

Equity and Access

FACT SHEET

Providing equity and access for students

Significant work is under way in Fresno Unified School District to attack the issue of equity and access for all students. This work will focus, among other things, on developing new practices and policies that will ensure students are given equal opportunity to graduate and be in positions of having the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options.

Keeping students on target to graduate

The District's first formal initiative on the equity and access front was an initiative called Project 980/340 that began during the 2008/09 school year. An analysis of student data revealed that there were 980 high school students and 340 middle school students who were performing at proficient or advanced levels on the state standards test, but had a GPA lower than a 2.0. Clearly, these students have the potential to achieve – but are not because they are not engaged at school. By identifying these students by name, school leaders were able to help uncover the individual obstacles and help provide resources so that students stayed on target to graduate.

Making significant impact already

Among other important work, high school counselors embarked on challenging – but necessary – work to examine the individual transcripts of each high school senior to determine if they had the right courses and credits to graduate. Because of this 2008/09 mid-year correction, several hundred students are on target to graduate.

Next steps

There is much work ahead to provide every Fresno Unified student equity and access. To address this issue aggressively, the District hired a senior leader that will be held accountable to create, develop, and manage a system to ensure that every student is provided with the opportunities to graduate and have the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options.

At-a-Glance

Student equity and access

- Providing all students with the resources and courses needed to be on target to graduate
- All students must be college *and* career ready
- All students must have high quality options upon graduation

Significant work under way

- Project 980/340
- Intense transcript review
- Partnership with College Board to increase college readiness

Preparing career ready graduates

- Sharp, intentional work around grades, course placement, transcript management
- Work tied to district's Data Dashboard which measures such indicators as:
 - Number of D and F's issued
 - Students meeting A-G requirements
 - Graduation rate

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Fresno Unified School District
Communications Office
2309 Tulare Street, Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 457-3733
www.fresno.k12.ca.us

February, 2009

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Valerie F. Davis, President
Michelle A. Asadoorian, Clerk
Lindsay Cal Johnson
Carol Mills, J.D.
Larry A. Moore
Janet Ryan
Tony Vang, Ed.D.

SUPERINTENDENT

Michael E. Hanson