will be conducting Senior College Reviews for students earning a 3.0 or above. A report of the review will be mailed home. The assessment will include:

- Status of “a-g” courses
- CSU GPA
- SAT/ACT Test Status
- Status of ELM/EPT proficiency; review of California Standards Test Results to see if students received exempt status.
- College profiles and requirements to assist students in selecting which colleges to apply.
- Review of senior schedule to ensure rigor and balance as requested by colleges.

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 12th grade. We are pleased to report that the **Compact for Success** program remains in full force. It is our mission to prepare all students for college and the world of work. Through our partnership with San Diego State University, 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. This includes satisfying the ELM and EPT (College placements exams in English and Math) by the time of admission review--February 2011. Satisfying both tests continues to be the biggest challenge for students; however, this is the ticket for admission for students whose GPA cannot compete with the Competitive Admission policy established by SDSU in November 2009 of 3.65 CSU GPA.

The article below helps you to analyze your students standing and provides support resources to assist your student in passing these critical exams. We highly recommend that students assess their position toward college admission and to consider multiple college options both public and private within California and outside of California.

We encourage parents and students to participate in Compact activities to carefully monitor a student’s progress along the way. This newsletter will guide you through the college admission timeline as well as provide valuable resources available through our district in assisting your child select and be ready for college.

Mayra Gutierrez, Director SUHSD

Lou Murillo, Director, SDSU

### Opportunities to take ELM/EPT

If you have not satisfied the ELM or EPT, there are 3 opportunities to take these exams before your admission application is reviewed. The first will be on August 28th, the second will be on November 13th and third on a special administration for SUHSD students only is December 4, 2010. To register, log onto [www.SDSU.edu](http://www.SDSU.edu), click prospective students, click testing, select testing registration.

To prepare for the exam, review the following websites which contain tutorial support. Check with your site counseling team to see if any preparation workshops are being

### *Compact for Success*

*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*

# Class of 2011 - The College Application Cycle

## August/September

- Register for ACT or SAT - final test date accepted is November 2010.  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for SAT  
[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) for ACT
- Begin Scholarships applications - Resources: School Counseling Center (visit monthly)  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.SDSU.edu](http://www.SDSU.edu) - financial aid section  
[www.sdfoundation.org/scholarships/](http://www.sdfoundation.org/scholarships/)
- Attend District College Fair - Thurs. Sept. 16 (5-8 p.m.) hosted by Eastlake
- Take ACT if needed
- Take ELM/EPT at SDSU if applying to CSU School - sign up [www.sdsu.edu](http://www.sdsu.edu) testing office. - Aug. 28th

## October/November

- Apply for Colleges  
CSU - Oct. 1-Nov. 30th  
UC - Nov. 1-30th  
Private - date varies
- Submit your application correctly - attend your site application workshop to ensure
- Consider EOP
- Take SAT if needed
- Retake ELM/EPT if needed - Nov. 13th
- Attend SD County College Fair - visit [sandiegocalsoap.com](http://sandiegocalsoap.com) for details
- Continue to review for scholarship opportunities and apply.

## December/January

- Retake ELM/EPT if needed - December 4 SUHSD Test Date
- Apply for your electronic signature (PIN) for financial aid purposes at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)
- Attend financial aid workshop sponsored by your school.
- Complete financial aid form (FAFSA) and submit on line - application timeframe: January 1 - March 2.
- Apply to SDSU Honors program - [www.sdsu.edu](http://www.sdsu.edu) - select honors program
- Continue to review scholarship opportunities and apply.

## February/March

- Early Admit letters are sent
- Review Student
- Review your Student Aid Report for accuracy and submit - [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Continue to review scholarship opportunities and apply.

## April/May/June

- Notification of admittance will be completed by April - both CSU and UC systems
- Last date to take EPT/ELM for CSU system is May for placement purposes
- Review admittance/financial aid offers and select college of choice.
- May 1 - Submit your intent to enroll decision to the college of your choice. Deadline is firm.
- Upon graduation, request final transcript to be sent to the college you plan to attend.
- Visit the college you plan to attend.  
Notification of Compact Scholars Program is done in August.



## Financial Aid Nights

Date - 6:30 p.m.	High School
January 13	Mar Vista
January 19	Sweetwater
January 20	Chula Vista
January 25	Bonita/Eastlake@ BVH
January 26	Otay Ranch
January 27	Southwest
February 1	Hilltop
February 2	Olympian
February 3	San Ysidro
February 8	Castle Park
February 9	Montgomery
February 10	Palomar

Almost everyone who attends college needs some form of financial assistance. Paying for college remains the number one worry families have in supporting their student to attend college. The fact is college is not inexpensive, but there are financial aid opportunities for everyone. Don't disqualify yourself by not applying for aid.

These workshops focus on informing you about type of aid available, process to apply and will walk you through the application process.

**Cash for College Saturdays** are one-stop full service financial aid sessions to assist in completing the worksheet and filing on-line. In addition a \$1,000 scholarship is raffled at each event.

**Cash for College Saturdays**  
February 5 - San Ysidro High  
February 12 - Chula Vista High  
February 26 - Montgomery High  
9 a.m. to 12 noon

## District College Fair

### Beginning the College Search

It is important to begin identifying which colleges you are interested in attending. It is also important to identify the selection factors the colleges will use to evaluate you. The goal is to find a match! Position yourself to have multiple opportunities that are solid choices and options. The district College Fair is scheduled for Thursday, September 16. This is a great

## Factors Colleges use to Evaluate Students

Colleges evaluate students differently--some use formulas, others use a "holistic" approach, some may use a hybrid approach, and a few may even hold interviews. You are able to see a college's selection process by login onto their website. Look for the profile of the last class admitted; valuable information as you assess your opportunity to be admitted.

**Formula Colleges (CSU System)**  
GPA  
SAT/ACT Scores

**Holistic Approach (UC & Private Colleges)**  
#a-g Courses  
#AP Courses  
SAT/ACT Scores  
Community Service Hours  
Extra-curricular Activities  
Work Experience  
Written Essay  
Personal Hardships  
School Context  
Class Ranking

### Avoiding a Hold on Your College Application

- Have your transcript with you when completing the application—list courses exactly as they appear on your transcript
- Do not forget the 12th grade classes you are taking - first semester classes are listed as In-Progress classes; and second semester are listed as Planned courses
- Make sure you authorize CSU to obtain your Early Assessment Program results. These are the tests you took in the 11th grade during the CST exams