

A-G requirements: The University of California and California State University systems require students to have successfully completed (“C” grade or above) certain courses to be eligible for admittance to a UC or CSU. These courses are referred to as “A-G requirements.”

Academic Parent Teacher Teams: In this promising family engagement model, teachers work with parents at evening sessions to ensure that they understand what is being taught in class and how they can support their child’s learning at home.

ACT: The ACT is one of two college entrance examinations students must take to be considered for acceptance to most four-year universities. Student scores from the ACT (or the SAT) are sent to colleges along with applications and are an important factor in admittance decisions.

Advanced Placement (AP): AP classes are certified by the College Board as having a college-level curriculum and are generally more rigorous than standard classes. Near the completion of an AP course, students have the option of taking an AP test in that subject. Passing with a score of “3” or above (on a 5-point scale) grants college course credit for the class.

CAHSEE: In their sophomore year, all high schools in the state take the California High School Exit Exams in math and language arts. Students must score a 350 or above to pass; passing the CAHSEE is a graduation requirement. Students who do not pass on the first try have ample opportunities to retake the test before and during senior year.

Common Core State Standards: In 2010, California’s Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards for K-12 schools, joining 44 other states and the District of Columbia. The CCSS are learning goals in math and language arts for every grade level. These standards are aimed at ensuring that every student graduates from high school prepared for college and careers. They are generally more rigorous than the former California Content Standards and require more critical thinking, writing and problem-solving.

Differentiated Instruction: A typical classroom will have a range of learners, from advanced to below grade-level. Differentiated Instruction is a framework for effective teaching that allows for differences in learning by providing students with instruction and curriculum tailored to meet individual needs.

EAP: The Early Assessment Program is a project of the California State University system designed to gauge college-readiness among high school students. In their junior year, high school students have the opportunity to take the Early Assessment Program tests in math and language arts. High scores allow students to skip CSU placement testing.

Home visits: SCUSD is a founding partner of the Parent/Teacher Home Visit Project, which sends teachers into students’ homes to establish trusting relationships with families. About 40 SCUSD schools participate in the PTHVP.

Leadership Academy: The School, Family and Community Partnership Leadership Academy is a 10-session program for parents interested in gaining in-depth knowledge of the educational system; furthering leadership skills; and enhancing communication and collaboration with school and district staff.

Linked Learning: Linked Learning “links” high school to the world of work through internships, mentorships and classes that help build technical skills and knowledge related to careers. SCUSD offers 22 Linked Learning pathways in such diverse fields as engineering, graphic design, robotics, law enforcement and culinary arts.

Parents as Partners: SCUSD’s Parents as Partners in Schools program brings free workshops over nine weeks to participating schools. The workshops are focused on helping parents build skills in support of their child’s education.

PSAT: The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a program cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT and gives students a chance to enter NMSC scholarships programs.

Reclassification for English Language Learners: Reclassification is the process whereby an English Learner is reclassified as a Fluent English Proficient (RFEP) student after meeting various linguistic and academic criteria set by the state and district. SCUSD has developed student reclassification policy and procedures based on criteria set forth by California Department of Education guidelines.

SAT: The SAT is the nation's most widely used college admission exam. Student scores in math, verbal skills and writing are sent to colleges along with applications and are an important factor in admittance decisions.

Transitional Kinder: Transitional Kinder (Early Kinder in SCUSD) is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program for children whose will turn 5 between September 2 and December 2 for the 2014-2015 school year. Early Kinder is taught by a credentialed teacher using a developmentally appropriate curriculum. SCUSD offers Early Kinder at seven elementary and K-8 schools.

Williams Act: In 2000, several civil rights groups sued the state, arguing that California was denying thousands of students their fundamental right to an education by failing to provide them with the basic tools necessary for that education. Four years later, the suit was settled and new laws were established to ensure that: All students have textbooks and instructional materials; schools are clean, safe, and functional; and students have qualified teachers.