

First Five Years of JJSE's History: Timeline of Major Events

- January 2000** Small Schools for Equity (SSE) applies for a charter school planning grant from the state Department of Education, with the approval of the San Francisco Board of Education
- September 2000** SSE forms Advisory Board of parents, youth, and other community members to create a school design plan and explore the feasibility of opening an in-district small school
- January 2001** SSE begins working with other school design groups and Board of Education Commissioner Mark Sanchez to formulate an in-district small schools plan
- April 2001** Teachers 4 Social Justice hosts Small Schools Summit at Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth; over 40 parents, teachers, youth, and school board members attend and begin to make plans for in-district small schools in San Francisco
- SSE creates partnership with the San Francisco Organizing Project (SFOP) to develop a community-based school reform movement; SFOP/SSE leaders begin talking with parents in the Excelsior, Oceanview, and Visitacion Valley about problems with existing schools and their vision of an ideal school
- June 2001** Teachers 4 Social Justice and a growing San Francisco small schools coalition create “Points of Unity” for small schools in San Francisco, based on the work at the April Small Schools Summit and subsequent meetings of parents, teachers, and students
- October 2001** Since April, SFOP/SSE leaders have met with hundreds of community members to listen to their concerns and dreams about schools, and conducted research meetings with members of the Board of Education, representatives of Oakland Community Organizations, education experts from Stanford University, and others
- SFOP and SSE lead a research trip of parents, teachers, and youth to visit effective small schools in New York City; Commissioner Sanchez joins the trip
- November 2001** SFOP and SSE host a community action meeting where nearly 250 people express their support for small schools, and three school board members say they will work with SFOP and SSE to open a new small high school
- January 2002** Commissioners Sanchez and Mar introduce a small, autonomous schools resolution to the Board of Education, modeled on Oakland’s successful small schools policy; the resolution is amended to create a “small schools working group” instead, aligned with the district’s High School Task Force
- Summer 2002** SFUSD announces Request for Proposals for “new small secondary schools and the redesign of existing secondary schools,” with the goal of closing the

achievement gap and creating high quality educational options for families throughout the city

- September 2002** SSE submits proposal and is selected to open a new school in fall 2003, as part of SFUSD's Secondary School Redesign Initiative (SSRI), which is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Spring 2003** The founding staff plans the opening of the new school
- August 2003** The new school opens with a ninth grade class at a temporary location on the campus of San Francisco State University, as the first high school to enjoy a formal partnership with a California State University
- August 2004** June Jordan School for Equity (a name chosen by the student body during the school's first year) moves to its current location at the former Luther Burbank Middle School Campus in the Excelsior neighborhood
- November 2005** Facing severe budget cuts, SFUSD places JJSE on a list of schools that may be closed due to low enrollment, despite the fact that it is a small school by design. JJSE parents work with SFOP to support an event at Mission High School where over 1,300 people hear Mayor Gavin Newsom and school board members pledge to take JJSE off the closure list and work to pass a small schools policy
- Spring 2006** SFUSD staff start working with JJSE parents, SFOP, and other small schools advocates on a district small schools policy
- Fall 2006** Small Schools Task Force, chaired by JJSE Co-Director Shane Safir, drafts small schools policy
- November 2006** SFOP and JJSE host a community action meeting where over 300 people express their support for the small schools policy and encourage school board members and the superintendent to support a strong policy
- February 2007** SFUSD school board unanimously passes a strong Small Schools Policy which guarantees key autonomies and support for JJSE and other in-district small schools by design
- May 2007** Based on an application and site visit, JJSE is selected to be an official "small school by design" under the new district policy
- June 2007** JJSE graduates its first class; 73% of graduates are admitted to four-year universities, compared to less than 50% nationwide
- June 2008** JJSE's Masterpiece/Portfolio system is formally approved as a graduation requirement by the school board
- Summer 2008** Darrick Smith, founder of the TryUMF program at Oakland Tech High School, hired as JJSE's Co-Director