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Memo

To Board of Education

From Shanthi Gonzales, Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Committee
Kyla Johnson-Trammel, Superintendent
Curtiss Sarikey, Chief of Staff

Board Meeting Date January 13, 2021

Subject ADOPTION of 2021 Fiscal Legislative Platform

Action The Board of Education will have a first reading and discussion of the [DRAFT 2021 Fiscal Legislative Platform](#) of the Oakland Unified School District.

Background For the past several years, the Board of Education has adopted a legislative platform that guides the work of the District's legislative advocacy in Sacramento. In 2020, the legislative platform supported positions that were adopted in state law and/or acknowledged as State priorities in several areas, including career technical education, early childhood education, school facilities, charter schools, and others. See [2020 Legislative Platform](#).

Given that there are four new board members, the OUSD Intergovernmental Relations committee recommends that we bring forward a full draft legislative platform which addresses a greater range of topics similar for the 2020 platform later this spring. This will allow for more Board and community input.

In the meantime - in order to ensure OUSD's priorities are voiced - they recommend adopting the [DRAFT 2021 Fiscal Legislative Platform](#)

focused solely on the fiscal elements of OUSD's overall legislative platform.

January and February are critical months for the development of the California state budget. The committee recommends adopting a platform related to fiscal issues first and then adopting the larger platform on a timeline that is not as time sensitive.

When the larger legislative platform is adopted by the Board, it is the recommendation that the fiscal platform be merged into that updated document.

The [DRAFT 2021 Fiscal Legislative Platform](#) has been informed by review and suggestions from District staff.

Discussion

We recommend the Board adopt the 2021 Fiscal Legislative Platform

Fiscal Impact

There are a number of fiscal impacts that can accrue through adoption of the Legislative Platform. Some of the positions can lead to increased funds for the District. Other positions can help avoid costly new mandates.

Attachment

[DRAFT 2021 Fiscal Legislative Platform](#)

DRAFT: 2021 OUSD Fiscal Legislative Platform

School Finance: We support increasing the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) base grants to ensure that California is among the top ten in the nation in per-student spending. State and federal fiscal resources should recognize and accommodate regional cost differences and the unique costs of serving vulnerable student groups who need additional instructional and non-instructional support to attain educational parity, such as homeless and refugee students. We support changes to the funding allocation systems that ensure large urban districts are not disadvantaged, such as providing funding through enrollment rather than attendance and increasing allocations for serving students with special education needs. Furthermore, OUSD is committed to eliminating our outstanding state loan so that limited resources are focused on serving our students and community

In addition to OUSD's long standing priorities, listed above, OUSD supports additional resources and flexibility to help districts manage and navigate this new and fluid educational environment as we continue to prepare for protracted social distancing requirements to contain the spread of COVID-19 and support students whose learning has been interrupted by the pandemic.