



**Los Angeles
Urban League**

*Empowering communities.
Changing lives.*

Adam Day, Chair
California State University Board of Trustees
c/o Trustee Secretariat
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Chancellor Timothy P. White
California State University,
Office of the Chancellor
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

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Re: Proposal to Change First-Year Admission Eligibility Requirements

Dear Chair Day and Chancellor White:

The Los Angeles Urban League would like to add its voice to the many who have expressed their opposition to your proposal to potentially add a fourth year of mathematics/quantitative reasoning to the admission requirements for incoming first-year students to the California State University (CSU) system.

Adding a fourth year of mathematics/quantitative reasoning to the existing rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum known as "A-G" will further exacerbate access to the CSU system during a time of significant constraint.

As you know, recent reports on the *State of Higher Education for Latinx and Black Californians* found that less than 40% of Black and Latinx high school graduates were given the opportunity to complete the A-G curriculum by their high schools. That means that over 60% of Black and Latinx high school graduates are already ineligible to apply to the CSU system for reasons over which they have no control. Requiring a fourth year of quantitative reasoning to the CSU eligibility criteria will likely have the impact of increasing this number and producing even more racial/ethnic disparity.

There has been little evidence or research presented by the CSU that a fourth year of quantitative reasoning in high school directly leads to better outcomes for CSU students. The University of California, the state's most selective and elite university system, does not require a fourth year of quantitative reasoning for incoming freshmen because of the high percentage of incoming freshmen who have taken a fourth year of math. Given the high percentage of CSU students taking four years of math in high school, what rationale is there for making admissions requirements more difficult other than to place additional and unnecessary obstacles in the path of otherwise deserving applicants?

At a time when California continues to be plagued by wide racial/ethnic gaps in enrollment and success at public four-year universities, our higher education systems must ensure that

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policies do not unfairly create unnecessary obstacles for students on the way to earning a college degree.

We share the goal of the CSU to ensure more students are prepared to succeed in college, but we must ask what problem is this proposal designed to address?

For these reasons, we ask you to not require a fourth year of mathematics/quantitative reasoning. We will continue to champion greater enrollment funding for the CSU to serve all eligible students and urge that all our high school students, regardless of race/ethnicity or income status, are equitably offered and supported to complete the current A – G curriculum.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Lawson
President & CEO