

Measure N Final Summary - Oakland Unity High School

From our first exposure to Measure N, in the Fall of 2015, Unity has 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 systematic 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 this 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 principles 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

To dramatically grow our understanding of Linked Learning, both as a leadership team and in our teaching staff, we established a relationship with Roy Robles and Luis Chavez of Career Ladders Project as Pathway Support Providers. School leadership 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.

We used the support of Career Ladders to facilitate whole staff professional development on Linked Learning and the meaning of a career pathway. This culminated in 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 surfaced 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.

As a result of this process, in the Fall of 2018-19 Oakland Unity High School will launch our Academy of Technology and Digital Media, with a four-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 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.

To implement our Pathway Program of Study, we reviewed and redesigned our master schedule and teaching lines. 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 summer bridge program before 9th grade to our 12th grade year:

Summer Bridge - *Computing Ideas*

Grade 9 - *Introduction to Computer Science in JavaScript*

Grade 10 - *AP Computer Science Principles*

Grade 11 - *Digital Media Art & Design*

Grade 12 - *Information Technology Certification Class/ AP Computer Science with Java*

Our Technology and Digital Media Pathway allows us to target an industry sector that offers a multitude of local partners. We will support the pathway with an Advisory Board, enabling us to build from existing school relationships with Bay Area technology companies including Google, Khan Academy, EdPuzzle, CodeHS, and TechBridge Girls.

Through our Measure N feedback cycle this year, 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.

In the coming fall of 2018-19, we will have over 175 Unity students at all grade levels taking Computer Science or Digital Media classes. This will be 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.

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