



SAN MATEO
COUNTY
OFFICE OF
EDUCATION

Anne E. Campbell • County Superintendent of Schools

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: ALLIE JAARSMA

ajaarsma@smcoe.org
650.802.5559

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2016
No. 6

SMCOE Schools Receive WASC Accreditation

REDWOOD CITY, CALIF. – The San Mateo County Office of Education's Court and Community Schools program has received a six-year accreditation from the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ASC WASC), confirming that students in the program's five schools—Hillcrest, Camp Glenwood, Camp Kemp, Canyon Oaks and Gateway Community School—are receiving a high-quality education.

The accreditation process requires that schools complete a self-study over several years to help identify and implement school improvement needs. A WASC-accredited program validates the integrity of the curriculum and instruction, enables a smooth transfer of credits when students move to other schools and makes it possible to qualify coursework for college eligibility, often called "a-g" courses. For the Court and Community Schools program, being WASC accredited means students who enter the program on a four-year college track can retain eligibility and continue to have access to a rigorous academic program.

"This is a true victory for the teachers and principals who work every day on behalf of our county's most at-risk youth," said SMCOE Associate Superintendent Nancy Magee. "Students who achieve in our program will now have a level playing field when it comes to pursuing post-secondary opportunities."

As part of the accreditation process, school staff created and refined a schoolwide action plan, which will be implemented and further refined over the course of the six-year cycle. There will be a mid-cycle visit in 2019 to ensure that schools have made progress on the action plan, and the accreditation will be up for renewal in June 2022. Among the top priorities reflected in the Court and Community Schools' plan are intensive supports for English learners, personalized learning and trauma-informed instruction.

This accreditation cements the fact that San Mateo County's Court and Community Schools program is committed to delivering exceptional educational and support services to our San Mateo County students.

####

The San Mateo County Office of Education is dedicated to serving our county's 23 school districts and helping deliver a top-rate educational experience for our nearly 94,000 students.