



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item 9.1

Meeting Date: November 1, 2018

Subject: College Eligibility Letter Initiative

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

Division: Continuous Improvement and Accountability

Recommendation: Receive update on college eligibility letter project and how it is benefiting students in our district.

Background/Rationale: This presentation serves as an update on the college eligibility letter initiative and the efforts taking place to encourage students applying to colleges and universities that match their academic profile. The college eligibility letter project is one example of the many benefits to students of the district's innovative partnership with U.C. Merced and other higher education institutions.

Financial Considerations: \$23,000

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

Documents Attached:

1. Executive Summary

Estimated Time of Presentation: 10 minutes

Submitted by: Vincent Harris, Chief Continuous Improvement and Accountability

Christina Espinosa, Guidance and Counseling

Approved by: Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

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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 college eligibility letters that were mailed to every eligible 12th grade student attending a Sacramento City Unified High School which is approximately 3,300.

The college eligibility packets that students received were customized to each student's academic profile which was made up of a combination of grades, SAT/ACT scores and general college/university admission requirements. The college/university match is driven by profiles of Sacramento City Unified alumni who have attended those universities in prior years. The goal of the initiative is to ensure that students are aware of their CSU/UC options based on their academic profile. While the profile does not guarantee admission, we believe it provides valuable information for students and their families to consider during the college admissions process.

Over the past couple of months, the SCUSD Guidance and Counseling team has been working with various SCUSD departments to ensure that they are familiar with the content of the college eligibility letters in an effort to better prepare and anticipate questions from students and families. SCUSD's Youth Development team is also using their student led podcast platform to remind students of the college eligibility packets and are encouraging students to seek out their Counselor(s) should any questions arise. SCUSD's communication department has been actively engaged in promoting the project via a variety of multimedia platforms. This initiative has generated productive conversations around how to more proactively share this type of content in earlier grade levels so that 12th grade students enter their seniors more empowered and prepared for the college application cycle. This feedback will be used as we continue to build on the grade level services Counselors provide students.

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 overall budget was \$23,000. The expenses include the cost of envelopes, printing and postage.

IV. Goals, Objectives and Measures:

The impact of the college eligibility packet project 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 recently signed MOU with the local institutions of higher education (i.e., Los Rios Community College District, California State University, Sacramento, University of California, Davis, and University of California, Merced).

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V. Major Initiatives:

This initiative fits within the district's overall college going efforts.

VI. Results:

This year we plan to measure the outcomes of this initiative across a focused range of indicators which are summarized below:

Articulated Measures of Success

- 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

VII. Lessons Learned/Next Steps:

- There is a recognized need for additional professional learning for Counselors to have more intentional conversations with students around college “fit” vs. college “match”
- Higher education partners can directly support us in this work. We are currently collaborating with California State University, Sacramento's Dean of Counseling to develop training modules regarding this particular topic and others.
- Youth voice can play a key role in this work. We are currently in the process of working with the Youth Development Department to explore some student led college going campaigns.
- College eligibility starts in elementary school. It is important to incorporate this information into earlier grade levels to increase the college match pipeline.