



## Measure N Final Summary Oakland Unity High School

From our first exposure to Measure N, in the Fall of 2015, Unity had been excited to participate in an Oakland-wide movement to transform high schools into pathways to professional success. We have taken each year of Measure N participation as an opportunity to analyze our strengths and weaknesses as a school program and move towards systemic school improvement. We have appreciated and profited from this process as way to push ourselves to learn and to grow and to challenge our notions of what our school is and can be. In past years, we had focused our school growth through Measure N on student support and developing a work-based learning program. In our feedback cycle from last year, culminating in our fall site visit, we understood three necessities for Unity to continue in Measure N:

1. Address our gap in understanding of the principals of Linked Learning and build awareness in our whole school community
2. Establish a pathway clearly linked to a single CTE industry sector.
3. Create an articulated technical sequence for all students tied to that industry sector.

Through our Measure N feedback cycle , we understood that we needed to deeply assimilate principles of Linked Learning, reconceive our notion of our school pathway, and establish an articulated technical course sequence for all of our students. Working with different stakeholder groups in our community, we used this feedback as a time to question our identity as a school and we reached a deeper understanding of what it meant to be a pathway school and what we would need to do reach that goal. We knew we had to take a tremendous step in our commitment to establishing Linked Learning at our school.

Our school has historically had a strong college preparatory identity; however, the leadership and design team knew that we fell short in preparing our students for success *through* college and into career. As a result of this process, in the Fall of 2018-19 Oakland Unity High School we launched our Academy of Technology and Digital Media, with a three-year career technical sequence beginning with Introduction to Computer Science and culminating in on-site classes offering IT certification senior year. Interdisciplinary projects leveraging digital skills to power community advocacy and entrepreneurship will link our technology focus into our academic core and bind our pathway to our school values of service to the community and self-advocacy. Finally, our Learning through Internship Program, which was established in 2016, will provide structured opportunities for students to apply their technical skills at mentor sites, culminating in a semester-long internship senior year. Our goal is to provide Unity graduates with the technical skills to find employment in Information and Communication Technologies. Our Technology and Digital Media Pathway allows us to target an industry sector that offers a multitude of local partners. We are supporting the pathway by establishing an Advisory Board, enabling us to build from existing school relationships with Bay Area technology companies including Google, Zynga, KhanAcademy, EdPuzzle, Code HS, and TechBridge and startups such, Babble.

Additionally, in order to dramatically grow our understanding of Linked Learning, both as a leadership team and in our teaching staff, we have been working closely with Patricia Clarke from College and Career Academy Support Network (CCASN). Ms. Clarke has been invaluable in providing resources and guidance in establishing our CTE sequence and designing our pathway, as well as, integrating our CTE sequence with our



A-G curriculum. She has been monumental in helping us design our CTE courses and articulate the course descriptions so that they may become CTE certified. School leadership and design team members have engaged in learning around the four pillars of Linked Learning and what shifts would be needed to move Unity to implementation of a wall-to-wall pathway for 2019-20, including professional development for whole staff and surrounding community. This has been an inclusive process to discuss our career pathway, with the purpose of distributing ownership to all stakeholders of the decision to be a pathway school. We recruited teacher-leadership to join our Measure N Steering Committee as Pathway Teachers, in addition to our ongoing design team meetings and our work with student and parent interest groups. Throughout, we asked ourselves what were the truly essential professional skills that would provide maximum future opportunities for all of our students and result in our desired student learner outcomes.

As a small school, changing the Master Schedule is no easy feat. To implement our Pathway Program of Study, we reviewed and redesigned our master schedule and teaching lines, opting out of programs that were no longer rendering positive results. For 2018-19, during a Probationary year, we resequenced or shifted our elective, science, and support classes to create space for three teachers to take ownership of implementing our technical sequence, running from our 10th grade to our 12th grade year. We have over 175 Unity students at all grade levels taking Computer Science or Digital Media classes. This is totaling 50% of our school population in a career technical course, on our roadmap to 100% of Unity students enrolled in CTE courses by fall of 2019-20, creating a true “wall-to-wall” pathway academy for our school.

Grade 10 - *Introduction to Computer Science in JavaScript*

Grade 11 - *Digital Media Design*

Grade 12 - *Information Technology Certification Class*

In the coming fall of 2019-20, we are very excited to move our pathway to wall-to-wall. By restructuring our Physical Education classes, we will begin our sequence at the 9th grade level, so that we can eventually offer AP Computer Science at the 10th Grade level for 2020-21.

Grade 9 - *Introduction to Computer Science in JavaScript*

Grade 10 - *Introduction to Computer Science in JavaScript*

Grade 11 - *Digital Media Design*

Grade 12 - *Information Technology Certification Class*

Our movement to a true “wall-to-wall” pathway by 2019-2020 will be a momentous change for our small school. However, we are committed to student excellence and authentic results. We believe this change will improve student outcomes for all.