



New Day for Learning in San Francisco

Re-imagining how, when and where young people learn

In February 2009, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation selected San Francisco as one of 10 *New Day for Learning* communities across the country. The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), San Francisco School Alliance, the Office of the Mayor and San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF) are receiving funding and technical assistance over three years to realize the city-wide mission of ensuring that every student graduates ready for college and a career with the skills, capacities and disposition necessary for 21st century success.

New Day for Learning in San Francisco

Aligned to the strategic plan outlined by the SFUSD (“Beyond the Talk: Taking Action to Educate Every Child Now”), the guiding principles for a *New Day for Learning* in San Francisco include:

- Positioning schools as centers of the community
- Developing partnerships across sectors
- Leveraging the city as a classroom
- Creating a seamless learning day and year
- Approaching children and families holistically

San Francisco’s mission is to build a network of community schools with deep, focused partnerships based on shared outcomes for student success. This work has started in five early adopter schools and their communities in areas of the city with the highest poverty and greatest need, including:

- Phillip & Sala Burton Academic High School
- Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School
- Paul Revere K - 8 School
- Hillcrest Elementary School
- John Muir Elementary School

Work Underway

Developing Structures to Address Key Issues

- Community Based Organization Advisory Committee to the schools
- City-wide summer learning work group
- *New Day* Design and Implementation Committee comprised of stakeholders from all sectors

Mobilizing Resources and Building Connections

- Chamber of Commerce support for internships and high school academies
- Environmental organizations support for greening theme of schools
- Department of Public Health support for mental health needs of schools

Sharing Information and Providing Support

- Facilitating planning and coordination at the school site level
- After-school learning network to address alignment with the school day
- Partnership with Pre-K – 3 Initiative

San Francisco at a Glance

Mayor Gavin Newsom

Community Demographics (2006) *

Population: 801,377

Median household income: \$65,497

Average education attainment:

15.1% without HS diploma or GED

50.4% with bachelor’s degree or more

San Francisco Unified School District **

Superintendent Carlos Garcia

Number of K-12 Students: 55,091

Number of Schools: 111

Demographics:

African-American: 12%

American Indian: 1%

Asian: 33%

Filipino: 6%

Latino: 23%

White: 10%

Other Non-White: 10%

Decline to State: 5%

Free & Reduced Lunch: 53%

English Language Learner: 26.5%

Graduation

- Rate (2007): 86%
- Standards: Students are required to pass the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) English-Language Arts and Mathematics exams in order to graduate.
- Two Competing Truths: San Francisco has the highest average student performance of the large urban districts in California and the widest gap between the district average and the lowest performing students.

Business ***

San Francisco Chamber of Commerce: 2,000 businesses

Learn More

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The San Francisco School Alliance is the fiscal sponsor of this grant. For more information, please visit www.sfschoolalliance.org

* Source: 2006 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

** Source: San Francisco Unified School District, 2007 (figures include charter schools)

*** Source: San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

What Will Student Success Look Like in a *New Day for Learning*?

All young people will graduate college- and career-path-ready and be prepared with the skills and capacities and disposition necessary for 21st century success. Specifically, desired outcomes for young people include the following:

- Academic competence
- Technological fluency
- Creative, critical and innovative thinking, reasoning and problem-solving

- High-level communication skills
- Environmental, civic and social responsibility
- Strength of character
- High-level multilingual and multicultural skills
- Aesthetic sensibility
- Collaborative and team orientation
- High levels of engagement in one's own learning and direction

A Vision for the Future of American Education

The opportunity to dramatically improve educational outcomes for all young people is here. Now. With resolute political will from the statehouse to the White House, and new funding streams, such as the Recovery Act, it is possible for us to dramatically rethink the whole day for students so that learning experiences are seamless and unrestricted by walls, clocks or calendars.

New Day for Learning is not a curriculum or one-size fits all program; it's a 21st century vision for learning that seeks to re-imagine how, when and where young people learn. We must all do our part to ensure that all students excel academically, explore careers and develop the rigorous knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in today's global society.

Whether in an urban, suburban or rural area, *New Day for Learning*:

Expands the definition of student success

Reading, math and science are critical to a solid educational foundation, but must be bolstered by applied skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving and teamwork. Beyond merely teaching students these skills, we must thoughtfully assess them to ensure that today's young people are fully prepared to succeed in school, work and life.

Uses research-based knowledge about how students learn best

Students can't learn if they are not engaged. Educators and community stakeholders must utilize research-based knowledge about how students learn best to effectively frame their programs and instruction.

Fosters collaboration across all sectors

To focus all resources on supporting academic and developmental goals for students, new collaborative structures must be built across sectors in communities and up and down government hierarchies. The vital involvement of community, business, civic

and municipal leaders, parents and social service providers is critical to student success and pays economic, civic and social dividends to all stakeholders.

Integrates various learning approaches and places

Engaging strategies that incorporate the arts, technology, service learning and apprenticeships can amplify core academic learning and provide students with opportunities for enriching their education and connecting it with the adult world that they will enter. Schools are just one of the many places in the community where learning and student success can happen.

Provides new opportunities for leadership and professional development

Although most current leadership development and certification programs are school-based, the importance of community building skills is growing. Teachers and youth development staff can forge partnerships that result in heightened professionalism for both — and in better outcomes for students.

Learn More: NewDayforLearning.org

