

Board Office Use: Legislative File Info.	
File ID Number	11-2990
Introduction Date	11-7-11
Enactment Number	11-2468
Enactment Date	11-16-11 JS



**Resolution of
GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Resolution No 1112-0081

School Portfolio Management – Life Academy - Grade Configuration Change From 9-12 to 6-12 – Effective School Year 2012-2013

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan unanimously adopted by the Board of Education calls for restructuring that considers the number and type of schools the District operates; and

WHEREAS, the District currently operates three schools serving grades K-8 and one school serving grades 6-12 that are oversubscribed and maintain long waiting lists; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland hosts nine charter schools serving grades K-8 and five charter schools serving grades 6-12 that are popular among families and serve approximately 4,660 students; and

WHEREAS, research indicates the benefits of extended learning opportunities and continuous relationships among adults and students that supports increased academic achievement particularly for students that require additional support, which supports the benefits of increasing school program options for families that include grade configurations that serve students longer; and

WHEREAS, the District has identified a trend in academic performance as evidenced by CST test scores demonstrating a drop in performance over-all when students make the transition from 5th to 6th grade and from 8th to 9th grade, which for some students may be mitigated by school programs that bridge these transitions; and

WHEREAS, the school quality standards approved by the Board of Education as part of the District's Five Year Strategic Plan specifically state that a Quality Central Office *"helps schools manage key student transitions between grades, among levels of schooling, and between schools,"* and

WHEREAS, the District has developed preliminary criteria to evaluate the readiness of a school proposing to change its grade configuration that includes the following:

- Demonstrated success serving the academic, social and emotional needs of students
- Staff and family interest in the proposed grade configuration change
- Staff and leadership capacity to successfully develop and implement an expanded grades program



- Facility feasibility analysis that determines the required costs associated with modifications necessary to accommodate a grade configuration change; and
- Analysis of the demographic and enrollment implications of the proposed grade configuration change; and

WHEREAS, the District has determined that Life Academy has demonstrated sustained academic success in preparing students for College and Career as evidenced by their course offerings and students success in these courses, graduation rates, and college acceptance rates; and

WHEREAS, the District has determined that the staff and families of Life Academy are interested in and in support of the school expanding to serve grades 6-12; and

WHEREAS, the District has evaluated the facility where the school is currently located and determined that modifications necessary to support the expanded grades program can be funded within the scope of the current facilities modernization allocation for the Calvin Simmons campus, which would include efforts to upgrade the facility in support providing a welcoming environment for both schools located on the campus; and

WHEREAS, the District is committed to providing school design support through an Expanding Grades Design process with the inclusion of a design team that involves teachers, parents, and community partners, facilitated by the Coordinator for School Portfolio Management that will ensure the development of a comprehensive Expanded School Plan by May 1, 2012 to be recommended to the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the District has determined that Life Academy provides a unique program emphasizing the science and health that would be of educational benefit to all students through-out Oakland and in order to ensure greater access for all students, as well as to promote the ethnic and racial diversity of the program, the school would operate as an Open Enrollment program, similar to the current MetWest High School program, without an identified attendance area, and would actively work to provide information to families throughout the District,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby approves and designates Life Academy, currently a 9-12 grade school, as an Open Enrollment 6-12 grade school, effective school year 2012-2013 and authorizes the addition of one grade a school year, commencing with 6 grade, with the school obtaining full 6-12 grade status in school year 2014-2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools or his designee is authorized to take any and all action, save an action required of the Governing Board by law, regulation or Board Policy, to effectuate the foregoing.



Passed by the following vote:

AYES: David Kakishiba, Gary Yee, Noel Gallo, Christopher Dobbins,
Alice Spearman, Vice President Jumoke Hinton Hodge and President Jody London

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the Oakland Unified School District held on November 16, 2011.

Edgar Rakestraw, Jr.
Secretary, Board of Education

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By: ER