

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Resolution No. 42-1718

**A Resolution to Affirm Our Commitment to Strategic Use of Data from
Preschool through 12th Grade**

WHEREAS, West Contra Costa Unified School District’s mission is to provide the highest quality education to enable all students to make positive life choices, strengthen our community, and successfully participate in a diverse and global society. To provide excellent learning and teaching experiences; safe, student-centered learning environments; and support for all students and employees. To develop and maintain productive community partnerships and individual and collective accountability; and,

WHEREAS, a quality pre-kindergarten through 12th grade education is the path to great opportunities in life,

WHEREAS, delivering on a quality education requires prioritizing resources for all students, and family empowerment benefiting students, especially our community’s historically underserved students from preschool to 12th grade by effectively aligning resources — which includes programs, trained staff, and materials — meaningful measures¹ of student achievement and well-being,

WHEREAS, research supports the importance of data-driven decision-making at all levels across the education system, especially in districts with significant achievement gaps.

WHEREAS, a study of 32 Bay Area schools found that schools closing achievement gaps were more likely to be reflecting on data at the school- and classroom- levels on a regular basis.

WHEREAS, third grade reading proficiency continues to serve as a strong predictor of high school graduation, yet only 30 percent of all third grade students in West Contra Costa are proficient in reading compared to 43% California statewide⁴,

WHEREAS, eighth grade math proficiency is a predictor of long term academic achievement, only 22 percent of eighth graders are proficient in math, well below the statewide rate of 36 percent.

WHEREAS, fewer than half (44%) of West Contra Costa graduates⁵ meet the A-G coursework requirements to be eligible to apply for University of California or California State University (CSU) systems. Nearly 3 in 4 of our African American graduates⁶ and 58% of our Latino graduates⁷ leaves West Contra Costa school ineligible to apply for a US or CSU school,

WHEREAS, it is critical for West Contra Costa school leaders, educators, and policymakers to

use data on our students' performance and experiences to make evidence-based decisions to identify gaps and improve student outcomes,

WHEREAS, data is most impactful for all students when it is disaggregated, providing views of specific groups of students and individual needs to better identify gaps and inform solutions, showing student performance compared to a benchmark or standard, showing standard deviation and variance, and available in a timely manner for use among all of our principals, school staff, and community members,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of the West Contra Costa Unified School District and the Superintendent will take the necessary steps to improve our data infrastructure and reporting to enable assessment of current policy, program, and resource allocation and make more informed decisions going forward,

RESOLVE FURTHER, the Superintendent and staff will provide the Governing Board of the West Contra Costa Unified School District with high quality program and budget reports to enable accountability and ensure positive results for students. Reports will include disaggregated data on student outcomes, data on the strengths and weaknesses of programs and investments, and initial student baselines with subsequent progress towards goals and remaining areas for improvement,

RESOLVED FURTHER, the district will ensure that timely and actionable data is readily accessible by educators, families, the community, and decision makers to inform interventions to improve student outcomes. Progress monitoring of key initiatives will focus on a narrow scope of multiple measures that are regularly updated and evaluated.

RESOLVED FURTHER, our educators and service providers will be better able to answer essential questions about what works for our students and what doesn't through a thorough program evaluation, looking at the impact and efficacy of current program offerings; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board and Superintendent will direct the appropriate departments to make the necessary changes to the district website, board-level reports, and communication collateral to reflect exemplary use of data⁸.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District on the eighteenth day of October 2017, by the following vote:

AYES's _____ No's _____ Absent _____ Abstain _____

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by the Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District, Contra Costa County, at a meeting of said Board on the October 18, 2017.

Elizabeth Block, President
Board of Education

