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BOARD OF EDUCATION
SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Resolution Directing the Superintendent to)
Develop an Implementation Plan for)
UC ‘a-g’ for All Students)

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of San Diego Unified School District is committed to ensuring that all San Diego students graduate with the skills, motivation, curiosity and resilience to succeed in their choice of college and career in order to lead and participate in the society of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, the Board is further committed to eliminating the achievement and opportunity gap, increasing high school graduation rates, and reducing drop out rates, and a college preparatory course sequence has been shown to promote the attainment of these goals; and

WHEREAS, the college preparatory course sequence embodied in the University of California (UC) ‘a-g’ eligibility requirements is a high-quality life readiness curriculum that does not guarantee college admission, but rather is made up of rigorous courses teaching core skills that prepare students not only to enter college, but also to become lifelong learners in a changing economy and a changing world; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that all students can be successful in a college/career preparatory curriculum; and

WHEREAS, less than forty-two (42) percent of District high school graduates currently complete the (UC) ‘a-g’ course sequence; and

WHEREAS, low (UC) ‘a-g’ completion rates in the District undermine our local and state economy, which depend on a well-prepared workforce, and undermine our democracy, which depends on a well-informed and engaged citizenry; and

WHEREAS, enrollment rates of low-income students, students of color, special needs students, and English Learner students in the (UC) ‘a-g’ coursework are lower than enrollment rates for other groups of students, which negatively impacts a disproportionate number of these students; and

WHEREAS, all District students do not currently have the opportunity to pursue an array of options, including college after high school, because they do not have the necessary foundation skills or are not enrolled in rigorous preparatory coursework that ensures college readiness, and

WHEREAS, the completion of an (UC) ‘a-g’ college preparatory sequence in conjunction with a rigorous and relevant career and technical education course pathways will provide San Diego Unified students a full array of post-secondary options; and

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District directs the Superintendent to ensure that every district high school provides every student with equitable access to the coursework necessary to meet UC/CSU admission-eligibility requirements, beginning with the 2009-10 academic year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent to ensure that all students are informed about the (UC) 'a-g' course requirements prior to committing to course enrollments in grade 9; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent to include in the implementation of this directive the necessary learning supports, alternative means for completion of the prescribed course sequence in order to accommodate the needs of all students, and realignment and dedication of resources necessary to ensure all students are prepared to successfully complete the (UC) 'a-g' course sequence, regardless of background, neighborhood, and income level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent to set timelines and benchmarks for providing the 'a-g' course sequence to all students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent to align and dedicate resources to support professional development that ensures that all teachers are supported in researching, developing, and sharing rigorous, engaging, and culturally relevant curriculum and effective methods for the successful implementation of the more rigorous (UC) 'a-g' curriculum for all students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent to strengthen and sustain the vocational and career-technical education program so that it is more aligned with college preparatory requirements and will better prepare students to meet the demands of a skill-intensive economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent shall establish a steering committee made up of all impacted stakeholders, including parents and students (with representatives from the English Learner and Special Education communities), employees and employee organizations (including teachers, counselors, principals, and central office representatives), post-secondary institutions and training programs (including four-year colleges and universities, two-year community colleges, and technical training programs), and other community members (workforce development groups, business industry groups, trade apprenticeship groups, and civil rights organizations) to review district graduation requirements and make recommendations for changes and/or modifications (taking into consideration California Education Code, other related state legislation, UC/CSU admission-eligibility requirements, practices in other urban districts in California, and the educational needs of different student populations); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the steering committee should take into consideration implications of modifying district graduation requirements, paying specific attention to matters such as facilities, funding, personnel, curriculum, career and technical education, and the special needs of different student populations; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the steering committee articulate the role that elementary, middle and high schools need to play in preparing students to successfully engage in the UC ‘a-g’ coursework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the steering committee develop and report its recommendations, along with a timeline for their implementation, to the Superintendent and Board of Education on or before December 31, 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent shall report to the Board on or before June 30, 2010, and semiannually thereafter, on the progress of this implementation with respect to student outcomes and district resource allocation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this planning and action begin immediately after the adoption of this Resolution, with the expectation that the recommended graduation requirements will be implemented beginning with the students entering ninth grade in the fall of 2010.

Adopted and approved by the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District at the regular meeting held on the 9th day of June 2009.

President

Vice President

Member

Member

Member

Superintendent