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**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Community Schools, Thriving Students

Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education

From Benjamin “Sam” Davis, Board Vice President

Meeting Date March 24, 2021

Subject Resolution No. 2021-0043 - Requesting Greatest Flexibility in CAASPP Administration for 2020-21 and Recognizing the Right of Families to Waive CAASPP Testing for their Students

Ask of the Board Introduction of Resolution No. 2021-0043 - Requesting Greatest Flexibility in CAASPP Administration for 2020-21 and Recognizing the Right of Families to Waive CAASPP Testing for their Students

Background California students participate in annual testing as part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (“CAASPP”). The CAASPP includes the Smarter Balanced Assessments, California Alternate Assessments, and California Science Assessments. CAASPP was suspended for the 2019-20 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the State of California has submitted a waiver request to the federal government for the current school year (2020-21).

Discussion While COVID rates have thankfully subsided recently, the impact of COVID on schools has been and remains substantial. As a result, the administration of CAASPP will yield incomplete and inaccurate data that will result in confusion and potential misuse as well as data that is not valid or reliable.

The Resolution requests the greatest possible flexibility from the State Board of Education (“SBE”) and the California Department of Education (“CDE”) with respect to the administration of CAASPP during the 2020-21 school year, including waiving the requirement of a greater than 95% participation rate, and/or using the results for the California State Dashboard. As the same time, the Resolution also recognizes the importance of the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California

("ELPAC") and expresses the intent of the District to continue to use it in order to reclassify students with respect to their English language proficiency.

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Attachment

- Resolution No. 2021-0043 – Requesting Greatest Flexibility in CAASPP Administration for 2020-21 and Recognizing the Right of Families to Waive CAASPP Testing for their Students

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Resolution No. 2021-0043

**Requesting Greatest Flexibility in CAASPP Administration for 2020-21 and Recognizing the
Right of Families to Waive CAASPP Testing for their Students**

WHEREAS, California students participate in annual testing as part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (“CAASPP”), including the Smarter Balanced Assessments, California Alternate Assessments, and California Science Assessments;

WHEREAS, CAASPP was suspended for the 2019-20 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the State of California has submitted a waiver request to the federal government for the current school year (2020-21);

WHEREAS, school reopenings across the state have varied widely, and districts have implemented varying models of distance, hybrid, and in-person instruction (e.g., staggered start times) and prioritized participation for a variety of specific student groups in various combinations;

WHEREAS, the myriad, variable conditions outside the control of school districts, from local infection rates and county health department regulations to cultural community factors impacting support for or resistance to returning students to in-person instruction combine to create a context that makes it impossible to fairly measure and compare the situation from school district to school district;

WHEREAS, validity of test results will be further compromised by technology-related access issues for socio-economically disadvantaged students, language learners, and differently-abled students;

WHEREAS, consequently, efforts to use the CAASPP assessments for statewide accountability measures in the current context will yield incomplete and inaccurate data that will result in confusion and potential misuse;

WHEREAS, additionally CAASPP results from the current school year will not be valid or reliable and, therefore, should not be used to measure change in student outcomes or to inform instruction;

WHEREAS, in the context of the pandemic, accountability purposes are best served by local benchmark assessments that districts are using, and the immediate urgency is for local school

districts to identify and prioritize the learning needs of their particular students, in their particular situations;

WHEREAS, the Oakland Unified School District (“OUSD”) fully supports monitoring student progress, believes that the CAASPP accountability system provides transparency for families and communities in a normal year, recognizes the importance of CAASPP in future years to continue to measure the progress of our systems with an equity lens, and continues to plan for testing as required by the State, but seeks support and flexibility during the continuing pandemic conditions; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the foregoing, OUSD recognizes the importance of continued administration of the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (“ELPAC”) to allow students to reclassify with respect to their English language proficiency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OUSD requests the greatest possible flexibility from the State Board of Education (“SBE”) and the California Department of Education (“CDE”) with respect to the administration of CAASPP during the 2020-21 school year, including waiving the requirement of a greater than 95% participation rate, and/or using the results for the California State Dashboard; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OUSD recognizes the right of a parent or guardian under Education Code 60615 to excuse his or her child from the CAASPP by submitting a written request, and will honor all such requests.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District this ____ day of _____, 2021, by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSED:

ABSENT:

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held on _____, 2021.

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	21-XXXX
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By:	

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shanthi Gonzales
President, Board of Education

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education