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Enactment Number	FAILED 8/25/2021
Enactment Date	



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

Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education

From Mike Hutchinson, Board Director

Meeting Date August 25, 2021

Subject Resolution No. 2122-0004 - Permitting Sojourner Truth Students to Transfer Back to Their In-Person Schools

Ask of the Board First Read/Adoption by Board of Education of Resolution No. 2122-0004 - Permitting Sojourner Truth Students to Transfer Back to Their In-Person Schools

Background The COVID-19 pandemic presents a unique and unprecedented crisis to OUSD. The District is offering independent study at Sojourner Truth, which is its own separate school. Students must transfer to transfer Sojourner Truth in order to participate in independent study, which means students would no longer be enrolled in their “in-person” schools as they cannot be enrolled in two schools at the same time. Once those students no longer need or want independent study and wish to transfer back to their “in-person” schools, they may not be able to do so as their former spots at their “in-person” school may have been filled other students. This situation, although consistent with the District’s open enrollment policy, serves as a disincentive for students to enroll in independent study and is unfair for those students who, due to their own health circumstances or those of a member of their household, need to enroll in independent study for health and safety reasons.

Discussion This Resolution would direct the Superintendent, notwithstanding any existing Board Policy, to ensure that a student enrolled in Sojourner Truth is able to transfer back to their “in-person” school consistent with the following parameters:

- A student shall be able to transfer back to their “in-person” school at any time during the 2021-22 and for the start of the 2022-23 school year,
- A student’s “in-person” school shall be the OUSD school in which they were enrolled prior to transferring to Sojourner Truth,
- A student who first enrolled in OUSD in Sojourner Truth or whose “in-person” school does not serve the student’s current grade (e.g., a student in sixth grade in 2021-22 cannot return to a K-5 school) shall not have an “in-person” school and this resolution shall not apply to them,
- No other students may be permitted to transfer into the “in-person” school if it would prohibit a student enrolled in Sojourner Truth from transferring back to their “in-person” school, and

- Any decrease in enrollment and ADA from (i) a student enrolling in Sojourner Truth and (ii) no student being able to replace that Sojourner Truth student at the “in-person” school may not be a basis to decrease staffing or funding at the “in-person” school.

The Resolution was introduced on August 11, 2021. It now comes before the Board for action and/or a discussion.

Fiscal Impact

It is estimated that the Resolution would prevent the reduction of 11 teacher FTE due to the provision that states that “Any decrease in enrollment and ADA from (i) a student enrolling in Sojourner Truth and (ii) no student being able to replace that Sojourner Truth student at the ‘in-person’ school may not be a basis to decrease staffing or funding at the ‘in-person’ school.” The average cost of a teacher is \$109,000, which puts the estimated cost of the Resolution at approximately \$1.2 million. There may be other costs, such as the impact on enrollment, but it is not clear how to estimate those costs.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution No. 2122-0004 - Permitting Sojourner Truth Students to Transfer Back to Their In-Person Schools

FAILED - 8/25/2021

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

Resolution No. 2122-0004

Permitting Sojourner Truth Students to Transfer Back to Their In-Person Schools

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic presents a unique and unprecedented crisis;

WHEREAS, many students have not experienced in-person instruction at their enrolled school since March 2020 and want desperately to return to their school friends, their school, and their school community;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 delta variant is significantly more contagious and poses a serious health risk, particularly to unvaccinated students and their families, making many students and their families worry about returning to in-person instruction;

WHEREAS, the District is offering independent study at Sojourner Truth, which is its own separate school;

WHEREAS, students must transfer to transfer Sojourner Truth in order to participate in independent study, which means students would no longer be enrolled in their “in-person” schools as they cannot be enrolled in two schools at the same time;

WHEREAS, once those students no longer need or want independent study and wish to transfer back to their “in-person” schools they may not be able to do so as their former spots at their “in-person” schools may have been filled other students; and

WHEREAS, this situation, although consistent with the District’s open enrollment policy, serves as a disincentive for students to enroll in independent study and is unfair for those students who, due to their own health circumstances or those of a member of their household, need to enroll in independent study for health and safety reasons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent, notwithstanding any existing Board Policy, to ensure that a student enrolled in Sojourner Truth is able to transfer back to their “in-person” school consistent with the following parameters:

- A student shall be able to transfer back to their “in-person” school at any time during the 2021-22 and for the start of the 2022-23 school year,
- A student’s “in-person” school shall be the OUSD school in which they were enrolled prior to transferring to Sojourner Truth,
- A student who first enrolled in OUSD in Sojourner Truth or whose “in-person” school does not serve the student’s current grade (e.g., a student in sixth grade in 2021-22 cannot return to a K-5 school) shall not have an “in-person” school and this resolution shall not apply to them,

- No other students may be permitted to transfer into the “in-person” school if it would prohibit a student enrolled in Sojourner Truth from transferring back to their “in-person” school, and
- Any decrease in enrollment and ADA from (i) a student enrolling in Sojourner Truth and (ii) no student being able to replace that Sojourner Truth student at the “in-person” school may not be a basis to decrease staffing or funding at the “in-person” school.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on _____, 2021, by the Governing Board of the Oakland Unified School District 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.

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OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shanthi Gonzales
President, Board of Education

Kyla Johnston-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education