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DATE: June 7, 2017

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Saddleback Valley Unified School District Receives Training Grant for Statewide MTSS Initiative**

Mission Viejo, Calif. — The Saddleback Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) has been awarded a \$25,000 training grant by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) to implement a framework designed to support all students' academic, behavioral and social needs.

SVUSD is part of an initial cohort of 105 schools, districts and county offices of education that will receive sub-grants totaling \$3.225 million to participate in the California Scale-Up MTSS Statewide (SUMS) Initiative, which is funded by the California Department of Education and led by OCDE in partnership with the Butte County Office of Education and the SWIFT Center at the University of Kansas.

MTSS — short for Multi-Tiered System of Support — is a comprehensive framework of evidence-based strategies to support the academic, behavioral and social-emotional needs of all students. Reliant on staff collaboration and data-driven decision-making, MTSS guides educators through the process of initiating action plans, tracking progress and making improvements in a number of critical areas. As such, it has been used to increase attendance, prevent dropouts, lower discipline rates, enhance school climates and improve academic performance.

Laura Ott, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services said, “We are very pleased that SVUSD received this grant and will be part of the initial MTSS Statewide SUMS Initiative Cohort. Grant funds will support our district’s continued commitment to provide the necessary support systems across our schools.”

SVUSD will receive technical assistance and support from OCDE, the Butte County Office of Education and the SWIFT Center throughout implementation. Along with extensive training, this process will include examining the effective strategies, instructional practices and materials currently in place, as well as defining the district needs and determining next steps.

For a complete list of grant recipients to date, and to learn more about MTSS and the California SUMS initiative, visit [www.ocde.us/SUMS](http://www.ocde.us/SUMS).

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