



June 13, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The San Francisco Unified School District is aware that there is a proposal for an increased requirement for admission to a CSU that would require students to take and pass four years of A-G approved high school math courses. We strongly disagree with this proposal because the increased requirement would reduce the number of students who are eligible for admission to CSU. Moreover, it will disproportionately impact students from the most marginalized groups, including African American students, students with a primary language other than English, and students with IEPs.

The SFUSD agrees with the research that all students should take rigorous math courses that prepare them for college and career. Our graduation requirements support this goal, as all SFUSD students must take three years of A-G mathematics to graduate. In addition, we strongly recommend that students take a fourth year of rigorous math to support their transition to college. While the number of students taking fourth year math courses in SFUSD has increased, with 10% more students having taken courses beyond Algebra 2 in 2018–2019 than in 2017–2018, we believe that the 4th year course should continue to be a recommendation, rather than a requirement.

Our graduates are eligible to enter both the UC and the CSU system and an increase in requirements for CSU (and yet not for UC) would reduce opportunities for many of our students. Many of our first generation college bound students may become ineligible for your universities. For example, a student who fails Algebra 1 as a freshman but then successfully passes Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 before graduating, would currently be college bound but by your proposed admissions policy, this student would be ineligible for CSU.

CSU has removed remedial math classes as a means to stop the harmful practices which disproportionately held back students of color. We encourage you to continue to find ways to support students entering your university system to successfully complete their general education quantitative reasoning requirement. However, please do not do this by denying students a chance to begin their university experience. For many of our students, the CSU system is a path that is attainable, reasonable, and affordable.

Sincerely,

Vincent Matthews
Superintendent