

# SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item 9.1

**Meeting Date:** September 7, 2017

**Subject:** Student Achievement Presentation: Graduation

- 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

**Recommendation:** This agenda item is for discussion only.

**Background/Rationale:** The Sacramento City Unified School District recognizes that high school graduation is a pivotal milestone in the lives of its students and works diligently to ensure all students successfully complete the required course work and courses of study to graduate from the school district with the requisite skills for college

Principle underscores the importance of high school graduation and its significance in ensuring that all students are not just given an equal opportunity to graduate, but are able to do so with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options.

However, in recent years the SCUSD graduation rate trend has been uneven.

**Financial Considerations:** None

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

**Documents Attached:**

1. Executive Summary

**Estimated Time of Presentation:** 20 minutes

**Submitted by:** Iris Taylor, Chief Academic Officer and  
Vincent Harris, Chief of Continuous Improvement  
and Accountability

**Approved by:** Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

# Board of Education Executive Summary

Academic Office/Continuous Improvement

Student Achievement Presentation: Graduation

September 7, 2017

## I. Overview/History of Department or Program

The Sacramento City Unified School District recognizes that high school graduation is a pivotal milestone in the lives of its students and works diligently to ensure all students successfully complete the required course work and courses of study to graduate from the school district with the requisite skills for college and career readiness. The district's new Equity, Access, and Social Justice Guiding Principle underscores the importance of high school graduation and its significance in ensuring that all students are not just given an equal opportunity to graduate, but are able to do so with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options.

However, in recent years the SCUUSD graduation rate trend has been uneven. For example, the graduation rate was 79.9% for the 2012-2013 school year, peaked at 85% for the 2013-2014 school year but declined back to 80.5% for the 2015-2016 school year. This concerning pattern led Superintendent Aguilar to create the graduation taskforce which was announced the first day of school August 31<sup>st</sup>. The taskforce will convene in September with the charge of developing a set of rigorous recommendations for the Superintendent by December 2017 that will guide district policy and practice and lead to improvements in graduation rates where all students are fully prepared for any postsecondary option they may choose.

## II. Driving Governance:

Per board policy 6146-1: Because graduation from high school provides students with opportunities for postsecondary education and or employment, the Governing Board is to prepare each student to obtain a diploma of high school graduation. High Graduation represents an important life achievement for the student, family and community. America's Promise Alliance has done extensive work on the importance of high school graduation. Below are several reasons why high school graduation matters:

x

High school graduates are more likely to vote. During the 2012 presidential election, 4 percent of people who left high school without graduating voted compared to 24 percent of youth with only a high school diploma and 37 percent with a college degree.<sup>[28]</sup>

# Board of Education Executive Summary

Academic Office/Continuous Improvement

Student Achievement Presentation: Graduation

September 7, 2017

- x High school graduates contribute to America's national security because students that leave high school without a diploma are not qualified to serve in the military.
- x The nation's economy depends on skilled labor. Business leaders report difficulty in finding enough qualified employees with the skills, training and education to meet their companies' needs.

The important takeaway is that high graduation matters in multiple ways. High school graduates have a much higher chance of achieving their personal dreams than high school drop outs. Our job is to ensure that students graduate high school ready for whatever they aspire to do next in life.

### III. Budget:

The budget for this item will be determined by the recommendations of the Graduation Taskforce.

### IV. Goals, Objectives and Measures:

Improving graduation rate initiatives are included in the district's LCAP as adding counselors at the secondary level, a California College Guidance Initiative pilot and College Readiness Block grant initiatives. In addition as the Graduation Task Force completes its work, several of their recommendations will be adopted during next year's budget process and LCAP revisions

### V. Major Initiatives:

