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

Board Cover Memorandum

To Facilities Committee

From Valarie Bachelor, Chairperson, Facilities Committee
Denise Saddler, Ed. D., Interim Superintendent

Meeting Date November 20, 2025

Subject Supporting the *Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act* and Affirming the Need for Climate Resilience Investment in Schools

Action Requested Adoption, by for Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Facilities Committee of the Resolution No. 2526-0188 Supporting the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act and Affirming the Need for Climate Resilience Investment in Schools.

Background The Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) recognizes that climate change poses an immediate and growing threat to the health, safety, and educational outcomes of students. Extreme heat, wildfires, flooding, and poor air quality increasingly disrupt learning and school operations.

Oakland’s students—particularly those in historically redlined, under-resourced, and frontline communities—are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and climate-related harms. These inequities mirror broader patterns of environmental racism that have subjected Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities to greater exposure to pollution and heat risk.

OUSD has already experienced multiple school closures and disruptions due to poor air quality and extreme heat days. Protecting students and staff will require investments in school infrastructure—such as heat pumps for cooling and clean air, shaded schoolyards, and green infrastructure—as well as expanded health and mental health supports to address climate-related trauma and illness.

Discussion The *Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act* would require the largest fossil fuel corporations to pay their fair share of the costs of climate damages in California, based on their historic greenhouse gas emissions. The policy would direct the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to conduct a comprehensive

assessment of climate damages from 1990–2024 and levy fees on major polluters to fund adaptation and resilience projects statewide.

At least 40% of funds would directly benefit disadvantaged and frontline communities, consistent with California’s environmental justice commitments. Funds could be used for upgrading school infrastructure, water systems, green space development, and zero-emission technologies—investments that align with OUSD’s equity, health, and sustainability goals.

By supporting this legislation, OUSD joins other California municipalities and school districts in advocating for equitable climate funding that relieves the financial burden from taxpayers and ensures that those responsible for the crisis contribute to the solution.

Fiscal Impact	There is no direct fiscal impact to OUSD from adopting this resolution. However, future allocations from a Climate Superfund could provide substantial funding opportunities for school climate resilience projects and infrastructure upgrades.
Attachment(s)	1. Resolution No. 2526-0188 - Supporting the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act and Affirming the Need for Climate Resilience Investment in Schools

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

Resolution No. 2526-0188

Supporting the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act and Affirming the Need for Climate Resilience Investment in Schools

WHEREAS, climate change, resulting primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels, is an immediate, grave threat to the people, communities, biodiversity, environment, economy and educational system of the state;

WHEREAS, extreme heat, sea level rise, wildfires, drought, floods, and severe storms are already costing lives and livelihoods across California;

WHEREAS, environmental racism and historic redlining have subjected Oakland's Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and low-income communities to disproportionate harm to their health and well-being from extreme heat and air pollution;

WHEREAS, children are especially vulnerable to climate harms, and climate change impacts the health and related school absences of Oakland Unified students in many ways, including more and worse asthma and allergies, higher risk for heat illness and related impacts on school sports, and anxiety and trauma due to climate-related extreme weather events;

WHEREAS, to protect students from these serious health threats will require that Oakland Unified School District invest in climate-resilient infrastructure (e.g. heat pumps for cooling and clean air, schoolyard retrofits for greener, shadier and safer spaces, etc.), training for staff (e.g. recognition of heat illness), and expanded nursing and mental health services capacity to deal with climate-related adverse health outcomes in students;

WHEREAS, the escalating financial burden of protecting Oakland Unified students from these climate-driven health and safety threats should not fall on taxpayers and working families;

WHEREAS, a small number of the world's largest fossil fuel corporations have emitted the bulk of global greenhouse pollution, fueling the climate crisis and raking in immense profits while we all pay the price;

WHEREAS, the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act will make the multinational fossil fuel companies that are responsible for the climate emergency pay for the damages they helped cause.

WHEREAS, the Climate Superfund Act will direct CalEPA to complete a first-of-its-kind comprehensive study of the true cost of climate damage to California and assess compensatory fees on the largest fossil fuel polluters, proportional to their fossil fuel emissions from 1990 through 2024, to address damages quantified in the cost study;

WHEREAS, the policy advances California’s commitment to environmental justice with a requirement that at least 40% of funds directly benefit disadvantaged communities to remedy past climate damages and build a more resilient and equitable California;

WHEREAS, the funds will support urgently-needed projects such as upgrading school and water infrastructure to help ensure safe and healthy environments in classrooms, developing urban green spaces to mitigate heat islands in impacted communities, deploying zero-emission vehicles and technologies that will improve air quality in cities like Oakland, and many more critical investments;

WHEREAS, the states of New York and Vermont have enacted their versions of a climate superfund similar to this one;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oakland Unified School District strongly supports the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act and recognizes it as a vital measure to protect students, advance equity and ensure a healthy, climate-resilient future for all Californians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oakland Unified School District calls upon State representatives to pass the Climate Superfund Act and to help ensure funds are equitably directed to frontline school districts that are most burdened by pollution and climate harms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution will be sent to our State Assembly Members, Senators, Attorney General, and Governor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this TBD, at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District.

Passed 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 TBD.

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jennifer Brouhard
President, Board of Education

Denise Gail Saddler, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent and Interim Secretary,
Board of Education