



San Diego Community College District

City College · Mesa College · Miramar College · College of Continuing Education

District Guidelines & Standards Manual – Summary of Changes

September 2026

The following provides a **high-level summary of the more significant changes** incorporated into the September 2026 V2.0 SDCCD Design Guidelines & Standards Manual. It is intended to highlight major themes and revisions and **is not an all-encompassing list of every modification, addition, or clarification included in this release**. Design teams should review the complete V2.0 Manual and the redline revisions applicable to their respective disciplines and project scopes.

- **Expanded sustainability requirements and project deliverables.** The update strengthens implementation of the SDCCD Sustainability Levels, including clearer performance criteria, documentation, and required submissions throughout programming, schematic design, DSA submittal, construction, and substantial completion.
- **More detailed building programming and space standards.** New or expanded requirements address facilities storage, custodial spaces, restrooms, privacy, wellness/lactation rooms, and other support spaces, with greater specificity regarding required infrastructure and amenities.
- **Door hardware standards were comprehensively revised.** The **door hardware section has been substantially changed**, representing a significant update to the District's hardware standards rather than incremental edits. Design teams and hardware consultants should review the revised requirements in their entirety and should not rely on previous SDCCD hardware standards or specifications when developing new projects.
- **Updated interior material and finish standards.** The revisions further define acceptable flooring and finish materials and establish more specific performance, durability, application, and maintenance criteria.
- **Building envelope and roofing requirements were refined.** Requirements related to weatherproofing, expansion joints, acoustically rated assemblies, roofing systems, and repair applications have been clarified or expanded.
- **Plumbing standards received substantial operational and maintenance updates.** Changes address emergency shower drainage, cleanouts, isolation valves, water heating, drainage routing, and campus-specific requirements, with increased emphasis on electrification and long-term maintainability.
- **HVAC standards place greater emphasis on maintainability and controls.** Requirements for equipment isolation, system servicing, controls, District IT coordination, and compatibility with District control infrastructure have been strengthened.
- **Lighting and lighting-control standards were substantially modernized.** The update provides more detailed requirements for LED fixtures, color temperature, fixture accessibility, digital/networked controls, standalone room functionality, BMS integration, exterior lighting, and approved control systems.
- **Electrical distribution requirements were further standardized.** Equipment, manufacturers, system coordination, surge protection, and campus-specific electrical infrastructure requirements are more clearly defined, with increased coordination with SDCCD Facilities Maintenance.
- **Fire alarm, security, and access-control requirements were refined.** The revisions include additional system requirements, documentation and training expectations, access-control coordination, and changes intended to reduce nuisance alarms while maintaining code compliance.
- **Site, landscape, irrigation, and civil standards were updated.** Revisions clarify concrete finishes, irrigation equipment and controls, landscape requirements, planting restrictions around utilities, and campus-specific site standards.
- **Underground infrastructure verification requirements were strengthened.** The update expands CCTV investigation and documentation requirements for existing and new sanitary and storm systems, placing greater emphasis on verifying existing conditions during design and documenting completed systems prior to District acceptance.
- **Project administration and closeout requirements are more explicit.** The update strengthens milestone reviews, District review periods, sustainability documentation, commissioning, training, recorded training materials, operational information, and closeout deliverables.