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Hillsdale High gets \$1.1 million grant

Daily Journal Staff Report

Small learning communities will continue as part of the education at Hillsdale High School in the years to come thanks to a \$1.13 million grant through the U.S. Department of Education over the next five years.

The school began planning a split into three distinct small learning communities in 2002 through a partnership with the School Redesign Network at Stanford University.

The grant, which was announced yesterday through a press release, will help the school's ongoing transition including refinement of the structure, curriculum revision and staff development. Hillsdale will receive \$749,215 over the first three years, with \$390,110 in additional funds to be awarded over years four and five if Hillsdale meets specific benchmarks, totaling \$1,139,325 million.

In 2004, the school split into three separate communities called houses through which each student receives a more personalized education.

Teachers in each house collaborate to develop and administer core curriculums and continue teaching and supporting their house's students for at least two years.

Through the program students experience reduced class size; instructor continuity over multiple school years; guided internships; community service opportunities; technology access; and completion of 25 units of college credit before graduation.