

Berkeley Unified School District  
Resolution 21-040

In Support of the Achievement and Success of All Latinx Students in Berkeley Unified  
School District

WHEREAS, the 2020 Vision for Berkeley's Children and Youth was adopted in 2008 with a focus on developing plans and models for internal and cross-jurisdictional collaboration to remove barriers to learning and promote healthy development for all Berkeley children and youth; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Vision for Berkeley's Children and Youth was an urgent call action that involved the city, community-based partners, parents/guardians, youth, Berkeley City College, and U.C. Berkeley to address the large equity gaps between African American and Latinx students in comparison to their white peers; and

WHEREAS, the approximately 22% of Latinx students in Berkeley Unified School District are comprised of a Latinx community that is extraordinarily diverse, consisting of various nationalities, races, spoken languages, social and political histories, and cultural practices that should be celebrated and recognized as a major contribution to the social fabric of the City of Berkeley and as such, the District's approach to educating Latinx students should be considerate of and responsive to the diverse needs and experiences that Latinx students bring into our classrooms and;

WHEREAS, in September 2018, city staff provided an update on the 2020 Vision which states that there continues to be limited improvements for Latino/a/x students in 8th grade math achievement and college and career readiness; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for American Progress, in 2020, a global pandemic further exacerbated inequities in the Latinx Community both in Berkeley and on a national level. The Latinx community faces large losses in employment, particularly among Latinas in the service industry, and Latinx community members are also 1.7 times more likely to contract COVID-19 than their non-Latinx white counterparts and are 4.1 times more likely to be hospitalized from COVID-19 and 2.8 times more likely to die from COVID-19.

WHEREAS, in the Fall of 2020, colleges saw a five percent drop in Latinx undergraduate enrollments. The dramatic decrease came one year after Latinx college enrollment had increased by nearly 2 percent.

WHEREAS, The long-term pattern of inequitable outcomes for Latinx students outlined in both the 2020 Vision for Berkeley's Children and Youth and exacerbated by the global pandemic continue to highlight the need for targeted strategies and resources to close the opportunity gaps for Latinx student achievement in Berkeley Unified School District, as evidenced by the following data trends ;

- During the period from 2017 - 2019, the district average SBA math score for grades 3-8 and 11 improved 5.6 points to 17.9 points above standard, while Latinx scores were 2.8 points to 19.9 points below standard and EL scores declined 12.4 points to 52.9 points below average.
- Newcomer student data for 2019 shows the lowest percentage of average STAR reading and average STAR math for Latinx newcomer students in comparison to other newcomer students.
- There continues to be a large gap in College and Career readiness for Latinx students as compared to their non-Latinx white peers.
  - From 2008-2009, only 51% of Latinx BUSD graduates had completed A-G courses required for UC/CSU eligibility compared to 77% of their non-Latinx white peers.
  - From 2015-2016, only 61% of Latinx BUSD graduates had completed A-G courses required for UC/CSU eligibility compared to 87% of their non-Latinx white peers.
  - In 2020, only 50% of Latinx students and 26% of EL students graduated with UC A-G requirements vs. 71% of their non-Latinx white peers.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Education prioritize Latinx student achievement and opportunity as a core commitment of the Berkeley Unified School District and set annual goals of PK-12 indicators that will lead to the elimination of the gap between Latinx students and all students in the districts in terms of grade 3-5 math proficiency, 8th grade math support, college and career readiness, fulfilling UC/CSU course requirements, and improved reclassification (RFEP) rates for ELL students that include ongoing progress monitoring and goal-setting in order to ensure steady growth in English Proficiency (ELP) levels , among other potential indicators; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Education will work with District's Office of Family Engagement and Equity, the district's Communications Office, Latinx families, Latinos Unidos de Berkeley, and other representatives of the Berkeley Latinx community to improve Latinx parent engagement districtwide in BUSD through the creation of culturally responsive Spanish language parent engagement and seminars open to all school sites;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Berkeley Unified School District's BREA and Education Services departments will consult with parents, educators, Latinos Unidos de Berkeley, and other community stakeholders to identify additional cases of academic achievement gaps for Latinx students and propose a method of collecting, sharing, and analyzing academic achievement data (both qualitative and quantitative) for Latinx students on an annual basis for the purpose of illuminating and resolving areas of the district's programs that are still marked by racial and ethnic disparities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the the Berkeley Unified School District's BREA and Education Services departments will partner with community-based organizations, the Office of Family Engagement and Equity, and school site leaders to develop data-driven approaches to identify academic, socio-emotional, developmental, and behavioral needs of Latinx students as early as Pre-K and recommend strategies to proactively support those students based on promising practices and strategies;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District's BREA and Education Services department will present and discuss their data findings related to this resolution to the Board of Education and community-based organizations on an annual basis, and report on progress towards the elements of this resolution in both Spanish and English.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Education, through the Education Services department, will purchase and develop resources for educators and families for distribution and posting on the BUSD website that teach about the diversity of Berkeley's Latinx community and celebrate annual culturally affirming celebrations such as Latinx Heritage Month (districtwide) and the District's annual César Chávez & Dolores Huerta Commemorative Period celebrations in our schools. Both the Education Services Department and the Office of Family Engagement and Equity will work together to offer culturally affirming programs for both students and parents about Latinx culture and history at a districtwide level.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Education will launch a culturally affirming academic program to address Latinx

student achievement and promote college and career readiness for a diverse array of Latinx students, including Latinx EL students, at Longfellow Middle School and Berkeley High School;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that although this resolution is focused on the Latinx community, it also uplifts the unity and values that Berkeley Unified School District upholds in support of the achievement and success of all students of color and students from all backgrounds and abilities.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be distributed to all school sites and given a prominent place on the District's website.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education on the 2nd of June, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES: 0  
ABSENT: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0

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Julie Sinai  
Clerk, Board of Education  
Berkeley Unified School District