



J. Russell Kent Awards

2020-2021 Application

The San Mateo County School Boards Association is pleased to be able to acknowledge and publicize the outstanding teachers and programs in San Mateo County through the J. Russell Kent Awards program. SMCSBA initiated the J. Russell Kent Award Program in the 1980-81 school year. Named after past San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools, J. Russell Kent, the awards are typically given to innovative and replicable programs that are being implemented in a school district, county office of education, or in the community college district in the County.

This year, as we have navigated the COVID-19 Pandemic, school districts have been challenged to think creatively about how to support students academically, socially and emotionally. **As such, the San Mateo County School Boards Association would like to create an opportunity to recognize and celebrate all 23 school districts, the San Mateo County Office of Education and the Community College District for solutions to support students and/or your school community during the 2020-2021 School Year.**

What we are looking for?

This year presented school districts with what seemed at times, insurmountable challenges, and yet every school district, SMCOE and SMCCD all pushed forward, undaunted. What did your district do to support the social, emotional, physical and/or academic health of students during this crisis that you would like to highlight? Whether in-person, hybrid or virtual, all programs or solutions that you would like to celebrate are eligible for recognition. The typical two-year program implementation requirement is waived to ensure that school districts and schools and all the remarkable ways they showed up to support students are recognized.

How to apply?

In order to apply, please write a one to two-page description about the program you would like to honor. Letters should be written by a school board member, following collaboration with Governance Teams. The document should be signed by the Superintendent of the school district and the School Board President. (One submission per district)

Please send the document via:

- Email to Daina Lujan at dainalujan@gmail.com
- Google Form File Upload at <http://bit.ly/2021KentApplication>
- Traditional Mail/United States Postal Service
2465 Olympic Drive
South San Francisco, CA 94080

The application deadline is **March 15, 2021**. Applications will be reviewed by at least three members of the San Mateo County School Boards Association. SMCSBA will schedule an interview with a board representative from each district that submits a application via phone or Zoom.

If you have questions please call Daina Lujan at (650)290-0259.