



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 9.1

Meeting Date: November 21, 2019

Subject: College Going Update

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

Division: Superintendent Office

Recommendation: None

Background/Rationale: 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 provides an update on the extensive efforts of guidance and counseling to support students during the college application, matriculation and enrollment processes.

Financial Considerations: N/A

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

Documents Attached:

1. Executive Summary

<p>Estimated Time of Presentation: 15 minutes</p> <p>Submitted by: Christina Espinosa, Director, Guidance and Counseling and Vincent Harris, Chief Continuous Improvement and Accountability Officer</p> <p>Approved by: Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent</p>
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Guidance and Counseling

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I. Overview/History of Department or Program

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 serves as an update on the efforts related to the college application process and how data made available through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with local colleges and universities via the College Futures Foundation was utilized, specifically Sacramento State University. College going is one of the many postsecondary choices that we hope all students consider if it matches their career/life interests.

In terms of background, the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) application cycles are open from October 1- November 30. The Los Rios Community College application was made available October 1 with a rolling deadline, and the private colleges have an application window that also starts in October and often runs well into the following spring. One of our important supports during this process is the college eligibility letter and senior packet distribution. This packet provides a customized set of information to each 12th grade student based on the student's academic profile. The senior packet not only highlights potential CSU/UC universities which match the student's academic profile but it provides FAFSA and other college fit information. Thanks to our printing department we were able to provide the senior packets to all high school sites well before the CSU/UC application deadlines.

Following the October college eligibility letter mailing, the high school teams have been coordinating a series of college application presentations and hands-on application workshops to help students navigate the application processes. Partnerships with UC Davis, UC Merced, CSU Sacramento, Sacramento City College, and Cal-SOAP ensured all 12th grade students received segment specific information and support with the college application process. In addition, through a small grant from the Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation, we were able to partner with the SCUSD Youth Development Department to hire 5 part-time college mentors who are reaching out to targeted groups of students. The team of college mentors are in the process of creating a student-centered college going campaign to raise awareness about the college application/matriculation and FAFSA submission process. These college mentors are also leading a team of interns from CSU Sacramento who will be focused on developing a marketing campaign in the Spring focused primarily on the importance of matriculating to college and ultimately reducing the summer melt rate. The summer melt rate refers to instances where students have accepted admission in the spring to a college or university but ultimately decided not to attend the following fall effectively "melting" away.

In an effort to change conditions in the present, data from the UC Merced created A-G Course Monitoring Tool which identifies students who are minimally eligible to apply to a CSU were

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pulled to ensure students were invited to attend a series of college support activities. These data were then paired with the files that CSU Sacramento shared with us to identify who had submitted an application and who had not. The same is being done with the files received from the Los Rios Community College District.

As of November 12, 2019 a total of 2 exchanges have taken place. This data enables the counseling team(s) to provide more targeted support to those eligible students who have not yet submitted a CSU/UC application. School sites are also being more efficient in how they are leveraging partnerships with existing college access programs. For example, Luther Burbank High School, split up their targeted list of students by college access program and was very intentional about serving first those students who were not currently being supported by any program. Examples of additional supports include day, afterschool, and evening application workshops. Data is also being leveraged out of the California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI) platform. Students are able to upload course work directly to their CSU and CCC application directly which reduces the amount of manual coursework entry. This will allow us to see which CSU's and Community Colleges students applied to outside of Sacramento City College and CSU Sacramento region.

During the month of November email updates communicating the college application numbers have been shared with Instructional Assistant Superintendents, Counselors, Associate Principals, and Principals. The data was also shared via the monthly Associate Principal meetings. In addition, the Youth Development Department was also leveraged utilizing the student led podcast as a platform to encourage their peers to submit a college application.

The final application numbers are not yet available but we look forward to strengthening and growing the network of stakeholders that are all working to support our students with the college going process.

II. Driving Governance:

The overarching governance is the Equity, Access and Social Justice Guiding principle which states that *all students will have an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options.*

III. Budget:

The budget for all of this work is covered via ongoing staffing of counselors and district staff. In addition, \$75,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation which provided one time funding to support students in the area of college advising, financial aid, and reducing summer melt efforts.

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IV. Goals, Objectives and Measures:

The impact of the college going efforts will be measured by seeing an increase in the total number of students who ultimately apply to a college/university that matches their academic profile. The data will be accessed via the ongoing MOU with the local institutions of higher education (ie., Los Rios Community College, CSU Sacramento, UC Davis, and UC Merced.)

Articulated Measures of Success

- Number and percentage of 12th grade students who submitted a community college application
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students who submitted a CSU application
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students who submitted a UC application
- Number of unduplicated 12th grade students who applied to a CSU or a UC Campus corresponding to their CSU/UC eligibility match profile
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students identified for CSU Group A and applied to a campus in that grouping
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students identified for CSU Group B and applied to a campus in that grouping
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students identified for CSU Group C and applied to a campus in that grouping
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students identified for UC Group A and applied to a campus in that grouping
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students identified for UC Group B and applied to a campus in that grouping
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students identified for UC Group C and applied to a campus in that grouping

V. Major Initiatives:

College going initiatives include, but not limited to, college workshops, college fairs, college going marketing campaign, and data exchanges.

VI. Results:

As of November 1, 2019 SCUSD students have launched 356 CSU applications, have submitted 486 community college applications, and have submitted a total of 437 FAFSA applications. We anticipate to get another update on our local data by the end of the week.

VII. Lessons Learned/Next Steps:

- Work with sites to develop a plan for supporting students with college applications that are in alignment with the deadlines (ie., support with UC/CSU applications before the CCC applications)

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- Develop a plan for supporting students which includes all Counselors, not just those with a senior caseload
- Develop a plan for supporting students during the Thanksgiving holiday
- Organize ongoing check in sessions with college/universities to ensure all technical issues are resolved as quickly as possible
- Develop in-depth FAFSA training
- Work with our UC partners to get applicant data
- Continue working with the Youth Development Department to explore student led college going campaigns and expand their service hours