



Californians for Equal Rights Foundation
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CALIFORNIANS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION

December 9, 2022

[via email]
California State University
Board of Trustees
Office of the Chancellor
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach CA 90802

Subject: Opposing the Easing of High School Math Requirements for CSU Admissions

Dear Board Trustees,

On behalf of Californians for Equal Rights Foundation (CFER), I am writing to express our strong opposition to your [recent proposal](#) to eliminate a fourth-year math course in high school as an admissions requirement for the California State University (CSU). While we applaud your good intention to reduce barriers to higher education in light of “lags in learning,” this policy change attacks the merit-based principle vital to a quality higher education. Furthermore, your stated goal of “being mindful of equity and access” through the change only masquerades the real issues explicating the academic achievement gap.

Diluting CSU’s admissions standards in the name of equity is a fool’s errand by lowering academic standards to cover up disastrous declines in K-12 education and placate radical ideologues and activists. Based on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), only 23% of California’s 8th graders are proficient in math.

While learning gaps are debilitating for low-income students (14 points behind the state average), black students (22 points behind) and Hispanic students (13 points), all California students are lagging behind compared with their peers in other states and with their predecessors three years ago. The California Smarter Balanced results reveals a 6% decline in math scores among California’s public-school students in 3rd through 8th grades and in 11th grade. Lack of academic preparedness in grade schools, coupled with an ideologically driven obsession with arbitrary racial equity, will certainly lead to deteriorating global and national competitiveness among California’s college graduates.



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Systematic issues of non-performance at the K-12 level need to be addressed through policy reforms in grade schools to improve teacher performance and increase rigor. Lowering expectations in college admissions only exacerbates the situation. Henceforth, I urge the Board of Trustees to seriously reconsider your positions on the fate of the additional math requirement and work with students and other stakeholders to uphold, *not* disrupt, merit.

CFER is a non-partisan and non-profit organization founded in the wake of California's resounding affirmation of its constitutional guarantee of equal treatment. We are dedicated to raising public awareness about the importance of equality and merit as founding values of American liberal democracy. Many of our supporters and members are parents, students, employees and community members affiliated with CSU.

Sincerely,

Wenyuan Wu

Wenyuan Wu,

Executive Director, Californians for Equal Rights Foundation