

Great news!

The Sweetwater Unified High School District (with the second largest number of high school students in the county) has done a wonderful job over the last year in improving its course offerings, guiding more students to complete the A-G curriculum and analyzing what it will take to offer the full A-G sequence to all students to prepare them for college and career. The district is now prepared to make a change to its graduation requirements and will bring a proposal to the school board on October 17th to incorporate the complete A-G sequence into the graduation requirements.

We applaud the district in taking this step and fully support the board in changing the requirements. The highlights of the proposed changes are as follows:

- Starting with the class of 2016 (this year's 8th graders), students will be required to complete the A-G requirements that are needed to be eligible to apply to a public university in CA.
- The new requirements would not go into effect for alternative education programs for an extra 2 years (for the class of 2018).
- Special Ed students will continue to be able to adjust the requirements based on their Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- English learners would be expected to meet the new requirements unless they are entering the district at a first-level proficiency level (ELD 1/2) in which case they would have a choice of completing current or new requirements.
- All high schools will offer career training courses for an applied learning experience (some of these will count as A-G courses and some as electives).

We believe there are 4 votes (out of 5) in favor of the change. Nonetheless, we are shoring up support by asking key stakeholders to write letters of support by next Wednesday (10/12) that we will collect and deliver as a package to the district that it can distribute to the school board members. Please let me know if your organization would like to submit a letter and I can provide you with copies of letters that have already been prepared.

If Sweetwater adopted A-G into its graduation requirements, it would become the second school district to do so after San Diego Unified and would do it one year faster. With these two districts leading, the smaller districts in the county are likely to follow suit. They will join the growing number of urban districts ... San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Los Angeles, and Ventura to name a few ... that are aligning their curriculum with the A-G requirements.

Yeah Sweetwater!

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