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OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Memo

To Board of Education

From Antwan Wilson, Superintendent
Jacqueline P. Minor, General Counsel

Board Meeting Date August 19, 2015

Subject **Amendment to Board Policy 6146.1 and Adoption of Resolution No. 1516-0010 Authorizing the Issuance of a Diploma To Certain Students of the Class of 2015**

Action Requested **Approval of Amendment to Board Policy 6146.1 and Adoption of Resolution No. 1516-0010 Authorizing the Issuance of a Diploma To Certain Students of the Class of 2015**

Background and Discussion

On June 1, 2015, the California Department of Education ("CDE") sent a letter to all school districts notifying them of the cancellation of the July 2015 administration of the California High School Exit Exam ("CAHSEE"). The State cancelled the July CAHSEE because its contract with Educational Testing Service to administer the test had expired, and the State Legislature is currently considering SB 172, introduced by Senator Liu, which as currently amended would suspend the administration of the high school exit examination and would remove the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma for the Classes of 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 school years.

The rationale for SB 172 is that the CAHSEE is based on the former state standards and is not aligned to the current State Common Core standards.

As a result of an article in the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper on August 12th, the District learned some California State universities had rescinded the acceptance of students in the Class of 2015 who met District requirements to graduate but needed to pass the CAHSEE in July 2015 in order to receive a diploma.

Oakland students in the Class of 2015 have been put in an untenable position as a result of the State's cancellation of the July 2015 CAHSEE. Staff is therefore recommending to the Board that diplomas be issued to students in the Class of 2015 who:



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- a. Completed a total of 230 credits in grades 9-12 in the courses specified in Board Policy 6146.1;
- b. Earned a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.00 in courses that satisfy graduation requirements; and
- c. Prior to the May of 2015, had attempted to pass the CAHSEE.

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Attachment

Amendment to Board Policy 6146.1
Resolution No. 1516-0010

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy

Instruction

BP 6146.1

High School Graduation Requirements

The Governing Board desires to prepare each student to obtain a diploma of high school graduation in order to provide students with opportunities for postsecondary education and/or employment.

A diploma of high school graduation shall be granted to any student who:

1. Completes a total of 230 credits in grades 9-12.
2. Earns a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.00 in courses that satisfy graduation requirements.
3. Beginning in the 2005-06 school year, each student completing grade 12 shall have successfully passed the state exit examination in language arts and mathematics as a condition of high school graduation (Education Code 60851, 60859); provided however, in view of the State's June 1, 2015 notification to the District of the cancellation of the July 2015 high school exit examination ("CAHSEE"), passage of which would have enabled some students to receive diplomas, the Governing Board shall grant diplomas to students in the Class of 2015 who:
 - a. Completed a total of 230 credits in grades 9-12 in the courses specified below in this Board Policy.
 - b. Earned a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.00 in courses that satisfy graduation requirements.
 - c. Prior to the May of 2015, had attempted to pass the CAHSEE.

To obtain a diploma of graduation from high school, students shall earn 230 credits by completing the following courses in grades 9-12:

1. 40 credits of English: 10 credits each in grades 9, 10, 11, 12.
2. 30 credits of Mathematics, including Algebra and Geometry. Algebra and Geometry successfully completed at the middle school level count toward the Algebra and Geometry curricular requirement. Students must earn 30 credits of Mathematics while enrolled in high school. [Note: UC/USC recommend 4 years of Mathematics.]
3. 30 credits of Science in grades 9-12, including Biology and a Physical Science.

4. 30 credits of Social Studies in grades 9-12 as follows:
 - (incorporated in World Cultures)
 - 10 credits of World Cultures
 - 10 credits of U. S. History
 - 10 credits: American Government (5 credits) and Economics (5 credits)
5. 10 credits of World Language in grades 9-12. Sign Language may be used to satisfy this requirement. Enrollment in ELD classes for English Language Learners may satisfy this requirement. [Note: UC requires 2 years of same language.]
6. 10 credits of Visual/Performing Arts in grades 9-12. (Beginning in 2006 UC will require a single year long approved course from a single discipline.)
7. 20 credits of Physical Education or JROTC and Marching Band except where nonparticipation is authorized by the Education Code and the Board of Education.
8. 60 credits of electives which may be selected by students and parents. A maximum of 40 credits of Outside Work Experience (OWE) and Inside Work Experience (IWE) combined (with Inside Work Experience limited to 20 credits) may be counted toward graduation.
9. Other approved secondary courses offered in English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Technology, and the Visual and Performing Arts may satisfy requirements for graduation. Refer to the District's Course Catalog.

Senior Project/Exhibition

A student shall complete a senior project/exhibition during his/her 12th grade year of high school. This project shall be a serious research project or exhibition which demonstrates achievement of school-wide learning goals and designated key content standards.

Alternative Credits Toward Graduation Requirements

In order to meet individual student needs and encourage all students to complete their high school education, the Governing Board desire to provide flexibility in the completion of prescribe courses in accordance with law.

As an alternative to completing the course requirements for high school graduation, students may fulfill one or more of the course requirements through:

1. Demonstration of skills and competencies;
2. Supervised work experience up to 40 credits in accordance with 5 CCR 1635, or other outside school experience;
3. Independent Study;
4. Credit earned at a postsecondary institution;
5. Correspondence instruction from a California university and/or other California Department of Education entities in subjects included within or related to the course of

- study offered in the school district;
6. Courses earned in an Adult Education Program; and
 7. Military service and training in accordance with 5 CCR 1634

The District shall accept for credit any coursework satisfactorily completed by students while detained in a juvenile court school or county or state-operated institution. District students who successfully complete district graduation requirements while so detained shall receive a diploma from the school they last attended (Education Code 48645.5)

Alternatives for Graduation

It is the policy of the OUSD to provide information regarding alternative ways for students to receive recognition for completion of high school. The recognized programs are as follows: the Alternative Education Program, The Adult Education Program, and the General Education Development Program (GED). Information regarding all programs is available through the school counseling Department.

Computation of Grade Point Average

The Grade Point Average shall be computed on a 4.0 scale by using marks in all subjects, including repeated subjects taken in grades 9-12. This Grade Point Average shall be used to determine class ranks and shall be listed on the high school transcript. These computation methods are used for OUSD graduation only and not for college admissions or other purposes.

Honors Courses

Designated HP (Honors Placement) and AP (Advanced Placement) courses will be given extra weight per U.C. guidelines for college admission only. The 4.0 GPA scale is used for district computation. GPA's will be calculated and reported using both scales.

Pass/Fail Courses

Pass/Fail Courses shall be counted toward completing the 230 credit graduation requirement, but not counted when computing Grade Point Average.

A student receiving a "D" or "F" in two or more subjects after the first marking period of the school year shall be placed on academic probation. Parents will be notified in writing during the second marking period. Conferences should be held with the students, parents, teachers, counselor, and the principal (designee) to discuss the appropriate program for the student.

Intervention Strategies

The following options may be pursued to assist students:

1. After School Tutorial
2. Extra course work and/or assignments
3. Independent Study
4. Correspondence Course Options

Graduation Ceremony

Students must meet all requirements for graduation in order to be eligible to participate in school ceremonies.

Failure to Graduate with Class

Students who fail to graduate in time (8 semesters in grades 9-12) with class will have one year from date of OUSD scheduled graduation to present official transcripts from an Adult Education Program and/or Community College Program verifying completion of requirements in order to receive a diploma from assigned school. The transcript must be verified by the School Recorder. Students who take more than one year from date of OUSD scheduled graduation must bring official transcripts to the Adult Education Office to receive a diploma.

Information

Questions concerning these procedures should first be directed to the principal and then to the appropriate Executive Director.

Effective Date

These requirements are effective immediately with the exception of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE). Student who entered 9th grade in 2002-2003 will also be required to pass the CAHSEE.

5/25/05; 4/30/08A; 8/19/15A

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy

BP 6146.1
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