



PRESS RELEASE

15250 Avenue of Science ■ San Diego ■ California 92128-3406
Phone (858) 521-2707 ■ FAX (858) 485-1075

Poway Unified Announces Three Model Schools for Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI): *Monterey Ridge Elementary School, Twin Peaks Middle School and Mt. Carmel High School*

The Poway Unified School District is proud to announce the selection of three schools -



Monterey Ridge Elementary School, Twin Peaks Middle School, and Mt. Carmel High School - as the District's 2019 Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) model schools.

These three schools are being celebrated for their work instructing students with disabilities

and will serve as pilot schools for PUSD's initiative to increase Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) in the least restrictive environment. SAI is a model for providing special education services and helps students with disabilities move up the



educational ladder, as the implementation supports their inclusion into general education classes.

“PUSD believes that all students, including those with disabilities, are general education students

first. Every effort will be made to ensure students with disabilities receive their education in the general education setting to the maximum extent possible,” said Dr. Marian Kim Phelps, PUSD Superintendent.

Schools in PUSD were invited to apply for recognition as a model school and serve as a pilot for more inclusive practices. All schools that applied are now engaging, as a cohort, in professional learning opportunities focused on building inclusive cultures, positive behavior supports, and universal design for learning.

Students attending inclusive schools report feeling a stronger sense of belonging and positivity on their campuses. PUSD believes Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) and Related Services in inclusive settings help create the conditions and culture that support world class learning outcomes for all students.

“We believe inclusive classrooms and inclusive practices benefit each and every student. Differentiated instruction, supportive teaching strategies, effective use of resources, and high expectations for all students, enhance the learning experience for everyone,” said Greg Mizel, PUSD Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services.

####