

California School for the Deaf

Vision, Mission, Beliefs, ESLRs

Vision

Graduates of the California School for the Deaf will demonstrate the knowledge, skills, competency and self-esteem to achieve fulfilling personal lives and careers. Empowered with a positive Deaf identity, they will possess the confidence, discipline, leadership and productivity that will enable them to become contributing citizens in a democratic society.

Mission

The mission of the California School for the Deaf is to provide comprehensive educational programs which create a strong foundation for future learning among graduates in an accessible learning environment that recognizes Deaf students and adults as culturally and linguistically distinct. The school will ensure that students receive a quality education with emphasis on full communication access through fluency in both American Sign Language and English. This will enable students to reach their maximum potential while preparing them to function effectively in a diverse technologically-evolving world.

Statement of Beliefs

The California School for the Deaf, Fremont has made a commitment to be a Deaf-centered environment in which the design of learning and the language of instruction are consistent with a Bilingual-Bicultural approach to educating Deaf children. The school values itself as a multi-cultural community of varied ethnic backgrounds through which people are able to learn and work together to promote the academic, linguistic, vocational, cultural, social, emotional and physical development of Deaf children. The involvement of parents, students, staff, the Deaf community, the business community and the community at large is regarded as essential to the mission of the school.

We Believe

- Students are best served through PARTNERSHIPS with and the INVOLVEMENT of all stakeholders and constituencies: parents, students, staff, the Deaf community, business, government and other agencies, as well as local communities in the areas served by the California School for the Deaf.
- The needs of students are best met by STAFF proficient in American Sign Language and English who affirm that all children can learn, do quality work, develop a positive self-image, and establish career goals that reflect their skills and potential.

- Early, consistent and meaningful communication in any form between family and child is essential in fostering the innate ability of Deaf children for LANGUAGE. Acquisition of American Sign Language and written English is of paramount importance and should begin as early as possible to ensure fluency.
- Deaf students have the right to understand and be understood through access to direct and spontaneous communication in a signing environment where effective COMMUNICATION strategies can be developed.
- Students have the right to a standards-based core CURRICULUM, or to specialized programs as appropriate where reading, writing and math skills are developed and where critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills can be fostered.
- The CITIZENSHIP of students is enhanced by emphasizing responsibility for one's actions, a sense of civic duty, and the development of ethical and moral decision-making skills.
- Extracurricular activities and participation as members of the Deaf Community, as well as the community at large, are crucial to the PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT of the whole child.
- DIVERSITY in the school and community is to be embraced by nurturing respect, acceptance and appreciation for the differences among human beings.

Expected Schoolwide Learning Results

1. Upon graduation from the California School for the Deaf, each student will be A KNOWLEDGEABLE and COMPETENT PERSON WHO:
 - values education, lifelong learning and self-advocacy
 - demonstrates mastery of essential knowledge as measured by content and performance standards in English, mathematics, science, social science, Deaf studies, physical education, health, career exploration, vocational education, and service learning
 - uses current technology and electronic media
 - demonstrates ability in critical thinking, responsibility, teamwork and self-confidence areas
 - demonstrates ability to problem solve and make decisions based on ethical and moral considerations
 - applies new knowledge to real life situations
 - recognizes and describes own personal skills, strengths, weaknesses and establishes realistic goals including strategies for overcoming personal limitations
 - possesses career preparation skills and develops a transition plan towards adulthood
 - possesses independent living skills
2. Upon graduation from the California School for the Deaf, each student will be AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR who:
 - uses appropriate strategies successfully in a variety of situations
 - uses ASL and English effectively
 - possesses good "listening" skills
 - summarizes and paraphrases key ideas from written or signed material

- shares thoughts and feelings with others adequately
 - demonstrates proper communication etiquette
 - demonstrates competency in using interpreters, relay services, telecommunication devices, personal computers, and other available equipment and service resources
3. Upon graduation from the California School for the Deaf, each student will be A CULTURALLY EMPOWERED PERSON who:
- values differences among human beings
 - acknowledges and respects different cultures
 - understands and values Deaf culture and history
 - contributes to and participates in the Deaf community as well as communities at large
4. Upon graduation from the California School for the Deaf, each student will be A PRODUCTIVE, SELF-DIRECTED PERSON who:
- possesses a positive attitude towards self and personal capabilities
 - strives to be emotionally, socially and physically healthy
 - possesses a positive self-image as a Deaf person
 - sets personal short-term and long-term goals
 - develops positive work ethics that are necessary for successful employment
 - uses community resources effectively
 - demonstrates self-discipline and initiative
 - works independently
 - functions effectively as a team member
 - adjusts appropriately to change
5. Upon graduation from the California School for the Deaf, each student will be AN INFORMED AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN who:
- respects the rights of others
 - takes responsibility for own actions
 - demonstrates a sense of being part of the community
 - uses ethical and moral decision-making skills
 - understands governmental and economic systems
 - understands own rights as a Deaf citizen
 - participates in a democratic society