

iChoose Blue! Recycle@School

SDUSD's Classroom Recycling Program

Teacher Actions:

- Place the blue recycling bin next to the trash (landfill) bin.
- Tape or post a recycling sign that shows what can be recycled on or above your classroom recycling bin (or do both!).
- Encourage students to place all paper (except tissue and paper towels), empty bottles and cans, cardboard, folders, empty plastic glue sticks/bottles, empty milk/juice cartons, and any hard plastic item (plastic cups, bucket, bowl, yogurt container, etc.) in the blue classroom recycling bin. *Food residue is ok
- Attach a “mixed recycling” label to the top inside of the recycling bin (unlined).
- Assign a rotating Recycling Monitor to check the recycling bin each day and report to the class if there is trash in the recycling bin or recyclables in the trash.
 - The monitor can keep a scorecard on how the class is doing. At the end of the week, assign a “Recycling Grade.”
 - If school custodians place larger blue recycling containers in the hallways, the Recycling Monitor would empty the classroom bin daily, or as needed.
 - If custodians or a student group, such as a Green Team, empties classroom recyclables, the Recycling Monitor can set the recycling bin next to or outside the door for collection.
- Promote recycling and conservation efforts to your students!
 - Ask students to come up with a name for their classroom or campus recycling group or effort. Some examples include: SWAT (Students Worried About Trash) and Eco-STARS (Students Taking All Recycling Seriously).
 - Make posters to promote recycling and post them in your classroom or around campus.
 - Upper grade teachers: Have students make a short presentation to each classroom or make a short video on how to participate in the recycling program.
 - Hold a contest between classes. The class that recycles the most wins (some schools provide a rotating banner that is hung outside the winning class for a month).

Why Recycle?

- It's the law! AB341 requires schools to recycle and sets a 75% waste diversion goal by 2020.
- SDUSD's waste diversion rate is about 24%.
- The City of San Diego's Mandatory Recycling Ordinance requires all schools, residences, and businesses to recycle or face fines.
- Collectively SDUSD students generate 65,000 pounds of trash EVERY DAY (1/2 lb./student/day)!
- Recycling one ton of paper per month saves 17 trees.
- Recycling one ton of plastic bottles makes enough fiberfill to stuff 5,200 ski jackets.



For more information on recycling opportunities or resources, please contact:
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