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### Board Cover Memorandum

**To** Board of Education

**From** Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent  
Sondra Aguilera, Chief Academic Officer  
Wesley Jacques, Executive Director, Academics and Instruction  
Alicia Arenas, Director of Elementary Instruction  
Romy Trigg-Smith, Director of Early Literacy

**Meeting Date** October 13, 2021

**Subject** District Strategic Plan Update – Early Literacy

**Ask of the Board** Provide feedback and ask questions on OUSD literacy plans and progress towards implementing District’s Strategic Plan - Initiative 1 – Early Literacy: *Ensuring Strong Readers by Third Grade*.

**Background** Over last Spring 2021, OUSD and community working groups collaborated to help develop the Superintendent’s Strategic Plan. The Board adopted the Superintendent’s Strategic plan in June 2021. Initiative one of this plan focuses on Early Literacy: *Ensuring Strong Readers By Third Grade*. Oakland’s vision for its strong readers is one of joyful curiosity. All students will have a command of the power of literacy as a means of personal expression, economic opportunity, and leadership. Our district has: developed an Early Literacy central team; adopted a new literacy curriculum; created targeted support strategies, such as our early Literacy Kings; and launched a new Language and Literacy Framework to support this work across schools and collaborate across departments.

**Discussion** OUSD has 52 elementary schools, and serves 17,755 students in Transitional Kindergarten (TK)-5th grade. As part of initiative one, *Ensuring Strong Readers By Third Grade*, we have set forth four focus areas:

- Get aligned
- Put families in the driver’s seat
- Invest in our educators
- Use data to make the best decisions

We will share progress towards our actions and deliverables aligned to these focus areas. We will lift up our student achievement goals for students for this school year and the ways we collaborate across departments to achieve these goals. During the presentation, we will provide updates on district wide assessment systems, professional learning supports, curriculum implementation, and targeted support strategies.

**Fiscal Impact** We currently have a few external partners providing fiscal support to our Early Literacy work, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, Schusterman, Warriors Foundation, and Rogers Family Foundation. Additionally, 10 of our schools are receiving state funds, through the early Literacy State Block Grant, to support their early literacy achievement, approximately 5.8 million over three years.

**Attachment(s)** Presentation – District Strategic Plan Update