

Subject: Resolution No. 101-12A4
In Support of Increasing Participation in AP Courses by Offering District-Wide Open Enrollment AP Courses
- Commissioners Sandra Lee Fewer, Jane Kim, and Kim-Shree Maufas

WHEREAS: A student's access to AP courses is largely dictated by the number of AP courses available at his or her respective high school; and

WHEREAS: The distribution of AP courses throughout the district is grossly inequitable, with Lowell High offering a full twenty-six (26) separate and distinct AP classes, Abraham Lincoln High and Galileo High each offering fourteen (14), George Washington High offering thirteen (13), Thurgood Marshall High offering twelve (12), Balboa offering eleven (11), Mission High and School of the Arts each offering nine (9), John O'Connell High offering seven (7), Philip & Sala Burton High and Academy of Arts and Sciences each offering six (6), and Raoul Wallenberg High offering a mere five (5); and

WHEREAS: African American and Latino students are underrepresented in AP courses district-wide, with only 4% of African American and 11% of Latino high school students enrolled in AP courses in the 2008 – 2009 school year; and

WHEREAS: A study team convened by the superintendent to examine the potential impact of opening enrollment for AP courses recognized a high level of interest from many stakeholders to increase participation in AP courses and identified a trend among school districts nationwide to ensure that low-income and underrepresented students have access to high quality AP courses; and

WHEREAS: Research reveals that students of all abilities learn more in AP courses than in general classes, and that even those students who enter high school with test scores in the lowest quartile learn more in academically rigorous courses than they do in the low level general courses in which they are traditionally enrolled; and

WHEREAS: Data shows that even AP students who get scores as low as a two (2) on AP exams do better in college than students who do not take AP courses at all; and

WHEREAS: Enrollment and performance in University-approved AP courses is one of fourteen (14) review factors used by University of California (UC) campuses to select among qualified candidates for admission, and California State University (CSU) campuses assign extra points to the eligibility index of applicants who have taken approved AP courses in the last three years of high school; and

WHEREAS: This policy would address the three main goals from Beyond the Talk, the 2008 – 2012 SFUSD Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1: Access and Equality – Make social justice a reality
- Goal 2: Student Achievement – Engage high achieving and joyful learners
- Goal 3: Accountability – Keep our promises to students and families; and

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WHEREAS: In addition, this policy would specifically advance Objective 1.1 and Objective 2.2 from Beyond the Talk, the 2008 – 2012 SFUSD Strategic Plan:

- Diminish the predictive power of all demographic data on high and equitable student achievement by increasing the achievement of all groups of students and dramatically accelerating the achievement of targeted groups of students (African-American, English Language Learners, Latino, Pacific Islander, Samoan, Special Education)
- Graduate all students college and career path ready and prepared with the skills/capacities required for successful 21st Century citizenship (academic competence; technological fluency; creative/critical/innovative thinking, reasoning and solution seeking; high level multi-modal communication skills; environmental, civic and social responsibility; strength of character, high level multilingual/multicultural skills; aesthetic sensibility; collaborative/team orientations).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District requests that the District, as a requirement, offer a selection of core and high interest AP courses to high school students district-wide outside of regular school hours at city-owned sites located in proximity of underserved students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That enrollment in the above described district-wide AP courses will be open, meaning that any student from any high school throughout the district may enroll regardless of prior academic performance or completion of any conceived prerequisites; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:

That the District will provide support to the above described program in the form of academic counseling and encouragement to students, student transportation, and professional development of instructors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the above described program will be added to the list of recommendations presented to the Superintendent for AP access.

1/12/10

2/23/10

Please Note:

- *Referred by order of the Chair on 1/12/10 to the Curriculum and Program and Budget and Business Services Committees.*
- *Taken up by the Curriculum and Program Committee on 2/1/10. Positive recommendation as amended, by general consent of the Committee. Issue to be returned to and addressed by the Curriculum and Program Committee.*
- *Taken up by the Budget and Business Services Committee on 2/22/10. Forwarded to the Board with a positive recommendation with the budget analysis attached and that when the superintendent's report comes to the Board that the budget implications be included.*
- *Adopted, as amended, on 2/23/10.*