



## Mental Health Strategic Priorities 2024-2026

### Introduction

The San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) Mental Health Strategic Priorities Report aligns with the district's ongoing commitment to fostering student well-being, safety, and access to critical mental health resources. As mental health remains essential to student success, SDCCD is dedicated to ensuring that its mental health programs and services effectively support students at City, Mesa, Miramar, and the College of Continuing Education while contributing to the district's broader mission of equity, inclusion, and academic achievement.

This report is informed by insights from district-wide mental health planning retreats and stakeholder surveys, identifying key areas for strategic improvement. As a result, the 2024-2026 Mental Health Strategic Priorities are focused on strengthening crisis response capacity, expanding mental health services, increasing funding and resource allocation, promoting awareness and community engagement, and leveraging technology to improve access.

### **Mental Health 2024-2026 Strategic Priorities:**

1. Strengthen Crisis Response Capacity
2. Expand Mental Health Service Capacity
3. Strengthen Funding and Resource Allocation
4. Promote Awareness and Community Engagement
5. Leverage Technology for Improved Access

This document serves as a roadmap for the district's mental health initiatives, ensuring that services are responsive, equitable, and aligned with SDCCD's broader strategic goals. The identified priorities and initiatives may be more or less germane to a specific college depending on their needs and resources.



## Mental Health Strategic Priorities 2024-2026



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## 1. Strengthen Crisis Response Processes

**Objective:** Strengthen SDCCD’s crisis response infrastructure to ensure efficient, consistent, and responsive support within and across the District and Colleges.

### Initiatives:

- **Districtwide Crisis Protocol Standardization**  
Lend expertise in reviewing and aligning Districtwide communication and risk management protocols across campuses, ensuring a consistent approach to crisis management and defining clear roles and responsibilities for crisis response.
- **Panic Button Audit and Evaluation**  
Evaluate the current use and placement of panic buttons, assessing their functionality and potential needs for hidden options to improve safety response related to mental health services.

**SDCCD Alignment:** Goal A (A1, A5), Goal D (D1)

## 2. Expand Mental Health Service Capacity

**Objective:** Increase the availability and reach of mental health services for students by expanding staffing, training, and outreach efforts.

### Initiatives:

- **Job Classification Review**  
Advocate for the development of a mental health counselor job description to attract a diverse and well-qualified candidate pool, establish minimum qualifications, and communicate the full scope of the position.
- **Trauma-Informed Training**  
Empower classified staff and faculty to respond effectively to students in distress by developing and delivering district-wide training on trauma-informed practices and de-escalation techniques.

- **Evaluate Mental Health Counseling Facilities**

Evaluate mental health counseling facilities using the Counsel for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) standards to ensure Colleges have identified and allocated sufficient space for mental health counseling professionals to provide accessible and confidential services. Present recommendations to College and District leadership, as appropriate.

- **Explore Expanded Capacity Through External Service Providers**

Explore external service provider options to increase access and better meet the growing needs of the Colleges' diverse student population.

**SDCCD Alignment: Goal A (A1, A6), Goal C (C1, C6)**

### **3. Strengthen Funding and Resource Allocation**

**Objective:** Secure sustainable funding sources to enhance student mental health services and crisis response infrastructure.

**Initiatives:**

- **Budget & Funding Initiative**

Develop a grant strategy to identify and prioritize external funding streams and evaluate readiness and fit for grant awards. Work with stakeholders to develop and document a standard application and allocation process, once awarded.

- **Resource Integration and Sustainability**

Work with District and College leadership to develop a plan for sustainable resource allocation, ensuring continuous support for mental health initiatives and effective utilization of District funds.

**SDCCD Alignment: Goal D (D1, D2)**

### **4. Promote Awareness and Community Engagement**

**Objective:** Demonstrate a unified District-wide compassionate commitment to our students and their mental health and well-being through awareness and outreach and community partnerships.

### **Initiatives:**

- **Awareness and Outreach Campaigns**

Increase the visibility of mental health services on all campuses through regular informational sessions, workshops, and promotional materials for barrier and stigma reduction.

- **Strengthen Partnerships**

Engage local and regional mental health organizations, including Title IX offices, to enhance support networks and increase awareness of mental health services for students. Evaluate existing and proposed MOUs to ensure that they apply to all Colleges within the District.

- **Increase Mental Health Screenings**

Utilize mental health screenings as a tool for early intervention and to increase engagement with services.

**SDCCD Alignment: Goal A (A1, A2), Goal B (B1, B4)**

## **5. Leverage Technology for Improved Access**

**Objective:** Utilize technology to streamline mental health service delivery, crisis response, and resource management.

### **Initiatives:**

- **System Enhancement for Crisis Response**

Develop and implement a robust standard student-of-concern (BIT and CARE Team report and response) workflow within a District-wide crisis response system (e.g., Maxient).

- **Explore Centralized Information System Feasibility**

Conduct an audit to assess the systems used by each campus, determine contract lengths, and identify purchasing needs for District-wide system of record for mental health records to facilitate coordinated responses across campuses.

- **Enhanced Communication Tools**

Explore and advocate for user-friendly communication tools to connect students with mental health resources quickly and efficiently.

**SDCCD Alignment: Goal E (E1, E3), Goal F (F1, F2)**

## Next Steps

- **Socialize Outcomes:** Invite review and input by College and District leaders to ensure strategic alignment and executive support.
  - **Assign Ownership/Leadership:** Identify who will lead or collaborate on each of the strategic initiatives.
  - **Form Workgroups:** Explore the formation of smaller workgroups for each priority.
  - **Define Scope and Objectives:** Outline the scope of each initiative and identify clear objectives that align with [district-wide goals](#).
  - **Establish Timelines:** Set informed and realistic timelines for each initiative.
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## Supplemental Resources

1. [SDCCD Fall 24 Mental Health Planning Presentation](#)
2. [SDCCD Mental Health | Planning Survey Fall 2024 \(Responses\)](#)
3. [Fall Retreat Session Inputs \(Flip Chart Images\)](#)