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**OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Community Schools, Thriving Students*

# Memo

**To** Board of Education

**From** Devin Dillon, Interim Superintendent

**Board Meeting Date** April 26, 2017  
*(To be completed by Procurement)*

**Subject** College Readiness Plan of Strategies

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**Action Requested** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading College Readiness Plan

**Background** Oakland Unified received a College Readiness Block Grant allocation of \$1,103,473 based on 7,390 unduplicated pupils enrolled during the 15/16 fiscal year at the rate of \$149 per pupil from schools that are accredited or in the process of obtaining accreditation from the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Funds are available from 2016/2017 through the 2018/2019 school year.

**Discussion** The State of California has allocated one-time funding to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to provide additional supports to high school unduplicated pupils in grade 9-12<sup>th</sup> that will increase the number of students who enroll at institutions of higher education and complete an undergraduate degree within four years. Funds shall be used for activities that directly support pupil access and successful matriculation to institutions of higher education.

**Recommendation** First reading of the College Readiness Plan for Strategies.

**Fiscal Impact** District College Readiness Block Grant allocation of \$1,103,473

**Attachments** Plan for Strategies



Oakland Unified School District  
College Readiness Block Grant Plan  
2016-2018

**College Readiness Block Grant (CRBG) Background:** The State of California has allocated one-time funding to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to provide additional supports to students in grades 9-12 that will increase the number of students who enroll at institutions of higher education and complete an undergraduate degree within four years. Appropriate uses for the CRBG include but are not limited to the following:

- Providing teachers, administrators, and counselors with professional development opportunities to improve pupil A–G course completion rates, pupil college-going rates, and college readiness of pupils, including providing for the development of honors and Advanced Placement courses.
- Beginning or increasing counseling services to pupils and their families regarding college admission requirements and financial aid programs.
- Developing or purchasing materials that support college readiness, including materials that support high performance on assessments required for admittance to a postsecondary educational institution.
- Implementing collaborative partnerships between high schools and postsecondary educational institutions that support pupil transition to postsecondary education, including, but not limited to, strengthening existing partnerships with the University of California and the California State University to establish early academic outreach and college preparatory programs.
- Developing comprehensive advising plans to support pupil completion of A–G course requirements.
- Providing subsidies to pay fees for taking advanced placement exams.
- Expanding access to coursework or other opportunities to satisfy A–G course requirements to all pupils

**Overview of the College Readiness Strategies:**

1. **District wide administration of College Readiness exams PSAT/NMSQT and SAT:** PSAT/NMSQT stands for Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. This test has two purposes. One, it is a kind of rehearsal for students who plan to take the SAT, which is the test most colleges require for admission. Two, it is used to select students seeking National Merit Scholarships. The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is a standardized test created by the College Board as an entrance exams used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions.
2. **District wide administration of College Readiness exams of fee waivers for Advanced Placement:** AP exams are college-level tests administered by The College Board. Students may take tests in one or more subjects. The exam's function is to determine college credit or course placement.



3. **Access to College and Scholarship Fairs and College site visits:** Students will be provided transportation and access to college fairs such as Black College Expo, Empower Me Tour, OUSD District College Fair, and UCAN. The College and Scholarship Fairs will connect students with the college and scholarship resources and opportunities that will help them get and stay on a college path.
4. **Implementation and access to California Guidance Initiative (CCGI):** California's official source for college and career planning. CaliforniaColleges.edu. is a one-stop informational resource for students considering their post-secondary options. Students can create individual profiles on the site, where they can store information relevant to each step in their own personal college and career planning process as well as portfolio documents like letters of recommendation, resumes, and commendations or awards. Tools on this site allow students to explore potential careers, search for colleges, create a college financing plan, log community service, work and extracurricular experiences, and launch and track applications to both the California State University and California Community Colleges. This online tool supports students in the development of comprehensive advising plans to support their completion of A-G course requirements.
5. **Technology to increase access to college preparatory resources such as CCGI, Khan Academy, and FAFSA application:** Chrome carts and laptops to allow student access to online college preparatory resources during regular and extended day activities coordinated by College Readiness Specialists and college access partners.
6. **Increase support to students in completing FAFSA, Dreamers application, and college applications:** College Readiness Specialists will provide support to students to complete financial aid/CA Dream Act applications and UC, CSU, CC and private college applications.
7. **Provide teachers, counselors, college readiness specialists with professional development:** To providing teachers, administrators, and counselors with professional development opportunities to improve pupil A–G course completion rates, pupil college-going rates, and college readiness of pupils, including providing for the development of honors and Advanced Placement courses, AVID, IB, CCGI, and the American School Counselor Association National Model.
8. **Increase counseling services to students during summer months:** Provide students with access to counselors during the summer Academic Recovery program to provide transcript reviews and student and family support regarding college admission requirements and financial aid programs/applications.
9. **Access to College Summit Peer Leaders:** College Summit Peer Leaders are essential to creating a college-going culture. Students are selected to attend a series of workshops and will develop the knowledge and skills to support their peers in getting ready for college. Peer leaders lead three campaigns including College Application, FAFSA, and College and Career Campaign.





**Metrics to Monitor:** The College Readiness Block Grant aligns with the OUSD Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) in at least 3 areas of the following metrics to monitor:

- Increase the 4 year cohort graduation rate by 2% points district wide
- Reduce cohort dropout rate by 3% points district wide
- Increase the A-G completion rate with a grade of C or better by 2% percent points district wide
- Increase the FAFSA completion rate by 3% percentage points district wide
- Increase the district wide SAT student participation rate by 3% points district wide
- Increase the number of 2 year and 4 year college applications by 3% points school wide

**Budget:** Oakland Unified School District's allocation \$1,103,473.00

Strategy	Period	Projected Cost
District wide administration of College Readiness exams for PSAT/SAT	2016-2017	\$110,000
District wide administration of College Readiness exams and fee waivers for Advanced Placement exams	2016-2017	\$294,000
Access to College Fairs and College site visits	2016-2017	\$120,000
Implementation and access to California Colleges Guidance Initiative (CCGI)	2016-2017	\$45,000
Technology to increase access to college preparatory resources	2016-2017	\$25,000
Increase support to students in completing FAFSA, Dreamers application, college applications	2017-2018	\$210,000
Provide teachers, counselors, and college readiness specialists with professional development	2016-2017	\$184,000
Increase counseling services to students during summer months	2017-2018	\$30,000
Access to College Summit	2016-2017	\$41,000
Indirect	2016-2018	\$44,000
<b>Projected total</b>	<b>2016-2018</b>	<b>\$1,103,473,000</b>