



San Ramon Valley Unified School District

Located in the San Francisco Bay Area, San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) is among the highest achieving educational systems in California. It currently serves 30,000 students and has 35 schools serving TK-12 students, including an independent study alternative high school as well as counseling-enriched classes and pre-school and adult transition programs. Approximately 97% of its students graduate on time, and the district has more National Blue Ribbon and California Distinguished School awards than any other Northern California district. SRVUSD's Lighthouse District designation emphasizes the AASA Learning 2025 priority area of Social, Emotional, and Cognitive Growth.

District Superintendent John Malloy has emphasized to all stakeholder groups the importance of the district's Strategic Directions framework: "We utilize our Strategic Directions framework to implement actionable steps, advance our goals, and broaden the definition of success for all students...What we have learned is that we can only meet our goals for academic excellence if kids feel safe, accepted, supported and respected—and achieve social-emotional well-being as well...This means that our commitments are clear, collaboratively developed, and evidence-based."

San Ramon Valley Unified employs a wide range of metrics to monitor student progress and determine the impact of its educational programs. This process includes ongoing professional development on the *Strategic Directions* framework, the implementation of a district dashboard to measure progress toward annual goals, ensuring that every school is actively engaged in data-driven decision making and continuous improvement cycles. All staff reinforce data-driven monitoring of student progress and instructional effectiveness. Strategic plans and processes reflect the framework's identification of six guiding pillars for educational transformation: (1) Social Emotional Well-Being; (2) Deep Learning and Innovation; (3) A Systemic Focus on Equity; (4) Shared Leadership; (5) A Culture of Responsiveness; and (6) Effective Stewardship of Resources.

Multiple indicators reinforce SRVUSD's selection as an AASA Lighthouse District. These include a deep commitment to equity to ensure that all students enjoy and take ownership for their own learning. The district strives to remove barriers that may impede student achievement and engagement, including sustained focus on eliminating achievement gaps among underserved populations. Equity-driven services and programs include Restorative Justice, Seeds training, a Response to Discrimination and Hate Handbook, and a variety of other events and processes that celebrate diversity and cultural responsiveness.

SRVUSD is also a member of the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools, including leader presentations on "Valuing Student Voice, Addressing Systemic Inequities, and Closing Opportunity Gaps." This focus on equity is reinforced by the district's emphasis upon social emotional learning. It has a robust risk assessment process in place, with counselors, social workers, psychologists, and community partners ensuring that all students have the support they need to succeed. Also, SRVUSD has hired 26

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Liaisons and ten Equity Liaisons assigned to school sites. Key responsibilities of these liaisons include the following:

- Creating a culture of collective responsibility around MTSS and the need to support the Whole Learner;
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) engaged in purposeful collaboration and ongoing cycles of continuous improvement to analyze student data and adjust practices to achieve better academic and social-emotional outcomes;
- Reinforcement of MTSS as the framework for teaching and learning across the district with an emphasis upon Tier 1 practices that focus on deep learning principles; and
- Reduction in the significant disproportionality of African American students represented in Special Education.

The district also emphasizes deep learning and innovative strategic directions, preparing students for success in post-secondary education and the 21st century world of work. Classrooms encourage students to strive for deep understanding of content, respond effectively to high cognitive challenges, express their voice and choice, and transfer their learning to new and authentic situations and contexts. Innovative practices include: (1) Common Learning Time (built into all teachers' schedules); Before and After-School Interventions (BASI); (3) District-Wide Screener Assessments; (4) Alignment with District-Wide Essential Standards (DWES); and (5) a District-Wide Formative and Summative Assessment System (to monitor all students' progress in mastery core curriculum standards, including English Language Learners).

To monitor students' progress in these areas, the district dashboard reinforces key priorities via baseline measurements and growth targets. This dashboard allows the district to close achievement gaps by identifying education inequities and creating observable as well as actionable goals via the *Strategic Directions* framework. It also reinforces staff accountability to both the Board of Education and community. Closing the achievement gap is a key equity-driven priority in the district with a major focus on ensuring that all learners succeed and that achievement gaps are closed between the overall population and underserved students.

School improvement in SRVUSD is also aligned with *Strategic Directions* and the district's data dashboard. All schools are expected to engage in four improvement cycles during the course of an academic year with documentation reflecting these 90-day cycles. All school improvement plans are required to have at least one goal must involve closing achievement gaps in either academic achievement or social emotional well-being.