

Resolution of Commendation

Adopted by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of September 24, 2002

Subject: Resolution No. 29-24A4

**COMMENDATION OF *CALIFORNIANS FOR JUSTICE*'S
ORGANIZING EFFORTS AGAINST THE CALIFORNIA
HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM**

- Commissioners Eric Mar and Mark Sanchez

WHEREAS: California's high stakes High School Exit Exam (HSEE) is administered across unequal schools, with schools in low-income communities of color experiencing, for example, more shortages of educational materials, inadequate learning environments, and higher rates of teacher and administrative turnover; and

WHEREAS: The reliance on the HSEE as the primary measure of student performance unfairly penalizes students who have not been provided with the academic tools to perform to their highest potential on these tests; and

WHEREAS: The High School Exit Exam discriminates based on language because it is given only in English; and

WHEREAS: The California High School Exit Exam promotes a narrowing of the curriculum and "teaching to the test" in all schools, and most egregiously, by 2004 will determine whether students graduate from high school; and

WHEREAS: Desperately needed education funding and instructional time are diverted to administer the High School Exit Exam; and

WHEREAS: In 2000-2001 HSEE testing, African-American and Latino students were failed at twice the rate of their White counterparts, and low-income students at twice the rate of middle-class students (Applied Research Center, Oakland), and the wealthiest 10% of schools in California have received more API rewards than schools in other income brackets (California Budget Project, Sacramento); and

WHEREAS: Preliminary data demonstrates that the 2001-2002 HSEE results are similar to the outcomes in 2000-2001; and

WHEREAS: *Californians for Justice* is taking the lead in a statewide alliance of students, parents, community members, policy makers, and community-based organizations that are fighting the imposition of the California High School Exit Exam; and

WHEREAS: *Californians for Justice* will be taking action on October 8th, 2002, across the state to protest the exam, targeting especially Governor Gray Davis, who pushed through the HSEE bill in his first months in office, and the State Board of Education, which is appointed by the Governor and is mainly comprised of corporate elites.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the San Francisco Board of Education commends *Californians for Justice* for its courageous work on behalf of students of color and English Language Learner Student.

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9/24/02