Chair by former Assembly Member and FUSD Trustee Juan Arambula, the FUSD Graduation Task Force is made up of students, parents, community members and school leaders. The task force met on March 1 to begin planning the work to increase the graduation rate and decrease the dropout rate in Fresno Unified School District.

March 1, 2012 Agenda
1. Calling our City to Action
   Juan Arambula, Task Force Chair
2. Our Reality in FUSD
   Michael E. Hanson, Superintendent
3. Why High School Graduation Matters
   Dr. Russell Rumberger, Vice Provost

Education Partnerships, University of California Office of the President

Graduation Rate: Current Reality in FUSD
FUSD made steady progress over the past five years, but more work is needed. In 2007-2008 the graduation rate was 69.1% and there were 1,479 dropouts. In 2009-2010, the graduation rate improved to 72.5% and there were 1,344 dropouts.

Source: California Department of Education

What the Research Says
A study by the California Dropout Research Project (CDRP) found that failing three classes in middle school reduced the chances of graduating high school by 50%.

The economic costs to our local community are significant. Dropouts are more likely than graduates to:
- Be unemployed
- Live in poverty
- Be in prison
- Be unhealthy

According to the CDRP, decreasing the dropout rate in the City of Fresno by 50% would equate to more than $200 million over the lifetime of one graduating class of students.

"The causes and the solutions of dropping out lie in schools, communities, and families.”

Russell Rumberger
Vice Provost, UCOP Education Partnerships

Task Force Sponsors
- Fresno Regional Foundation
- The California Endowment – Building Healthy Communities
- The United Way of Fresno County
- WestEd