

Beyond the Talk:

Taking Action to Educate Every Child Now

A Transformative Plan for Ensuring Quality Schools

BACKGROUND

We know where we stand – our schools are good and they could be much better. For the past seven years, San Francisco has been the highest performing, large urban school district in the state. Yet, the performance of students varies greatly



among different groups. Some students are not doing as well as others and the gap is continuing to grow. This reality is commonly referred to as the “achievement gap.” The SFUSD is committed to preparing students for full participation in our

economic, social and political life and thereby closing the gap. *Beyond the Talk: Taking Action to Educate Every Child Now* is an organized way to set priorities with clear action steps.

The Strategic Plan

has three major goals:

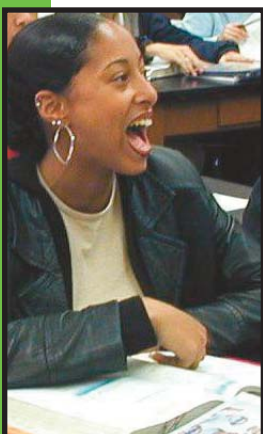
Access & Equity We will ensure that every student has access to quality teaching and learning regardless of background, neighborhood and income level.

Achievement We will ensure that every student graduates from high school ready for college and/or career with the tools necessary to succeed.

Accountability We will keep our promises to students and families.



This strategic plan has been adopted by our school board and will help guide the work of the district staff. Each school will be developing a specific plan for its



school site with input from its school community. These plans are called “balanced scorecards” and will lay out the goals, activities and timeline that each school will follow to reach the district’s major goals – access & equity, achievement and accountability. As school sites begin their planning process, SFUSD leadership is putting three major initiatives in place to serve the entire school district. These include:

■ **The Performance Management Initiative** - This work will help increase the personal and professional capacity of every employee in SFUSD and re-design district structures to better support students, families and staff.

■ **The Equity-Centered Professional Learning Initiative** - This work will focus on creating professional learning communities where teachers will use data and results to improve learning for students.

■ **The 21st Century Learning Initiative** - This work will focus on transforming school curriculum to prepare students for full participation in our economic, social and political life.

A Focus on Learning

As we work together to develop this plan, we are committed to learning. We will learn what works in schools and continue to change and enhance our systems, policies and resources to support those practices which are achieving results. We are committed to ensuring that every child has a rich and rewarding experience. This is an exciting opportunity to create the schools of the 21st century together.



How You Can Get Involved

In the next several months, there will be community meetings at your school site where you can share your ideas and perspectives. Please ask your principal when the meetings will happen as well as other ways to get involved. Your input is encouraged.