

**BOARD POLICY**  
**San Mateo County Community College District**

**Subject:** BP 1.01 District Mission  
**Revision Date:** 5/12; 5/19  
**Policy Reference:** ACCJC Accreditation Standard I.A

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1. The mission of the San Mateo County Community College District is:

**PREAMBLE**

The Colleges of the San Mateo County Community College District, Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College, recognizing each individual's right to education, provide the opportunities and settings which enable students to develop their minds and their skills, engage their spirits, broaden their understanding of social responsibilities, increase their cultural awareness and realize their individual potential. The District values the unique characteristics of our students, and is committed to meeting our students where they are and to providing them the quality education and support services that best support their individual needs and circumstances. The District actively participates in the economic, social, and cultural development of San Mateo County. In a richly diverse environment and with increasing awareness of its role in the global community, the District is dedicated to maintaining a climate of academic freedom and ensure that students are exposed to a variety of opinions, ideas, cultures and people, have regular interaction with those from similar and differing experiences and backgrounds, and are encouraged to maintain and include familiar and important cultural symbols that reflect their heritage and aspirations. The District actively participates in the continuing development of the California Community Colleges as an integral and effective component of the structure of public higher education in the State.

**MISSION**

In an atmosphere of collegiality and shared responsibility, and with the objective of fostering social justice and sustaining open access for students and being responsive to community needs, the Colleges of the San Mateo County Community College District will fulfill the following mission with excellence:

- Provide a breadth of educational opportunities and experiences which encourage students to develop their general understanding of human effort and achievement; and
- Provide lower division programs to enable students to transfer to baccalaureate institutions; and
- Provide career and technical education and training programs directed toward career development, in cooperation with business, industry, labor, and public service agencies; and
- Provide foundational learning opportunities required for successful completion of educational goals; and
- Provide a range of student services to assist students in attaining their educational and career goals; and
- Provide self-supporting community education classes, contract education and training and related services tailored to the human and economic development of the community; and
- Provide leadership in aligning educational programs and services offered by all local educational institutions and community service organizations; and

- Celebrate the community's rich cultural diversity, reflect this diversity in student enrollment, promote it in its staff, and maintain a campus climate that supports student success.

To fulfill this educational mission, the District is committed to effective institutional research that supports the evaluation and improvement of programs, services, and student outcomes. Participatory governance is practiced through processes that are inclusive with regard to information sharing and decision making, and that are respectful of all participants. The District plans, organizes and develops its resources to achieve maximum effectiveness, efficiency, equity, transparency, and accountability.

As the demand for attaining a higher education continues to grow, and as the world in which we operate continues to evolve in its complexity, the District is actively committed to supporting the educational process according to the primary tenets of social justice. The District believes that social justice is practiced when we openly challenge injustice and value diversity. It exists because all people share a common humanity and therefore have a right to equitable treatment and support for their human rights, and are entitled to a fair allocation of community resources. When the tenets of social justice are fairly applied, people do not experience discrimination or prejudice nor is their welfare/well-being constrained in any manner.

2. The Mission of the District shall be regularly reviewed each year through the participatory governance process and more thoroughly no less than every three years through the engagement of the Board of Trustees and the students, faculty, staff, administrators of the colleges and District.