

**MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO
THE LOS ANGELES CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR CONSIDERATION**

SUBJECT: Opening Doors to College and Career Opportunities for Our Students (Res-051-17/18)

DATE NOTICED: 06-12-18

PRESENTED FOR ACTION: 06-19-18

PRESENTED BY: Mr. Melvoin, Ms. Gonez,
Ms. García

MOVED/SECONDED BY: Ms. Gonez/
Mr. Melvoin

MOTION:

RESOLUTION: x

Whereas, The vision of the Los Angeles Unified School District is to be a progressive global leader in education, providing a dynamic and inspiring learning experience where all students are prepared for post-secondary success and graduate college- and career-ready;

Whereas, Administering a college admissions exam during the school day, at no cost to students, can increase students' access to college, address barriers that hinder students from taking the exam, and reduce testing stress – such as by eliminating financial hardships in paying for the exam, enabling exam administration in a more familiar environment for students, and reducing the need to locate and travel to a testing site on the weekend;

Whereas, There has been a significant increase in recent years in the number of states and school districts that provide free college admissions exams to students during the school day, with more than 250 school districts (e.g. Baltimore City Public Schools, Houston Independent School District, Long Beach Unified School District, New York City Department of Education) administering the SAT district-wide (at no cost to students) in 2016-17 (Source: College Board);

Whereas, There was a five-fold increase in the number of school districts in California offering the SAT at no cost to students between 2014-15 and 2016-17; and other districts, charter school organizations and offices of education offered the ACT for free in 2016-17 (EdSource, “Growing number of California school districts offer students free college entrance exam,” 8/6/2017);

Whereas, L.A. Unified currently administers the PSAT/NMSQT to all 10th grade students at no cost each year; and in March of 2018, the District piloted an “SAT School Day” in Local District South, with approximately 4,345 11th grade students taking the SAT college readiness test at 48 high schools during the school day, with the District covering the fees;

Whereas, The 2017 administration of a free SAT to all New York City 11th graders during the school day resulted in a 25 percentage point gain in juniors who took the SAT at least once (climbing from 52.8% in 2016 to 77.8% in 2017); and the participation rate gap between racial and ethnic groups was reduced, as reported by the New York City Department of Education;

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Whereas, In Michigan, after adopting a policy that required high school juniors to take the ACT, the percentage of students taking a college entrance exam increased from 54% to almost 99%; and a greater number of low-income students attended and completed college (Brookings, “ACT/SAT for all: A cheap, effective way to narrow income gaps in college,” 2/8/2018);

Whereas, The resolution, Creating Pathways to Lifelong Success for Our Students (Res-010-17/18), affirmed the District’s commitment to ensure our students’ success after graduation and called for a feasibility plan to implement administration of the SAT for all 11th grade students and the PSAT for all 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students in the District;

Whereas, The PSAT provides a means for 8th through 11th grade students to assess their performance on a rehearsal college admission test; prepare for and familiarize themselves with the types of questions asked on the SAT; and identify academic areas for targeted studying to enhance their performance on the SAT, which supports their ability to apply to and attend their choice of colleges;

Whereas, Career pathways offer additional options for students to pursue their career goals via educational programs developed in partnership with business and industry, which provide students with comprehensive, career-focused skills and experience (e.g. real-world knowledge, technical skills, work experience, exposure to well-paying jobs);

Whereas, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways can help put students on the path to successful careers in profitable industries, but nationally the proportion of high school students who earn multiple CTE credits has dropped to 1 in 5 students, according to the U.S. Department of Education. In the District the proportion is about 1 in 4 students. Demand in high skilled industries continues to grow, including in health sciences, information technology, telecommunications, engineering/bioengineering, and construction-related fields among others. CTE can help to bridge the divide between job openings and qualified applicants. For instance, in the next five years, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that there will be 68% more infrastructure jobs than there are trained workers to fill them.

Whereas, Linked Learning, a proven approach to education that combines college-focused academics, work-based learning, and intensive student supports and centers high school around industry themes and CTE courses, where learning becomes relevant, students graduate with the skills, and confidence to succeed in college, career and life;

Whereas, Internships are a chance for students to gain essential workplace knowledge and build skills that prepare them for future careers. According to U.S. News and World Report, in a survey of 362 companies, 90 percent agreed that high school internship programs can help students get into better colleges, and 70 percent of companies said that secondary students who intern are either likely to secure a college internship within their company; and

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Whereas, Providing students with the opportunity to take the PSAT, SAT and/or ACT at school, at no cost, and providing Linked Learning and CTE Pathways supports a culture of college and career readiness; sends a clear message to students and families that the District has high expectations for each and every student and their future; and opens doors to college and career opportunities (and post-secondary success) for every student; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That beginning in the 2018-19 school year, the Los Angeles Unified School District will take the “SAT School Day” pilot to scale and administer the SAT or ACT to all high school juniors during the school day, at no cost to students;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent will pursue philanthropic and/or external funding to support college and career readiness initiatives and minimize any impacts to the District’s General Fund, including pursuing partnerships with businesses across the city as well as the Los Angeles Mayor’s office and others to provide paid internships for high school students;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent will develop a plan and report back to the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District within 60 days on how to provide the PSAT to all of the District’s 8th and 9th grade students, as well as how to provide sufficient preparation for all students (especially through free e.g. SAT prep through Khan Academy, or low-cost resources) and use the results and data from these tests with counseling and guidance to meaningfully to prepare students for post-secondary success; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the Superintendent will develop a plan and report back to the Board within 60 days for expanding access to Linked Learning and Career and Technical Education Pathways within secondary schools (including concurrent and dual enrollment opportunities with college partners), so that all students meet or exceed the District Student Graduate Profile, which describes the skills, dispositions and knowledge students need to have opportunities and necessary preparation to support their post-secondary success and fill the “skills gap” that exists nationwide, particularly in high-demand fields.

AYES NOES ABSTAIN ABSENT

Ms. Gonez	X			
Dr. McKenna	X			
Mr. Melvoin	X			
Dr. Rodriguez	X			
Mr. Schmerelson	X			
Dr. Vladovic	X			
Ms. Garcia	X			
TOTAL	7			

ACTION: ADOPTED