

## **School Accountability**

### **Purpose**

An accountability policy provides the framework by which the organizations success is measured. The FUSD accountability policy will provide the framework of how the school district will measure individual school success.

The primary purpose of this policy is to improve student learning by establishing a system of accountability that focuses on the total student experience including learning, teaching, safety, culture and leadership. Effective accountability is achieved via the shared leadership of students, parents, teachers, staff and community. Accountability flows in multiple directions: from the district to the school; from principal to teacher; from teacher to student; from school site to parent

The FUSD Accountability Policy is based on the Governing Boards Core Beliefs and Commitments and Theory of Action. By establishing with clear expectations, this policy will help produce the desired culture of continuous improvement in Fresno Unified. The intent of this policy is to build and sustain high performing schools by focusing and supporting all work on constant and aggressive improvement in the total student experience.

This policy will directly link with the professional learning policy.

### **Performance Measures**

Performance measures are the data points that the district will use to evaluate performance. The purpose of the performance measures is to make school performance easily understandable to all stakeholders. Fresno Unified school ratings will be based on data points derived from existing state and federal accountability measures and will incorporate additional performance measures unique to Fresno Unified as appropriate.

These performance measures will serve as tools for staff, teachers, parents and community members to better understand how schools are performing relative to expectations. They will include a combination of achievement, engagement, progress toward graduation, overall school environment, customer service, and efficiency metrics. Student achievement growth will receive the most emphasis in the accountability system.

Substantial weight will also be given to schools whose student achievement exceeds that of similar schools with similar student populations within Fresno Unified and the state of California. More weight will be given to student achievement gains occurring in high needs populations such as English Learners and Students with Disabilities. The rating system is designed as a means of determining the appropriate level of district support for the school.

The Fresno Unified performance measures will balance results (including, but not limited to CST scores, parent surveys, campus culture) and growth. The accountability policy will measure outcomes that enable the district to focus on the progress of students and provide a basis by which the district can allocate resources more effectively and efficiently.

It is important to note that the rating system is a form of support. A schools rating will drive the necessary support for an individual campus. For schools that are still working toward a high performing rating, the district will determine what specific resources and actions are needed to improve. For high performing schools, the focus will be on identifying best practices that can be shared across the district. For all schools, the focus will be on identifying areas for continuous improvement.

#### Progress Reports

All schools will receive annual Progress Reports based on previously defined measures with a rating.

#### Recognition and Rewards

The recognition focus is to empower those schools performing at the highest level within the accountability system. Schools performing at those highest levels will be granted more site based decision making autonomy.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

#### Legal Reference:

##### EDUCATION CODE

33127-33129 Standards and criteria for fiscal accountability

33400-33407 CDE evaluation of district programs

44660-44665 Evaluation of certificated employees

51002 Local development of programs based on stated philosophy and goals

51020 Definition of goal

51021 Definition of objective

51041 Evaluation of the educational program

52050-52059 Public Schools Accountability Act

64000-64001 Consolidated application process

##### CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

15440-15463 Standards and criteria for fiscal accountability

##### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6311 Accountability, adequate yearly progress

6312 Local educational agency plan

Management Resources:

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Monitoring for Success: Student Wellness Policy Implementation Monitoring Report and Guide, 2007

Student Wellness: A Healthy Food and Physical Activity Policy Resource Guide, rev. 2006

Maximizing School Board Governance: Vision, 1996

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

CSBA, Agenda

Online: <http://csba.org/Services/Services/GovernanceTechnology/AgendaOnline.aspx>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

Policy FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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