



2025/26 SDUSD Recycling Challenge

August 2025 - March 2026

Your School Could Win a Trophy & Bragging Rights!

To help reduce waste, comply with state and local laws, and increase recycling awareness at our schools, the District's Recycling Office is geared up to bring you the 2025-26 SDUSD Recycling Challenge. Your school could win a "cool" trophy and bragging rights for being one of the top winners in the District that diverts the most waste and increases/promotes recycling efforts on campus!

How it Works

All schools that receive waste and recycling services through the District contract with Ware Disposal are automatically included in the Challenge. A baseline of current waste disposal and recycling service levels has been set for each school with calculations based on overall diversion and the volume of material generated per-student. An emphasis will be placed on lower trash volume and costs, and increases in recycling diversion. Our goal is to increase recycling participation to keep material out of the landfill, as well as to "right-size" both trash and recycling service levels to reduce costs to the General Fund over the course of the school year.

The Recycling Challenge is points-based. In early 2026, a link to an on-line *Recycling Challenge Sustainability Form* will be available. This form will give your school an opportunity to demonstrate your school's efforts to educate and promote recycling, waste diversion, and/or sustainability efforts on campus (see Page 2 for scoring rubric).

Check out the Prizes!

The top schools in each grade level category with the most points will receive a trophy and bragging rights. A Most Improved award will be presented to the school that may not have reached the top tier, but made significant strides in their diversion level and outreach over the course of the school year.

Grade level categories include: 1) Elementary/K-8 Schools, 2) Middle Schools, 3) High Schools, 4) Most Improved (any grade level)

Winning schools will be recognized and receive their award in Spring 2026.

Recycling Challenge Scoring Rubric (100 points total)

- ☐ Overall school waste diversion – volume based (highest %): **60 points**
- ☐ Volume of Trash Generated/per Student/per Month – (lowest volume): **20 points**
- ☐ Submission of Recycling Challenge Sustainability Form: **20 points total** (see breakdown below)
 - Classroom/Office Recycling Program in place: **3 points**
 - Lunchtime Recycling Program in place: **7 points**
 - Other Waste Reduction & Diversion Efforts (i.e. composting, reuse, etc.): **5 points**
 - Recycling/Sustainability Education, Outreach, & Awareness Activities: **5 points**

Is Your School Up to the Challenge?

For more information about the Recycling Challenge, please see our website at: www.sdusdsustainability and click on the **News & Info** heading.

For information or assistance on expanding recycling and waste reduction programs at your school, contact Janet Whited, Recycling Specialist at jwhited@sandi.net.

GOOD LUCK!