



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item 8.1

Meeting Date: December 7, 2017

Subject: Graduation 4All Update

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division: Academic Office & Continuous Improvement and Accountability

Recommendation: Receive information on the district’s secondary efforts to increase graduation rates, including the use of online courses for credit recovery purposes.

Background/Rationale: In response to the current graduation rate of 81.4%, the district has committed to give all students an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options. This report provides a highlight of some of the specific initiatives that are in process in support of this goal.

- Student Schedule Reviews and Changes
- FACE College Workshops
- UC Merced Homecoming Trip
- FAFSA Completion
- Credit Recovery Update

Financial Considerations: None

LCAP Goal(s): College, Career and Life Ready Graduates

Documents Attached:

1. Executive Summary

Estimated Time of Presentation: 10 minutes

Submitted by: Iris Taylor, Chief Academic Officer

Vincent Harris, Chief Continuous Improvement
and Accountability

Approved by: Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

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I. Overview of Graduation Outcome Improvement Efforts

Sacramento City Unified School District's (SCUSD) Equity, Access and Social Justice Guiding Principle is to ensure every student has an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options. This report focuses on some of the efforts that are actualizing this guiding principle.

Improving the graduation rate in SCUSD cannot be the sole responsibility of a unit, department, or division. It takes seeing the system and deconstructing processes to identify entry points for leveraging change via business processes and appropriate communication protocols. It requires a change of mindset in the performance of daily operations to implement the desired change. This Graduation 4All report will provide SCUSD's Board of Education with an opportunity to learn more about what the following district initiatives designed to change conditions in the present as it pertains to improving student outcomes by giving all students an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options.

- Reviewed and changed course schedules to prioritize students who were subject borderline for graduation and/or A-G completion in effort to increase the number of eligible students.
- In recognition of limitations to impacting a pre-existing master schedule, an investment in online credit recovery, including additional staff and licenses, was provided to remediate course work.
- Provided Family and Community Engagement (FACE) College Workshops in an effort to increase awareness of broad postsecondary options to students and families during priority application windows for all California institutions of higher education (i.e. California Community College, California State University, and University of California) and private colleges and universities. The goal is not college for all but rather making a real life connection to high school graduation.
- Via the district's partnership with UC Merced, the university provided an opportunity for our students to participate in an experiential open-house visit facilitated by SCUSD alumni designed to demonstrate the attainability of pursuing a UC education. Again, the goal is not college for all but rather making a real life connection to high school graduation.

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II. Driving Governance

The Equity, Access and Social Justice Guiding Principle to ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options is the driving force that guides overall district work.

III. Budget

N/A

IV. Goals, Objectives and Measures

The Guiding Principle will be critical to guiding all district work going forward. Specific goals, objectives, and measures for increasing student outcomes in the areas of graduation and A-G completion are in process of being developed and will be completed via formative Articulated Measures of Success.

V. Major Initiatives

Graduation Task Force to improve graduation rate and related outcomes.

VI. Results

Through our coordinated efforts, the following results have been achieved thus far:

- A total of 976 students have or are scheduled to remediate course credits in one or more classes.
- The number of students who are on track for A-G increased by 299 from 8/21/17 to 11/15/17.
- There were 90 students who participated in the UC Merced campus visit.

VII. Lessons Learned/Next Steps

The district has learned many lessons since initial implementation of the CCSS:

- Developing an interactive graduation matrix that identifies students who are off track for graduation by subject area and course that allows counselors to respond proactively with students beginning in their freshmen year.

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- There is a recognized need for the development of appropriate communication protocols across departments.
- More intentional professional learning is needed for stakeholders responsible for components within a comprehensive business process.
- Fidelity in the implementation and monitoring of business processes and related deadlines is also needed.

Next steps in the district's standards implementation include the following:

- Creating more intentional activities to expose students to a wider array of postsecondary choices, including career and technical schools and certificate / specialized training programs to create relevancy for high school graduation
- In the process of leveraging the partnership with SCC to offer campus tours and presentations specific to their certificate / specialized training programs.