



# SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

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EUGENE BRUCKER EDUCATION CENTER  
4100 Normal Street, San Diego, CA 92103-2682

Phone: (619) 725-5578  
Fax: (619) 725-5576

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Construction has begun on new Mead Elementary School**

*Building on district-owned property will save \$10 million*

SAN DIEGO – On July 9, 2004, summer school students from Chollas Elementary helped shovel the first scoop of dirt to signify the start of construction on the new Mead Elementary School. The new school is being built next to Chollas Elementary at 545 45<sup>th</sup> Street in Chollas View. It will open on September 6, 2005, and will serve about 450 students.

“We’ll be getting state-of-the-art facilities, technology, playgrounds and grass in a park-like setting that our children have not had before now,” said Carolanne Bugey, the principal of both Chollas and Mead. “Our children deserve top-rate facilities for their education.”

The old Mead Elementary is two blocks north of Chollas Elementary and was built as a temporary school 40 years ago. Originally, Proposition MM called for Mead Elementary to be rebuilt and expanded on its existing site due to deterioration and overcrowding. Because expansion would have required the demolition of 18 homes, the new Mead Elementary will instead be built on district property next to Chollas Elementary. This action saved \$10 million, preserved affordable housing and avoided displacement of students during construction. The old Mead Elementary site will possibly be leased or sold.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, students read essays about why the new school is needed. Speakers included Ed Lopez of the Board of Education, Bob Kiesling, chief facilities officer of San Diego City Schools, Derryl Williams, chair of the Encanto Neighborhoods Community Planning Committee, Mshinda Nyofu, representative of Councilmember Charles Lewis, and Dorothy Leonard, chair of the Independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee.

The two-story campus will span 47,596 square feet and will include 22 classrooms, a library, multipurpose room and administrative center. The project will also include a Child Development Center and joint-use fields. Other features include a curved metal roof, colorful exterior and interior painting and energy efficient design.

The \$21 million project is funded by Proposition MM, the \$1.51 billion bond measure passed by San Diego voters in 1998.