

CLIMATE-READY SCHOOLS SYMPOSIUM

Call for Presenters

Proposal Deadline: *Friday, February 6, 2026*

Symposium Date: *April 29, 2026 (9:00 AM to 2:00 PM)*

Location: *SMCOE, 101 Twin Dolphin Dr., Redwood City, CA 94065*

The San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) invites school and district leaders as well as community partners and student leaders to submit session proposals for the **Climate-Ready Schools Symposium**. This professional learning event will elevate promising practices, cross-sector collaboration, and scalable strategies that support schools and districts in building climate-ready, healthy, and sustainable learning environments.

The symposium will allow San Mateo County school and district leaders to learn from real-world examples, share lessons learned, and strengthen systemwide capacity for climate-ready action across San Mateo County schools.

Symposium Strands

The Climate-Ready Schools Symposium is organized around the **three pillars of the California Green Ribbon Schools Award Program**, a statewide framework that supports whole-school sustainability, wellness, and environmental literacy. We will select **two presentations per strand**:

1. Reducing Environmental Impact and Costs

Sessions may highlight district- or school-based strategies such as:

- Energy and water efficiency
- Waste reduction and circular systems
- Sustainable facilities and operations
- Transportation and climate mitigation efforts
- Cost savings through sustainability initiatives

2. Improving Health and Wellness

Sessions may highlight approaches that support:

- Healthy school buildings and indoor air quality
- School wellness initiatives
- Nutrition, food service, and garden-based programs

- Outdoor learning and nature-based solutions
- Staff and student well-being strategies

3. Effective Environmental & Sustainability Education

Sessions may showcase instructional and programmatic approaches that advance:

- Environmental literacy and climate education
- Standards-aligned curriculum and instruction
- Project-based and place-based learning
- Student leadership and civic engagement
- Green career pathways and workforce development

Intended Audience

Sessions should be designed for one or more of the following roles and audiences:

- District and site administrators
- Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSAs)
- Chief Business Officers
- Maintenance & Operations staff
- Curriculum and instructional specialists
- Principals and assistant principals
- Wellness, nutrition, and food service directors
- Student leaders

Session Format

- 50 minute interactive, practitioner-focused sessions
- Case studies, facilitated discussions, or hands-on learning encouraged
- Sessions should provide **practical tools, strategies, and takeaways** that participants can apply within their own school or district contexts

Proposal Submission

Submit your proposal by **February 6** using the link below. Selected presenters will be notified **late February**.

 <https://forms.gle/Z1EvoeUeLPvDGYeV9>

Why Present at the Climate-Ready Schools Symposium?

Selected presenters will:

- Share impactful climate and sustainability work with a regional audience
- Connect with school and district leaders across disciplines
- Help shape climate-ready practices in San Mateo County schools

SMCOE encourages proposals that are inclusive, collaborative, and grounded in implementation. Priority will be given to session proposals from San Mateo County schools and districts. Join us in advancing climate-ready schools through shared learning, leadership, and partnership.

For questions, please contact:

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