What is a theme school?
A theme school has customized curriculum and unique academic offerings centered around a certain theme. Theme schools require applications, may have specific admissions criteria, and seats are limited based on the capacity of the classrooms/school building.

What is the selection process? What do I need to do if I want my child to attend SWCC?
Parents/Guardians must complete a theme school application. The application is window is October 1 through November 29.

What are the selection criteria for SWCC?
- Students in Kindergarten and 1st grade need to submit a theme school application.
- Students in 2nd grade and above need to submit a theme school application and then, according to selection criteria, test for proficiency in English and Spanish.

What is the SWCC proficiency test?
The purpose of the English and Spanish tests is to determine the student's reading proficiency in both languages. The assessment tool includes a series of graded word lists (word recognition in isolation) and passages (informational and narrative) ranging from first through eighth grade. The student's fluency and comprehension in both languages is recorded, scored, and converted into performance reading at a specific grade level.

Why do students need to take a test to get in to SWCC?
At SWCC, instruction is provided in both English and Spanish. In order for students to be successful in the dual immersion model and handling the rigor of the classroom, students need to be proficient in both English and Spanish.

What is a dual immersion program?
A dual immersion program serves students whose primary language is English and students whose primary language is Spanish in the same classroom. Students at SWCC become bilingual and bicultural.

Additional questions on the back >>
What is the attendance area boundary?
Beginning in the fall of 2020, Southwest Community Campus and Cesar E. Chavez Elementary will share a neighborhood attendance boundary. As depicted in the image to the right, this new boundary means that students living within it could select between SWCC and Chavez.

What is a buddy school?
Buddy schools are assigned to theme schools and are an option for families not interested in a theme school that may also be the family’s neighborhood school.

What will be the buddy school to SWCC?
With the new boundary, Chavez will be assigned as buddy school to SWCC.

Will there be a neighborhood preference?
Based on the admissions criteria, *neighborhood students will have first preference for either SWCC or Chavez*. Seats will not be saved for non-neighborhood students should the school fill completely with families from within the neighborhood.

Will Chavez students be accepted to SWCC at 6th grade?
Students will need to submit a theme school application and then, according to selection criteria, test proficiency.

What is the district doing to support Chavez students being proficient?
Currently, Chavez uses a transitional model. The district will transition the school to a dual immersion model, both of which are described below:

- A transitional model utilizes a student’s primary language for instruction. It develops skills in the primary language and culture while introducing and developing skills in English. Students in a transitional program will receive ESL instruction and/or native language instruction.
- Dual Immersion assures proficiency (builds high levels of skill or competence) in two languages. Instruction is given in both English and Spanish in classrooms that typically have half native English speakers and half native Spanish speakers.