

**Superintendent's Proposal**

811-20SP1 - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE A-G COURSE SEQUENCE AS PART OF THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENT (BOARD POLICY # \_\_\_\_\_)

**REQUESTED ACTION:** That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District adopts the following policy directive:

- (1) Implement a district wide rigorous and relevant course sequence that satisfies the A-G requirements as part of the graduation requirements with the goal of implementing these requirements beginning with students entering the 9th grade in 2010 and thereafter, and that allows students across the district to experience consistent expectations and requirements.
- (2) Include in the implementation of this policy the necessary (a) learning supports, (b) alternative means for completion of the prescribed course sequence in order to accommodate the needs of all students, (c) professional development, and (d) realignment and dedication of resources necessary to ensure all students are prepared to successfully complete the A-G course sequence, with specific attention to the critical transition years of 6th and 9th grades.
- (3) Establish an A-G implementation committee that incorporates the involvement of the impacted stakeholders, including parents and students, and college/university representatives in the development and implementation of the District's strategy, paying specific attention to matters such as facilities, finance, personnel, 21<sup>st</sup> century learning, and other relevant areas.
- (4) Report on or before October 31, 2009, and biannually on the progress of this implementation with respect to student outcomes and district resource allocation.

**BACKGROUND:**

Through its Strategic Plan, *Beyond the Talk*, the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District has committed to become one of the best urban school districts in the nation and to substantially reduce the predictive power of demographics in its schools and the subsequent underpreparation of various student populations.

Currently, not all SFUSD students have a choice to pursue an array of options after high school since many are unable to enroll in a college preparatory coursework, commonly known as the A-G course sequence. African American, Latino, Pacific Islander, English Learner, and economically disadvantaged students are disproportionately represented among those students not prepared for the option of college.

The A-G course sequence is a rigorous life readiness curriculum that does not guarantee college admission but rather allows students the choice to pursue post secondary education, vocation/career technical education, a career, and other career options and has been shown to close the Achievement Gap, increase high school graduation, and reduce drop out rates. The completion of the A-G course sequence, in conjunction with a rigorous and relevant career and technical education, and access to development of a broad array of 21st century skills, capacities, and dispositions, can provide students the fullest possible array of post secondary options.

In various community forums, parents and students have expressed overwhelmingly their desire for education that results in college readiness, recognizing that 21<sup>st</sup> century success requires higher and more diverse levels of preparation than ever before.

In alignment with the goals and objectives of our Strategic Plan, the proposed policy directive seeks to (1) respond to these family and community desires, (2) address real-world requirements of the 21<sup>st</sup> century for more rigorous student preparation, and (3) disrupt current unacceptable achievement/graduation results that disproportionately negatively impact students of color, English Learners, and poor students.

11/20/08 (On 11/20/08 by order of the Chair, referred to Com of the Whole on 11/25/08)

12/9/08