

October 27, 2015

SF Board of Education
555 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Honorable Board of Education President Dr. Emily Murase,

We are writing this letter in support of the San Francisco Unified School District Board of Education's 2014 decision to implement the new math course sequence aligning with the state's new Common Core Standards in Math. This new course sequence raises expectations for all students while effectively eliminating racially-biased tracking within our district.

Tracking by ability has historically led to segregation of African-American and Latino students in classes with low-expectations, high teacher turnover and teachers with less expertise. This has resulted in a lack of access to quality instruction for many African-American children and ultimately denied them opportunities to achieve college and career success.

We are writing this letter in response to recent efforts by some families who are attempting to pressure the school board to reverse the District's decision to eliminate tracking and implement a new math course sequence. These families wish to retain the previous tracking system, which was believed to benefit some children's academic success. Many of these aforementioned parents received access to higher quality instruction for their children through programs like GATE and honors which tracked their students into smaller classes taught by more experienced teachers. *All children deserve this level of instruction and access.*

We agree with the District Math team and the over 300 teachers who crafted the new SFUSD Core Curriculum in Math, that success in the 21st century requires an intentional focus on critical thinking and problem solving. We believe the breadth and depth of the new math sequence will allow our students to engage more broadly and deeply in their learning of math concepts. We also know that students that miss the math train in particular are ruled out of competition *years* before college admission. We believe the new math sequence will level the playing field and allow a more equitable framework that is more inclusive and that ensures success for all our students.

Again, we strongly support the full implementation of the new SFUSD Math Course Sequence, including differentiated instruction to ensure all students receive instruction tailored to meet their individual learning needs. We do not want SFUSD to return to the former math tracking system, which resulted in a lack of representation for African-American and other historically underserved students in rigorous math courses compared to their White and Asian peers. As the new Math Course Sequence is implemented, we encourage ongoing monitoring of the rollout to ensure that tracking does not take place within the classroom and all students are given the opportunity to excel.

All student lives matter, including Black student lives.

Respectfully submitted.

African American Parent Advisory Council

cc: Honorable Matt Haney
Honorable Sandra Lee Fewer
Honorable Hydra Mendoza-McDonnell
Honorable Rachel Norton
Honorable Shamann Walton
Honorable Jill Wynns
Superintendent Richard Carranza