

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT
Mao Misty Her

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS JUNE 14, 2024

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Interim Superintendent, Mao Misty Her

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT – Mao Misty Her

S-1 Mao Misty Her Interim Superintendent Calendar Highlights

CHIEF OF STAFF – Ambra O’Connor

COS-1 Amy Idsvoog Contract Extension Option Exercised for Student Resource Officers
COS-2 Amy Idsvoog Health Service Staffing for Summer Learning Programs

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES – Patrick Jensen, Chief Financial Officer

BFS-1 Kim Kelstrom School Services Weekly Update Reports for June 07, 2024

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION – Carlos Castillo, Ed.D., Chief Officer

DEI-1 Rita Baharian Suicide Prevention Board Policy (BP) 5141.52 Revisions
DEI-2 Dr. Lisa Mitchell Ratify Mark T. Harris’ Social Justice Project

ENGAGEMENT & EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS – Wendy McCulley, Chief Officer

EPP-1 Wendy McCulley Scholarships

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number S-1

From the Office of the Interim Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Mao Misty Her, Interim Superintendent
Cabinet Approval:

Date: June 14, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Interim Superintendent Calendar Highlights

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board of notable calendar items:

- Spoke at the Fresno County Hmong Students Graduation
- Held listening session with Southeast Community Partners
- Met with State Center Community College and Fresno Unified Staff to discuss dual enrollment
- Met with Executive Cabinet Team
- Worked on goal planning with Dr. Shelley Holt, Leadership Legacy Consulting
- Summer school site visits at Jefferson, Lawless, Manchester, Pyle, Rowell, Thomas and Vinland
- Attended Dailey Charter Board Meeting
- Attended press conference with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher
- Met with Community Pastors
- Facilities project visits at Del Mar, Ericson and Roeding
- Summer meals site visits at Birney and Yokomi
- Met with Fresno Teachers' Association President, Manuel Bonilla
- Attended the Fresno-Madera K-16 Collaborative Executive Steering Committee
- Held listening session with former Fresno Unified student who is completing Ph.D. program
- Attended the Labor Management Partnership Meeting
- Attended the Central Valley Community Foundation Board Retreat


Approved by: Interim Superintendent, Mao Misty Her



Date: 06/14/24

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number COS-1

From the Office of the Interim Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Amy Idsvoog
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: June 14, 2024

Phone: 457-3498

Regarding: Contract Extension Option Exercised for Student Resource Officers

The purpose of this communication is to update the Board regarding the District's current contract with the City of Fresno Police Department for Student Resource Officers (SROs).

The Board of Education approved the initial agreement for services on June 16, 2021, securing SROs at each of the seven comprehensive high schools, Phoenix Secondary, DeWolf, Cambridge, and Duncan Polytechnical High School. The agreement also included one supervising sergeant. On June 15, 2022, the Board approved an addendum to the contract adding 15 middle school SROs in a phased in approach over twelve months and the addition of a supervising sergeant.

Per the agreed upon contract, the term for SRO services was July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024, with an option to extend the term of the agreement for one (1) additional two-year term. The City of Fresno and Fresno Unified have agreed to execute that option ensuring consistency of service, safety, and support to 26 schools. The cost for these officers for next school year is \$5,374,824. The contract is slated to expire in June of 2026, at which time staff will bring a new contract to the Board.

The roles and expectations of an SRO remain in place with this extension which include:

- supporting a safe campus environment
- interact and build relationships with students and staff
- respond to reports of on-campus criminal activity, using proper discretion to address criminal activity which includes investigation, documentation, and enforcement of the incident on the totality of the circumstances, and the law violated
- being involved in threat assessments

SROs support the following. High schools: Edison, Roosevelt, McLane, Hoover, Bullard, Phoenix, Cambridge (relocating to Farber), DeWolf, Sunnyside, Fresno High, and Duncan. Middle schools with an SRO include Ft. Miller, Tenaya, Kings Canyon, Scandinavian, Ahwahnee, Tioga, Terronez, Tehipite, Sequoia, Yosemite, Hamilton, Baird, Cooper, Gaston and Computech. Wawona's SRO is provided through a separate contract with the Fresno County Sheriff's Department.

If you have questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Amy Idsvoog at 457-3498.


Approved by: Interim Superintendent, Mao Misty Her



Date: 06/14/24

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number COS-2

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Amy Idsvoog, Executive Officer
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: June 14, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3498

Regarding: Health Service Staffing for Summer Learning Programs

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information regarding summer health service staffing. Historically during the summer, health services staff volunteer to support summer programs as it is not part of their traditional school year contract. The team is providing coverage to 56 summer academy sites, 22 Extended School Year (ESY) sites, and 18 Credit Recovery sites which includes our comprehensive high schools, and 4 Alternative Education sites. ESY sites like Addicott, ATP and Rata have multiple health professionals onsite based on student health orders.

This summer the District is providing extended learning programs at 103 school sites. After a strong recruitment effort, 95 health professionals have volunteered to support this year's summer academy and ESY programs, including contracted Supplemental Health staff. Based on the number of summer programs, increased health procedures and preschool assessments, approximately 19 summer school sites will be without an on-campus health professional.

Health Services has a lead school nurse supporting staff deployments, site questions and concerns during summer sessions. In the event of a health emergency, as is our normal protocol, site administration should call 911 in the event of a medical emergency.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Liz Torres at 457- 3301 or Amy Idsvoog at 457-3498.

Approved by: Interim Superintendent, Mao Misty Her



Date: 06/14/24

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number BFS-1

From the Office of the Interim Superintendent

To the Members of the Board of Education

Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Chief Executive

Cabinet Approval:



Date: June 14, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3907



Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for June 07, 2024

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board a copy of School Services of California's (SSC) Weekly Updates. Each week SSC provides an update and commentary on different educational fiscal issues. In addition, they include different articles related to education issues. The SSC Weekly Updates for June 07, 2024 are attached and include the following articles:

- Joint Legislative State Budget Proposal Announced – May 30, 2024
- California Democrat Spending Hinges on Voters Approving Billions. How it Affects the Budget – June 04, 2024
- California Releases \$470 Million to Put Students on Track for College and Career – June 04, 2024

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Kim Kelstrom at 457-3907.

Approved by: Interim Superintendent, Mao Misty Her



Date: 06/14/24



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DATE: June 7, 2024

TO: Robert G. Nelson
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

RE: ***SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update***

2024-25 State Budget Update

Last week we reported that Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire (D-North Coast) and Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) announced that the Legislature has agreed to a joint legislative proposal for the 2024-25 State Budget (we provide details of the proposal in the *Fiscal Report* article below, entitled “Joint Legislative State Budget Proposal Announced”). It is important to note that this proposal is not the final 2024-25 State Budget as it has not been agreed to by Governor Gavin Newsom.

The full Assembly Budget Committee and the individual Senate Budget Subcommittees, including the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Education, approved the framework for this legislative proposal last week. It is unknown when each house will schedule a floor vote on the deal, but they likely will hold off to see if a deal with the Governor can be reached first. As of this writing, a deal has not yet been reached between Governor Newsom and legislative leadership on the State Budget package.

The Legislature is constitutionally required to approve the State Budget by June 15, 2024, or risk forfeiting their pay. With a little more than a week left until that deadline, legislative leadership has time to negotiate with Governor Newsom on a State Budget package before June 15. However, if they are unable to come to an agreement by the end of next week, then the Legislature will approve a placeholder State Budget bill to satisfy the June 15 deadline. Once legislative leadership and Governor Newsom come to an agreement, that aforementioned State Budget bill will be amended by a “Budget Bill Junior,” which will contain the provisions of the compromise between the Legislature and the Administration.

We will provide another update on the State Budget deliberations in next week’s *Sacramento Update*.

Senate Education Committee

The Senate Education Committee, chaired by Senator Josh Newman (D-Fullerton), held a hearing this past Wednesday, June 5, 2024, which was their second hearing since the May 24 house of origin deadline.

The committee considered 25 measures; however, the hearing lasted less than 90 minutes since all but seven of the bills were approved as a part of the committee's consent calendar. Some of the more noteworthy education bills approved include the following:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 801 (Patterson, R-Fresno) would require, at the request of the student's parent or guardian, an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application to delete a student's information if the student is no longer attending a school.
 - This bill will be heard next by the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- AB 1913 (Addis, D-Morro Bay) would require local educational agencies (LEAs) to include in the existing annual mandated reporter training information regarding child abuse prevention by school personnel or in a school-sponsored program.
 - This bill will be heard next by the Senate Human Services Committee.
- AB 1929 (McKinnor, D-Inglewood) would require LEAs that receive Career Technical Education Incentive Grant and/or K-12 Strong Workforce Program funding to disaggregate by race and gender data they already annually report to the California Department of Education.
 - This bill has cleared all of its policy committees and will now go to the Senate Appropriations Committee for fiscal review.
- AB 1938 (Gallagher, R-Yuba City) would require LEAs, when implementing inclusion and universal design for learning initiatives, to consider specified issues with respect to the full language access needs of pupils who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind, for the determination of the least restrictive environment.
 - This bill has cleared all of its policy committees and will now go to the Senate Appropriations Committee for fiscal review.
- AB 2377 (Rivas, L., D-Sylmar) would require a student to be excused from engaging in any physical activity components of a physical education course during a period of religious fasting upon the submission of written notification to the school principal.
 - This bill will be heard next by the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- AB 2429 (Alvarez, D-San Diego) would require any LEA that had elected to require its students to complete a course in health education for graduation include instruction on the dangers associated with fentanyl use commencing the with the 2026-27 school year.
 - This bill has cleared all of its policy committees and, as a nonfiscal bill, will now go the Senate floor for a vote.

- AB 2725 (Rubio, D-Baldwin Park) would provide that a license to practice occupational or physical therapy, verification of meeting the basic skills requirement, and three years of experience as a school-based occupational therapist or physical therapist satisfies the requirements for a preliminary services credential with a specialization in administrative services.
 - This bill has cleared all of its policy committees and will now go to the Senate Appropriations Committee for fiscal review.
- AB 2961 (Addis) would require minors who obtain a work permit to receive training on sexual harassment prevention, retaliation, and reporting resources using the online training course made available on the Civil Rights Department's website.
 - This bill will be heard next by the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee.

The Senate Education Committee will meet for the third week in a row next week to consider another 28 bills. The Assembly Education Committee, chaired by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) will meet for the first time next Wednesday, June 12, 2024, to consider Senate K-12 education bills. It is not surprising to see the Senate begin their second house policy committee hearings earlier, as the Assembly sends over significantly more bills for the upper house to consider.

Leilani Aguinaldo

Joint Legislative State Budget Proposal Announced

By Kyle Hyland
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*
May 30, 2024

Yesterday, May 29, 2024, Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire (D-North Coast) and Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) [announced](#) that the Legislature had agreed to a joint legislative proposal for the 2024-25 State Budget.

While the Legislature has yet to release substantive details of the joint proposal, the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Education released an education action list, which can be found [here](#). Additionally, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Education Finance released a nearly identical action list, which can be found [here](#).

Proposition 98 and TK-12 Package

The most looming issue in this year's State Budget negotiations is how lawmakers will deal with the \$8.8 billion drop in the calculated 2022-23 Proposition 98 minimum guarantee. Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Teachers Association (CTA) announced a deal earlier this week that effectively abandons the Governor's Proposition 98 "maneuver" in favor of a strategy that uses a combination of cash and budget deferrals, Proposition 98 reserves, and suspension of the minimum guarantee for the 2023-24 fiscal year (see "[The Proposition 98 Deal—Local Impacts](#)" in the May 2024 Fiscal Report for details on the agreement).

The legislative proposal assumes the same Proposition 98 minimum guarantee level for 2022-23 as the May Revision and is calculated with recognition of an additional \$6.2 billion in 2023-24, adjusted due to added tax revenues included in the legislative plan for 2023-24 and 2024-25. The legislative budget package provides \$113.99 billion in 2024-25 Proposition 98 spending, which is \$4.8 billion above the May Revision. Since the legislative proposal assumes higher additional tax revenues than the Department of Finance, the legislative proposal is able to adopt the Governor's modest ongoing spending increases for all ongoing K-14 commitments and retain \$1.1 billion in the Proposition 98 reserve account.

It is important to note that the legislative Proposition 98 proposal differs from the recently announced CTA-Newsom Administration agreement, which means that this issue still needs to be negotiated by legislative leaders and the Governor. The Assembly's [summary](#) of the proposal stipulates that the Legislature is currently reviewing the CTA-Newsom Administration agreement and that a final Proposition 98 package will be considered in a future trailer bill.

The legislative proposal funds the statutory 1.07% cost-of-living adjustment for the Local Control Funding Formula, select categorical programs, and the Equity Multiplier. Additionally, the legislative proposal includes the following major actions:

- Rejects the Governor's proposed statutory changes that explicitly allow charters schools to receive excess Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund dollars
- Approves the third-year costs to expand transitional kindergarten (TK)
- Maintains universal meals commitment with an increase of \$298.3 million

- Restricts allowable uses for the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant and clarifies that funds can be used for the new math frameworks implementation as well as math and literacy professional development
- Requires local educational agencies to report final expenditures from the Arts, Music, and Instructional Material Block Grant to the California Department of Education (CDE) by September 30, 2026, and provides a mechanism for the CDE to collect unexpended funds
- Rejects the proposal to extend encumbrance deadlines for the 2021 and 2022 allocations for the Expanded Learning Opportunity Program to September 2024 and proposes to adopt language that stabilizes the Tier 2 rate, allows funds to be used over two years, and extends licensing to 2025
- Adopts an amended version of the Instructional Continuity Plan proposal in the May Revision to retain short-term independent study and delink Instructional Continuity Plans from earning average daily attendance
- Approves \$25 million one-time in anticipation of the 2025-26 dyslexia screener adoption and legislative intent to include the screener in the Mandate Block Grant
- Eliminates the planned \$550 million facility funding for preschool, TK, and kindergarten classrooms in the 2025-26 Budget Act
- Eliminates the planned \$875 million in General Fund for the School Facilities Program in the 2024-25 budget year in anticipation of a November 2024 school bond initiative
- Provides \$20 million one-time for a new Ethnic Studies Block Grant for local adoption of model-curricula aligned instructional materials
- Protects the Golden State Teacher Grant Program appropriations, restores program priorities, and creates a means test for eligibility
- Replaces the basic skills requirement with a bachelor's degree and streamlines subject matter completion review for teacher credential
- Eliminates the planned growth in the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) inclusive set-aside for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 fiscal years, capping the set-aside at 5%
- Expands CSPP eligibility to children ages 24 to 35 months

Next Steps

Today, May 30, 2024, the legislative budget proposal was approved by the full Assembly Budget Committee and each individual Senate Budget Subcommittees, including the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Education. It is unknown when each house will schedule a floor vote on the deal, but they likely will hold off to see if a deal with the Governor can be reached first. **It is important to note that this is not the final State Budget**, as Governor Newsom has not agreed to this spending plan and still needs to negotiate with the Legislature.

Since both houses of the Legislature came to an agreement more than two weeks before the June 15 constitutional deadline to approve a budget, there are two scenarios that can play out over the next 16 days:

Scenario #1: The Assembly Speaker, Senate Leader, and Governor Newsom come to a budget agreement prior to June 15, allowing lawmakers to approve the “Big Three” negotiated State Budget bill and corresponding trailer bills. Under this scenario, the “Big Three” negotiated budget package would be considered the final State Budget.

Scenario #2: The Legislature approves their version of the 2024-25 State Budget by the June 15 constitutional deadline and then the “Big Three” negotiate on the final version. In this scenario, the legislative budget would be considered a placeholder budget until legislative leadership and Governor Newsom are able to come to a final deal. Under this scenario, the main budget bill would have to be approved by the end of June 30 while trailer bills could be approved after this date.

Historically, the “Big Three” was the “Big Five,” with the Republican leaders in both houses participating in the negotiations. With Proposition 25 from 2010, now only majority vote is needed to approve the budget, thus limiting Republican input.

We will continue to monitor the State Budget negotiations and will keep you updated with future Fiscal Report articles. Stay tuned.

Note: There are several pending bond proposals in the Legislature, but lawmakers will need to figure out how much bonding capacity the state has available and what voters would be willing to approve on the November 5 General Election ballot.

California Democrat Spending Hinges on Voters Approving Billions. How it Affects the Budget

By Lindsey Holden
Capitol Alert
June 4, 2024

California lawmakers are jockeying over the chance to ask voters for billions in bond dollars, leading to a potential conundrum for leaders: seek money through the ballot or allocate it in the budget?

Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, D-Hollister, Senate President Pro Tem Mike McGuire, D-Healdsburg, and Gov. Gavin Newsom by late June will narrow down the many potential bond measures legislators are pushing.

They also must reach a budget agreement around the same time. That means some funding priorities that don’t end up on the ballot may make it into the budget, and vice-versa. The state is facing an estimated \$45 billion deficit, leaving leaders with tough choices.

“They are very closely linked,” said Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks, D-Oakland, of the budget and bond measures.

Wicks is pushing a \$10 billion housing bond, but she was also pleased to see a joint legislative budget agreement that allocated funding for housing and homelessness programs Newsom cut in his revised spending plan. “You want as simple of a ballot as you possibly can get,” she said.

“You want as few proposals on the ballot as you can possibly get. So there’s value in having the money in the budget, but continuing to push for the bond. The push for the bond helps create more leverage for the money in the budget.”

SCHOOL AND CLIMATE BONDS

Lawmakers since last year have proposed bond measures to address everything from fentanyl addiction to flood protection.

The Senate and Assembly Rules committees toward the end of last session made all bond measures two-year bills, kicking them to 2024 to be considered for the November ballot. This move cleared the March primary ballot for Newsom’s Proposition 1, which asked voters for \$6.4 billion to fund mental health-care facilities.

Now, leaders must choose the bonds they support ahead of the deadline to qualify measures for the ballot on June 27. Rivas and Newsom’s offices declined to comment on the bond negotiations. McGuire’s spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment by deadline.

Lawmakers pushing bonds say leaders are prioritizing at least two measures: one to fund school facilities and one to pay for climate change initiatives. Investors buy state-issued bonds, which California must pay back with interest over the course of 10-30 years.

Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, D-Torrance, authored Assembly Bill 247, a \$14 billion bond that would pay for construction and modernization projects at kindergarten through community college facilities. He said last week leaders will be combining his measure with Senate Bill 28 from Sen. Steve Glazer, D-Orinda, which asks for \$15 billion for similar investments and also includes University of California and California State University campuses.

Both the revised budget Newsom presented in May and the legislative spending plan leaders released last week include school facilities funding cuts, pointing to a potential bond measure that would pay for those improvements.

Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia, D-Coachella, said Friday that he and Assemblywoman Lori Wilson, D-Suisun City, have been leading an Assembly working group on school and climate bond measures. They hope to start conversations with the Senate on the policies and potential funding allocations the initiatives could contain.

Garcia said he has been working on a climate bond since before the COVID-19 pandemic. He said current conversations are centered around his measure, Assembly Bill 1567, and a similar bond from Sen. Ben Allen, D-Santa Monica.

Both lawmakers’ proposals would ask voters for more than \$15 billion for programs related to clean energy projects, water quality and conservation, coastal preservation, wildfire prevention and more.

Lawmakers' joint budget agreement includes hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts to aquatic habitat, drought and water resilience projects, as well as a handful of other climate-related reductions. Garcia said he doesn't think the potential bond measure factored into those cuts, as "there were climate cuts last year and pauses the year before, so I think it's just part of the circumstances."

However, the assemblyman said the climate bond "has been a topic of discussion for the purposes of possibly backfilling."

"But I don't know that it's just the, 'Hey, we're going to do this because we got that,'" Garcia said. "Because the bond is not a guarantee. Voters still need to approve it."

HOUSING FUNDING

As for housing, Wicks remains in a decent situation, strategically.

The legislative budget restores funds for programs to provide loans for low-income rental construction and fund local housing planning that Newsom cut from his revised spending plan. It also allocates \$1 billion for another round of Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention flexible grants for local efforts to address homelessness.

The governor and the Legislature's budgets both provide \$500 million for low-income housing tax credits to support affordable developments, separate from HHAP.

"This would give us the ability to fund the housing as much as we can in the current environment we're in and go back at the ballot in two years, if we need to," Wicks said.

When asked about statements from her colleagues about leaders' bond prioritization, Wicks said, "There's a lot of support for housing."

"I think it's a question of, does it happen in the bond or the budget?"

Note: Governor Newsom's office announced last Friday, May 31, 2024, that the state has released \$470 million to 302 LEAs to fund the Golden State Pathways Program, which integrates college preparatory coursework meeting the A-G course requirements.

California Releases \$470 Million to Put Students on Track for College and Career

By Emma Gallegos
EdSource
June 4, 2024

California has made good on a promise in the 2022 budget to invest in programs that simultaneously prepare students for both college and career.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's office announced Friday that the state has released \$470 million to 302 school districts, charters and county offices of education to fund the Golden State Pathways program.

The program allows students to “advance seamlessly from high school to college and career and provides the workforce needed for economic growth.”

“It's an incredibly historic investment for the state,” said Anne Stanton, president of the Linked Learning Alliance, a nonprofit that advocates giving youth opportunities to learn about careers.

Both the state and federal governments previously made big investments in preparing students for college or career at the K-12 level, but the Golden State Pathways program is different in that it challenges school districts, colleges, employers and other community groups to create “pathways” — or a focused series of courses — that prepare K-12 students for college and career at the same time. These pathways aim to prepare students for well-paying careers in fields such as health care, education and technology, while also ensuring that they take 12 college credits through dual enrollment courses and the A-G classes needed to apply to public four-year universities.

“By establishing career technical pathways that are also college preparatory, the Golden State Pathways Program provides a game-changing opportunity for California's young people,” State Superintendent of Public Instruction Thurmond said in a statement.

The Golden State Pathways are an important part of the new master plan for education — Newsom's vision to transform career education in California — which is expected by the year's end.

The state is distributing the vast majority of the funding — \$422 million — to enable schools to implement their plans in partnership with higher education and other community partners. The remaining \$48 million will assist those who still need grants for planning.

All sorts of schools throughout the state — rural and urban, large and small — benefited from the funding.

Schools in the rural Northern California counties of Tehama and Humboldt — whose K-12 enrollment is under 30,000 students — jointly received about \$30 million to implement and plan pathways to help students stay on track for college and careers with livable wages.

“That’s a big deal to have that kind of influx going to that many small schools,” said Jim Southwick, assistant superintendent of the Tehama County Office of Education, which plans to expand career pathways in education, health care, construction, manufacturing and agriculture.

Schools in Tehama had previously begun to implement career pathways at the high school level in concert with local employers and Shasta College. However, many students struggled to complete the pathways because they were ill-prepared in middle school, Southwick said.

But one middle school pilot program did successfully introduce students to career education, he added, leading to an influx of funding through the Golden State Pathways that will expand the program to other middle schools.

Long Beach Unified, the fourth-largest district in the state, received about \$12 million through the Golden State Pathways program. District spokesperson Elvia Cano said the funding will provide counseling and extra support for students navigating dual enrollment, Advanced Placement courses, college aid, externships and other work-based learning opportunities.

The district also plans to increase access to dual enrollment through partner Long Beach Community College and to create a new pathway in arts, media and entertainment at select high schools.

Advocates are celebrating the governor’s commitment to the program despite the uncertainty surrounding the budget this year.

Linda Collins, founder and executive director of Career Ladders Project, which supports redesigning community colleges to support students, said, “It’s an impressive commitment at a time that it’s desperately needed.”

Newsom said in a statement that this funding will help students even if they don’t go to college , saying it “will be a game-changer for thousands of students as the state invests in pathways to good-paying, high-need careers — including those that don’t require college degrees.”

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number DEI-1

From the Office of the Interim Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Rita Baharian, Prevention & Intervention Executive
Cabinet Approval:

Date: June 14, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3341

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Regarding: Suicide Prevention Board Policy (BP) 5141.52 Revisions

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board with updated direction from the Federal Program Monitoring auditor regarding BP 5141.52.

As you may recall, BP 5141.52 was brought to you for your approval on March 20, 2024, and on April 24, 2024.

On April 24, 2024, the Board approved BP 5141.52, including Exhibit 5141.52, which provided the essential details of the policy most pertinent to families at a 6th-grade readability level. However, on May 6, 2024, FPM provided additional feedback that should remain as previously approved on September 24, 2022, and incorporate the language approved on March 20th not as an Exhibit but as an addition in BP 5141.52.

To meet this recommendation, we have added the contents of Exhibit 5141.52 to the bottom of BP 5141.52, indicating that it is the K-6 policy.

As a reminder, the California Department of Education has made recommendations to ensure families and students can access and understand the policy at a sixth grade or lower reading level. CDE requested we utilize the Flesh Kincaid readability tool integrated into the Microsoft Word software to score readability.

The FPM auditor reviewed the proposed revision and stated it will meet the requirements.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication or require additional information, please contact Rita Baharian at 457-3341.

Approved by: Interim Superintendent, Mao Misty Her

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Date: 06/14/24

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number DEI-2

From the Office of the Interim Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Dr. Lisa Mitchell, Executive Director
Cabinet Approval:

Date: June 14, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3341

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Regarding: Ratify Mark T. Harris' Social Justice Project

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information regarding the ratification of a contract with Mark T. Harris. Mark Harris led a Social Justice Project at Bullard High School in the spring of 2024. Mr. Harris provided services to Bullard High School social justice students by providing 8 seminar sessions, a lecture by Ben Crump at U.C. Merced, and a culminating event at Sacramento Charter School for student project presentations. This project was made available through the PNC Foundation Grant in collaboration with the Fresno Unified Foundation.

The office of African American Academic Acceleration (A4) originally understood that payment could be rendered under an existing contract for Mark Harris. After further review, the office learned that a new contract would have to be created for the services to be paid. As a result, the work was completed ahead of Board approval. The A4 office is committed to ensuring that all necessary internal processes are followed in the future to implement the contract terms effectively, providing the Board with reassurance of our commitment to effective systems and processes.

This contract will be presented to the Board for ratification on June 20, 2024.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication or require additional information, please contact Lisa Mitchell at 457-2553.


Approved by: Interim Superintendent, Mao Misty Her



Date: 06/14/24

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number EEP-1

From the Office of the Interim Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Wendy McCulley, Chief
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: June 14, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3885

Regarding: Scholarships

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board information about scholarships distributed by the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools.

At the end of the 2023-24 school year, the Foundation was able to distribute approximately \$400K to 292 students via the FUSD Scholarship Fund, both are increases from last year's totals of \$309K awarded to 219 students. This year we also distributed \$36,096 through additional scholarships facilitated by the Foundation such as:

- Tim Liles Scholarships at Sunnyside High School
- Leonard E. Baptista Scholarship at Edison High School
- FFB Bank Scholarship at Hoover High School
- Jim Newton Scholarship
- Giving Tuesday Scholarships for each comprehensive high school region and an additional region including our specialty schools
- Game Changer Scholarships in coordination with our Project ACCESS Department
- HBCU Scholarships in coordination with our College and Career Readiness Department
- Kashian Awards for our unhoused and foster students

Last year we gave an additional \$29,500 through similar scholarships facilitated by the Foundation.

The FUSD Scholarship Fund was established in 2009 and has distributed nearly \$2M to over 1,000 students to date. The fund is made possible through the generous support of community donors and Fresno Unified employees, and Foundation events such as our annual Fall Event, Giving Tuesday, Spill the Tea, and Suited for Success.

The scholarship process was assisted by the departments of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and College and Career Readiness to ensure that all awards were distributed equitably throughout the district. This year we received 854 applications for consideration, which is a 45% increase from last year.

For more questions or information, please contact Wendy McCulley at 559-457-3885.

Approved by: Interim Superintendent, Mao Misty Her



Date: 06/14/24