

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 20-12
Board of Education Report

WHEREAS, The California State University (CSU) Quantitative Reasoning Task Force and the Academic Senate for the CSU have put forth a resolution that proposes to add a fourth year of math/quantitative reasoning to the A-G college preparatory requirements as part of freshman eligibility for students entering in Fall 2023 (or 2024);

WHEREAS, The CSU Board of Trustees reviewed the proposal during the July 23-24, 2019 meeting;

WHEREAS, The Vista Unified School District serves over twenty thousand students, over 65 percent of whom are Latinx, Black, Filipino, and Native American;

WHEREAS, The District is fully committed to ensuring college access for its ethnically diverse student body by improving the percent of graduates eligible to attend California public colleges and universities;

WHEREAS, The District is proud of the tremendous work it is undergoing, and has undergone for over a decade, to make the A-G curriculum the default curriculum for all students and this proposed expansion of CSU admissions requirements is unreasonable and will stymy progress;

WHEREAS, District high school graduates have been subjected to additional barriers for admission to the CSU system, including higher grade point averages and higher standardized test scores because of competition over too few seats for eligible students at CSU campuses, and this proposed expansion would only make it more difficult for our students to gain admission;

WHEREAS, The CSU effort is lacking in broad-scale consultation with K-12 school districts and ignores the real challenges of limited quantitative course offerings and teachers required to meet such a requirement;

WHEREAS, The preparation of students for college is under the purview of secondary institutions and should be done to ensure equity per the California Education Code and not the admissions policy;

WHEREAS, This proposal is moving forward in the absence of evidence that clearly articulates why this change is necessary, and it lacks definitive evidence that four years of math directly improves CSU student success and will not pose a disparate impact on underrepresented students;

WHEREAS, Colleges and universities have historically used math to predict student success in college-level courses, leading to a disparate impact on Black, Latinx, and Native American students who are, in effect, disproportionately placed in remedial courses, have less access to credit-bearing college-level coursework, and less access to earn a college degree;

WHEREAS, Students who take advanced math courses do tend to perform well in college, but research shows this effect is tied to other factors, like race and income;

WHEREAS, The addition of a fourth year of mathematics/quantitative reasoning to the CSU admission requirements for first-year incoming students will further exacerbate barriers to accessing the CSU system among District graduates by disproportionately harming students of color in under-resourced high schools that do not offer a fourth year of math;

WHEREAS, The District is fully committed to working in partnership with the CSU and other postsecondary institutions to make a variety of high-quality math courses available to students in their junior and senior year; and

WHEREAS, The District has inadequate funding being that California ranks 44th in education spending;


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Vista Unified School District calls upon the CSU Chancellor and Board of Trustees to honor its commitment to be the “People’s University” by providing access to an excellent education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board formally opposes the passage and adoption of a CSU proposal to change its freshman eligibility requirements to add a fourth year of math/quantitative reasoning and urges the CSU Board of Trustees to vote against this proposal that would further exacerbate access challenges for District graduates;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Board will express this opposition through submission of a letter to the CSU Chancellor and the Board of Trustees.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Vista Unified School District this 17th day of October, 2019.


President, Board of Trustees
VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT


Clerk, Board of Trustees
VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT