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# **News Release**

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**For Release**  
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## **District wins \$1 million federal grant to target U.S. history education**

Sacramento City Unified School District was recently awarded a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to train teachers in instructing American history. The training will take place at the University of California, Davis and will span a five-year period.

“These grants give school districts an ideal opportunity to partner with other organizations that possess content expertise to embark on a journey to enhance American history education and student academic achievement,” U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said in a statement. American history grants went out to school districts in over 38 states nationwide. The total amount of money being provided is roughly \$116 million.

Elementary school teachers from grades four, five and six will receive the bulk of the training during the first three years of the project. They will attend classes on the original thirteen colonies, the legacy of the country’s founding documents and societal changes of the 19th century. Years four and five of the grant will focus on 11th grade teachers. Their training will center around America’s rise to a global power, the Cold War and the civil rights revolution. But, testing of students’ knowledge of history doesn’t begin until 8th grade. “This program will give teachers specific training in the methodology of teaching historical content,” Susan Higgins, director of assessment, research and evaluation, said,

This isn’t the first time the Department of History at UC Davis and SCUSD have teamed up to teach American history. From 2002 to 2005 another American History Grant was used, also with the purpose of adding to teachers’ subject command and instructional techniques. The program will identify high priority schools and then select teachers at random. “We should seize the moment, and make history by improving the quality of teaching in U.S. history classes, as we prepare students for future careers,” Duncan said.