

**EAST SIDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
830 N. Capitol Avenue • San Jose, CA 95133

## **News Release**

*For Immediate Release: October 1, 2003*

### **East Side Union High School District Awarded a \$2.5 Million Grant**

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Vocational & Adult Education awarded the East Side Union High School District a \$2.5 million Smaller Learning Communities Program Grant.

The three-year grant will enable five schools to implement a freshman transition program and expand the career academies into smaller learning communities for upper level grades. Research has proven that students in smaller settings have better attendance, perform better academically and have fewer discipline issues. The schools involved in the grant are Andrew Hill, James Lick, W.C. Overfelt, Silver Creek and Yerba Buena.

The District expects that the implementation of the smaller learning communities will enable the schools to provide more direct and personalized services to students, early intervention and safer learning environments. The model requires early and constant parent involvement, immediate intervention, continuous monitoring of academic progress and trained instructional and support teams. The end result should be a rise in student achievement levels. "This grant provides us with a great opportunity to redesign our schools to produce graduates with higher levels of achievement and skills. We are excited and anxious to begin implementing the smaller learning communities model," said Superintendent Esperanza Zendejas, Ed.D.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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