



# SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 9.1

**Meeting Date:** December 10, 2020

**Subject:** College Going and CTE Update

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

**Division:** Continuous Improvement and Accountability

**Recommendation:** N/A

**Background/Rationale:** This presentation serves as an update on the 2019-2020 graduation and A-G rate, efforts being made to support students with the college application process, and an overview of the current CTE programs within the district.

**Financial Considerations:** None

**LCAP Goal(s):** College, Career and Life Ready Graduates

**Documents Attached:**

1. Executive Summary

<p><b>Estimated Time of Presentation:</b> 15 minutes present</p> <p><b>Submitted by:</b> Vincent Harris, Chief Continuous Improvement and Accountability Officer and Christina Espinosa, Director of Guidance and Counseling</p> <p><b>Approved by:</b> Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent</p>
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# Board of Education Executive Summary

## Guidance and Counseling

College and Career Going Update

December 10, 2020



### I. Overview/History of Department or Program

Sacramento City Unified School District's (SCUSD) Equity, Access, and Social Justice Guiding Principle is to ensure every student has an equal opportunity to graduate **with the greatest number of postsecondary choices** from the widest array of options. This report serves as an update on the 2019-2020 graduation, FAFSA, and A-G rates. In addition, efforts related to the college application process and how data made available through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with local colleges and universities via the College Futures Foundation was utilized and an overview of current CTE pathways within SCUSD. College going is one of the many post-secondary choices that we hope all students consider if it matches their career interests.

In terms of background, the California State University (CSU)/University of California (UC) application cycle is open from October 1- November 30, the Los Rios Community College application was made available October 1, and the private colleges have an application window that also starts in October and often runs well into the spring. Due to the current pandemic, the University of California (UC) has extended the application deadline to December 4, 2020 and California State University (CSU) system extended their deadline to December 15, 2020.

One of our most important supports during this process is the college eligibility letter and senior packet. This packet provides a customized set of information to each 12<sup>th</sup> grade student based on the student's academic profile. The senior packet not only highlights potential universities which match the student profile but it provides FAFSA and other college fit information. Thanks to our printing department we were able to provide the senior packets to all high school sites before the application deadlines.

Following the October college eligibility letter mailing, the high school teams have been coordinating a series of virtual college application presentations to support students navigate the application processes. Partnerships with UC Davis, UC Merced, CSU Sacramento, Sacramento City College, and Cal-SOAP ensured all 12th grade students received segment specific information and support with the college application process. In addition, we were able to partner with the SCUSD Youth Development Department to hire 5 part-time college mentors who are reaching out to targeted groups of students. The team of college mentors are in the process of creating a student-centered college going campaign to raise awareness about the college application/matriculation and FAFSA submission process. These college mentors are also leading a team of interns from Sacramento State who will be focused on developing a marketing campaign in the Spring focused primarily on the importance of matriculating to college and ultimately reducing the summer melt rate. Lastly, due to students not being in space with school counselors, we felt it necessary to provide additional support in terms of assisting students draft their UC Personal Insight Questions. We hosted several workshops over

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the Thanksgiving break resulting in 43 students completing their personal statements which is often the gatekeeper to students submitting their UC application.

In an effort to change conditions in the present, data from the UC Merced created A-G Course Monitoring Tool which identifies students who are minimally eligible to apply to a CSU were pulled to ensure students were invited to attend a series of college support activities. These data were then paired with the files that Sacramento State shared with us to identify who had submitted an application and who had not. The same is being done with the files received from The Los Rios Community College District, UC Davis, and UC Merced.

As of November 30th, 2020 a total of 2 exchanges from Sac State and 1 upload from UC Davis has taken place. This data enables the Counseling team(s) to provide more targeted support to those students who have not yet submitted a CSU/UC application. School sites are also being more efficient in how they are leveraging partnerships with existing college access programs. For example, CalSOAP has assisted in coordinating Cash for College workshops at each of our high schools. Data is also being leveraged out of the California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI) platform. Students are able to upload course work directly to their CSU and CCC application directly which reduces the amount of manual coursework entry. This will allow us to see which CSU's and Community Colleges students applied to outside of Sacramento City College and CSU Sacramento.

During the month of November email updates communicating the college application numbers have been shared with Instructional Assistant Superintendents, Counselors, Associate Principals, and Principals. The data was also shared via the monthly Associate Principal meetings. In addition, the Youth Development Department was also leveraged utilizing the student led podcast as a platform to encourage their peers to submit a college application.

The final application numbers are not yet available but we look forward to strengthening and growing the network of stakeholders that are all working to support our students with the college going process.

The district also recognizes that postsecondary also means that students may also choose other alternatives after high school graduation including the building trades, military or other workforce options. The district's Career Technical Pathways provide invaluable opportunities for students to discover their career interests and engage in meaningful opportunities to explore them while in high school. There will be a brief update on the CTE program as well.

## II. Driving Governance:

The overarching governance is the Equity, Access and Social Justice Guiding principle which states that *all students will have an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options.*

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### III. Budget:

The budget for all of this work is covered via ongoing staffing of counselors and district staff. The hiring of the 5 college mentors through the partnership with Youth Development comes at a cost of approximately \$89,000 annually.

### IV. Goals, Objectives and Measures:

The impact of the college going efforts will be measured by seeing an increase in the total number of students who ultimately apply to a college/university that matches their academic profile. The data will be accessed via the ongoing MOU with the local institutions of higher education (ie., Los Rios Community College, CSU Sacramento, UC Davis, and UC Merced.)

#### Articulated Measures of Success

- Number and percentage of 12th grade students who submitted a community college application
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students who submitted a CSU application
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students who submitted a UC application
- Number of unduplicated 12th grade students who applied to a CSU or a UC Campus corresponding to their CSU/UC eligibility match profile
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students identified for CSU Group A and applied to a campus in that grouping
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students identified for CSU Group B and applied to a campus in that grouping
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students identified for CSU Group C and applied to a campus in that grouping
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students identified for UC Group A and applied to a campus in that grouping
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students identified for UC Group B and applied to a campus in that grouping
- Number and percentage of 12th grade students identified for UC Group C and applied to a campus in that grouping
- Number and percentage of students who earn a CTE completer status

### V. Major Initiatives:

College going initiatives include, but not limited to, college workshops, college fairs, college going marketing campaign, and data exchanges.

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### VI. Results:

As of November 29, 2020 SCUSD students have launched 210 CSU applications, 152 applications to UC Davis, and 558 FAFSA applications. We anticipate to get another update on our local data by the end of the week. In terms of CTE, we saw a total of 1,155 Concentrator courses completed, an increase of 281 courses over the 2019-2020 academic year. We saw a total of 333 Completers, an increase of 110 courses over the 2019-2020 academic school year. This is significant as it is one of several data elements used on the CA Dashboard.

### VII. Lessons Learned/Next Steps:

- Work with sites to develop a plan for supporting students with college applications that are in alignment with the deadlines (ie., support with UC/CSU applications before the CCC applications)
- Develop a plan for supporting students which includes all Counselors, not just those with a senior caseload
- Develop a plan for supporting students during the Thanksgiving holiday
- Organize ongoing check in sessions with college/universities to ensure all technical issues are resolved as quickly as possible
- Develop in-depth FAFSA training
- Work with our UC partners to get applicant data
- Continue working with the Youth Development Department to explore student led college going campaigns and expand their service hours