

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 0809-0228**

Resolution to Create Educational Equity in Oakland Through the Implementation of the University of California and California State University A-G Course Sequence as Part of the High School Graduation Requirement

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Oakland Unified School District is committed to eliminating the gaps of achievement and opportunity, increasing high school graduation, and reducing dropout rates, and a college preparatory course sequence has been shown to promote the attainment of these goals; and

WHEREAS, the Board is further committed to ensuring that all Oakland students graduate with the knowledge, skills, motivation, curiosity, and resilience to succeed in their choice of college and career in order to lead and participate in the society of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, currently the District fails to properly educate a significant number of students and provide them with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in life and the 21st century workforce and successful implementation of the A-G graduation requirement will result in the improvement of educational outcomes at all levels of the K — 12 system; and

WHEREAS, the rates of completion of a course sequence that satisfies the A-G requirements are severe and reflect inequity in the educational services provided: Only 53 percent of OUSD students graduate at the end of four years and of those, only 32 percent of graduates successfully completed the course sequence that satisfied the A-G requirements; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a lack of representation of low-income students, students of color, students with special needs, continuation students, immigrants and English Language Learners enrolled in the college preparatory course sequence, which negatively impacts a disproportionate number of these students; and

WHEREAS, low A-G completion rates in the District undermine our local and state economy which depend on a well-prepared workforce, and undermine the stability, health and safety of our communities, which depend on the ability of our residents to access meaningful and family-sustaining employment and undermine our democracy, which depends on a well-informed and engaged citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the A-G course sequence is a rigorous life readiness curriculum that does not require college admission but rather allows students the choice to pursue any postsecondary education, career technical education, a career, and other career options and has been shown to close the achievement and opportunity gaps, increase high school graduation, and reduce dropout rates; and

WHEREAS, all District students do not currently have the opportunity to pursue an array of options, including college after high school, because they do not have the necessary foundation skills and knowledge or are not enrolled in rigorous preparatory coursework that produces college readiness, and

WHEREAS, the completion of an A-G college preparatory sequence in conjunction with a rigorous and relevant career and technical education will provide Oakland Unified students a full array of post-secondary options; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of students, parents, local community based and advocacy organizations have come together with Meaningful Student Engagement (MSE) to ensure educational equity, strengthened student leadership and improved academic achievement of all students so that they are fully prepared for success and entry into college and the 21st century workplace, and their roles as citizens and leaders who can improve Oakland and the world; now therefore, be it

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District adopts the University of California and the California State University A-G course sequence as a graduation requirement for all students, in the manner and on the timetable laid out in this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent to include in the implementation of this directive the necessary learning supports—paying special attention to the needs of English Language Learner, immigrant, Special Education and alternative education students, alternative means for completion of the prescribed course sequence in order to accommodate the needs of all students, and realignment and dedication of resources necessary to ensure all students are prepared to successfully complete the A-G Course sequence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent to align and dedicate resources to hiring a sufficient teacher workforce and to support professional development that ensures that all teachers are supported in researching, developing, and sharing rigorous engaging and culturally and linguistically relevant curriculum and effective methods for the successful implementation of the more rigorous A-G curriculum for all students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent to align and dedicate resources to develop and implement meaningful counseling services to ensure that all students complete the A-G course sequence and receive timely, accurate, and individualized information on a wide array of college and career options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent to strengthen and sustain the career-technical education program so that it is fully aligned with the college preparatory requirements and will better prepare students to meet the demands of a knowledge-based 21st century economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by September 2009, the Superintendent will establish an A-G implementation committee that collaborates with the MSE, local community based and advocacy organizations, teachers, students, employee and employer organizations, post secondary institutions, and other stake-holders to incorporate community involvement in the development and implementation of a blueprint strategic plan that will guide the District's strategy, paying specific attention to matters such as student supports and safety nets, facilities, finance, personnel, school climate, teacher professional development, curriculum and career and technical education; and

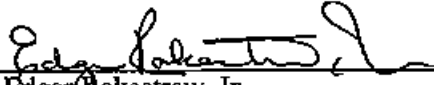
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the implementation of the A-G course sequence as a graduation requirement will include necessary learning supports, realignment and dedication of resources necessary beginning early in a student's education so that they are prepared to successfully complete the A-G course sequence. These resources can be used to hire additional teachers, increase counseling services, and institute district-wide outreach to parent and communities; the District will seek additional funding through legislation for needed resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this planning and action begin immediately after the adoption of this Resolution and strategically progress so that the A-G graduation requirement will be fully implemented beginning with the students entering 9th grade in the fall of 2011 unless otherwise directed by the implementation committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent shall report on or before November 2010, and annually thereafter, on the progress of this implementation with respect to student outcomes and district resource allocation.

Adopted and approved by the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District at the Regular meeting held on the 24th day of June 2009.

Ayes: Jody London, David Kakishiba, Jumoke Hodge, Christopher Dobbins, Alice Spearman, Vice President Gary Yee, and President Noel Gallo
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstained: None
Preferential Aye: Shannon Chase and Cecilia Lopez


Edgar Rakestraw, Jr.
Secretary
Board of Education

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