



#### officers

**president** Linda Kaminski, Ed.D. **president-elect** Ron Williams, Ed.D. **vice president** Charlie Hoffman

**vice president for legislative action** Barbara Martinez **past president** Holly Edds, Ed.D. **executive director** Wesley Smith, Ed.D.

October 28, 2019

Adam Day  
Chairman, California State University  
Board of Trustees  
401 Golden Shore  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Peter J. Taylor  
Committee on Educational Policy  
CSU Board of Trustees  
401 Golden Shore  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Opposition to CSU Proposal Modifying Freshman Admission Requirements

Dear Chairman Day and Trustee Taylor,

On behalf of the Association of California School Administrators, which represents nearly 18,000 public school leaders statewide, we are writing in opposition of the California State University proposal to modify the freshman eligibility requirements of mandating an additional quantitative reasoning course for admission into the CSU system.

On October 18, 2019, the ACSA Board of Directors voted unanimously to oppose the CSU's proposal. While our organization appreciates the university's stated goal of improving retention and graduation rates, our K-12 leaders are deeply concerned that this proposal will have a negative and disproportional impact on many of our most vulnerable communities. At a time when California is plagued by wide racial and ethnic gaps in enrollment and success at four-year universities, we must regrettably oppose any policy that creates more obstacles to historically underrepresented students earning a degree. Despite the tireless efforts of our teachers and school leaders in preparing our students for college and career, we understand that not all schools have the same resources at their disposal. Unfortunately, there is prevailing research and evidence that disparity of resources among our California schools often causes persistent issues with access to mathematics and science for many rural communities and students of color.

While we acknowledge CSU's efforts in soliciting perspectives from educators in developing this proposal, it appears there was a lack of broad-scale consultation with the K-12 community. ACSA believes that the proposal may overlook some of the real challenges of limited quantitative course offerings, master scheduling, and the teachers necessary for all students to meet this requirement. Our education leaders do not believe that the university should advance a change to admission requirements without first working closely with K-12 leaders to fully understand the prevalence of qualifying courses through our state. Although the CSU has called for a waiver for students in school districts that do not have applicable courses available to qualify for an additional quantitative reasoning course, we continue to believe that students applying from under-resourced high schools will still be at a disadvantage when competing for admission for limited seats, as admission to the CSU has continued to become more selective.

---

#### office locations

##### sacramento

1029 J Street, Suite 500, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tel 916.444.3216 • 800.608.2272  
Fax 916.444.3739

##### burlingame

1575 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA 94010  
Tel 650.692.4300 • 800.608.2272  
Educational Services Fax: 650.692.6858  
Financial Services Fax: 650.259.1029  
Member Services Fax: 650.437.9189

##### ontario

3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite A-230, Ontario, CA 91764  
Tel 909.484.7503 • 800.608.2272  
Fax 909.484.7504

**web site**  
[www.acsa.org](http://www.acsa.org)

While we commend the CSU's commitment to exploring the academic preparation of the students that come to the university, we urge the board of trustees to oppose this initiative and work closely with their partners in the K-12 community on how to better achieve the stated objective of increasing graduation rates.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and will look forward to future collaboration in the interest of the students of this state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edgar Zazueta', written in a cursive style.

Edgar Zazueta, Ed.D  
Senior Director of Policy and Government Relations

cc: California State University Board of Trustees  
Timothy P. White, Ph.D., CSU Chancellor  
Loren Blanchard, Ph.D., CSU Executive Vice Chancellor  
James Minor, Ph.D., CSU Assistant Vice Chancellor/Senior Strategist