

Options & School Choice Inquiry

Staff Lead: Anika Hardy
Quality Community Schools Development



Alignment with District Vision

OUSD MISSION/VISION

All students will graduate. As a result, they are caring, competent, and critical thinkers, fully-informed, engaged, and contributing citizens, and prepared to succeed in college and career.

OUSD GOAL

To create a FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY DISTRICT that serves the whole child, eliminates inequity, and provides each child with an excellent teacher every day.

OPTIONS & SCHOOL CHOICE INQUIRY GOAL

To understand the negative and positive impacts of the Options process on students, families, school communities and the district, in order to recommend changes for a more equitable, effective and efficient enrollment policy for OUSD.

Inquiry Group Goals & Deliverables

GOALS

- To study, research and analyze the district's system of school selection and the impact of enrollment on student achievement and fiscal solvency.
- To create an equitable system of school selection, reduce potential negative impacts on high needs school sites, and support every school to become a high quality option.

STRATEGIC PLAN DELIVERABLES

- By April 2011, a set of recommendations to improve Options is submitted to the Superintendent.
- By Spring 2012, develop a set of recommendations aligned to Effective High Quality Schools.

5 Stages of Inquiry Work

Stage 1: Knowledge Development

Stage 2: Evidence Gathering

Develop Mission or Purpose Statement for Options

Stage 3: Review of Recommendations

Stage 4: Scenario Testing

Stage 5: Finalize Recommendation

Make Final Recommendation to Superintendent

Stage 1: Knowledge Development

Process:

1. Review history of OUSD Options/open enrollment
2. Understand technical aspects of current Options process
3. Review legal requirements for open enrollment
4. Examine and discuss internal concerns that led to the Inquiry
5. Review the OUSD five year strategic plan and identify how a successful inquiry can help achieve district goals.

Outcome:

All members of the inquiry team gain a full understanding of what led OUSD to adopt an open enrollment policy, the current Options program, laws in place at the State and Federal level that affect Options, and the issues that have been identified with the current program.

Stage 2: Evidence Gathering

Process:

1. Request and review student placement and enrollment data
2. Gather research that has been conducted on outcomes of the Options process
3. Review data regarding parent complaints/appeals
4. Research open and closed enrollment programs in other locations
5. Name problems with current systems

Outcome:

All members of the inquiry team become experts on what has occurred in OUSD as a result of Options, gain insight into parent complaints, and understand the pros and cons of various types of enrollment programs.

Develop Mission/Purpose Statement

Using the knowledge they have gained and the evidence that has been collected, the Inquiry Team will:

- Create a statement outlining the outcomes the final recommendation will seek to produce
- Describe how these outcomes will interrupt inequities produced or exacerbated by the current Options process

Stage 3: Review of Recommendations

Process:

1. Analyze results of knowledge and evidence gathering to develop recommendations.
2. Develop protocol for how recommendations will be reviewed.
3. Create matrix to help standardize the review process.
4. Process recommendations based on their ability to correct identified problems within the current process, and/or their ability to address needs that must be met in order to achieve the mission of the Inquiry.
5. Obtain further information needed to explore feasibility of recommendations.

Outcome:

Team members make and consider suggestions using a consistent review system that moves the group toward a set of recommendations that will achieve the mission of the Inquiry. Two sets of recommendations are reached: one set that corrects problems caused by the current system, and one set that addresses needs that the current system did not meet.

Stage 4: Scenario Testing

Process:

1. Recommendations that have been considered in the review process are tested against real-world scenarios.
2. The Team outlines the policies, procedures and support staff that will be necessary to carry out the new policies.
3. The committee works with district staff and external partners to forecast the outcomes of the recommendations.
4. The Inquiry Team identifies outreach efforts that will be needed to inform the community and OUSD staff of the new policies.

Outcome:

A set of recommendations are verified to be feasible and the committee considers what other data and support will be needed to make them successful and sustainable.

Stage 5: Finalize Recommendation

Process:

Final changes and additions are made to the recommendations based on the results of the scenario testing.

Outcome:

The team prepares final recommendations that will be presented to the Superintendent.

Options Inquiry Timeline

Options Inquiry
Community
Orientation



November 1st

Stage 1:
Knowledge Development



Nov 15th – Dec 10th

Stage 2:
Evidence Gathering



Dec 13th – Jan 21st

Develop Mission Statement for
OUSD Enrollment

Stage 3:
Review of Recommendations



Feb 7th – Mar 11th

Stage 4:
Scenario Testing



Mar 14th – April 1st

Stage 5:
Finalize Recommendation



April 4th – Apr 29th

Make Final Recommendation to
Superintendent

November						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February						
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			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

KEY



Meeting Dates



Mission Statement
Development



Recommendation
Due Date



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools,
Thriving Students

Operating Norms & Work Structure

OPERATING NORMS

- **Inquiry Team Membership:**

- Members will be recruited based on the vision described on the following slide.

- **Community Agreements:**

- Team norms and commitments will be created collaboratively by the committee.

- **Decision-Making:**

- A decision-making protocol will be established by the Inquiry Team at the first meeting.

WORK STRUCTURE

- The core work of the Inquiry Team is divided into five progressive stages.
- There are 10 meetings that team members will be expected to attend.
- Additional activities may occur as needed.
- Meetings will be held in the evening to accommodate parents, school staff and students.
- The Inquiry Team will meet from November 2010 – April 2011.



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Membership Vision

In order to envision and create new policies and systems that will support the best outcomes for ALL students, the Options and School choice inquiry group membership will be comprised of:

- Parents
- Students
- Teachers
- Principals
- Internal staff:
 - with systemic knowledge
 - who work directly with parents
 - who work directly with students

In addition, membership will strive to be diverse, represent various Oakland neighborhoods, and include representatives of various grade levels from PreK – College.

Interdependencies with Other Task Forces

- Quality Community Schools Development Quality Standards
- Full Service Community Schools Task Force
- Secondary Experience and Achievement Task Force
- RBB Reform (Systems Equity)
- African American Male Achievement
- Regional Neighborhood Zones

Initial Guiding Research

- Walker, Herbert J. *School Choice: The Findings*
- Broege, Nora. "Brain Drain: The Effects of Within-district Choice in Oakland, California" Aug 08, 2009
- Snell, Lisa and Dalmia, Shikha. "Experimenting with School Choice: A Tale of Two California Districts"
- US Dept of Education Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act – Public School Choice
- CA State Board of Education Open Enrollment Act
- "OUSD Marketing Survey Improving Communications of OUSD School Options: An Independent Study on K-12 School Choice Processes Among Oakland Parents"
- 2009-2010 Options/Open Enrollment Outreach Survey Summary
- "Yes We Can: The 2010 Schott 50 State Report on Black Males in Public Education"