WHEREAS: The State of California’s school accountability program consists of the Academic Performance Index (API), the Immediate Intervention/Underperforming Schools Program (IIUSP), and the High Achieving/Improving Schools Program (Ed. Code 52051); and

WHEREAS: The API, as currently developed, consists solely of scores of students’ performance on standardized tests; and

WHEREAS: The State publishes a school’s API and ranks it against other schools in the State; and

WHEREAS: The continuing and unrelenting push by the State to hold students and teachers accountable for test scores must be coupled with a corresponding commitment to give students and teachers a fair opportunity for teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS: All students – including low-income students of color and immigrant students – have a Constitutional right to equal access to basic opportunities to learn; and

WHEREAS: A true accountability system is one that measures inputs as well as outcomes and holds all actors accountable for their respective roles; and

WHEREAS: Senator John Vasconcellos has introduced SB 1419 to allow the public to hold the State accountable for providing basic opportunity to learn and teach, including:

- The number of fully and properly credentialed teachers employed at the school.
- The number of classrooms at the school in which teachers are not fully and properly credentialed.
- The degree to which teachers of English language learners hold an appropriate credential authorization for English language development, specially designed academic instruction delivered in English, or content instruction delivered in the primary language.
- The average number of years teachers have been teaching in the school, and the average number of years teachers have been teaching since becoming fully and properly credentialed.
- The availability of counseling and academic advising at the school.
- The availability of adequate and appropriate instructional materials at the school.
- The physical condition and maintenance of the school facilities, and the extent to which pupil population exceeds the school capacity.
The availability and adequacy of high-quality postsecondary preparatory, vocational education and honors courses for pupils in secondary school grades.

o The availability of instructional support from school librarians, school nurses, and other school staff; and

WHEREAS: A 2002 telephone survey by pollster Lou Harris asked over 1,000 teachers about conditions and opportunities for learning and teaching in their schools and resulted in these findings:

o One in five schools has a critical mass of teachers who lack full credentials.

o One in three teachers does not have enough textbooks to send home with students for homework.

o One in three teachers reports teaching in classrooms that are too hot or cold.

o 27% of teachers work in schools where there are cockroaches, rats, or mice.

o In 17% of schools, student bathrooms are not working or are closed.

WHEREAS: SB 1419 is supported by numerous organizations throughout California such as: Public Advocates, Inc., Achievement Council, CA ACORN, Californians for Justice, MALDEF, Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Promoting Advocacy and Leadership, CABE, CA Assn. of School Counselors, CA Assn. of Student Councils, CA Council on Teacher Education, Californians Together Coalition, Civil Rights Committee of the National Lawyers Guild, SF Chapter, Coalition for Educational Justice, Education Trust–West, National Council of La Raza, Parent Institute for Quality Education, and Parents for Unity; and

WHEREAS: San Francisco Unified School District stakeholders, like the rest of California, will benefit from the creation and publication by the State of an OTL Index by knowing the conditions in individual schools and using the information to hold the State accountable for providing basic opportunity to learn resources.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District enthusiastically supports the passage of Senate Bill 1419 and directs the Superintendent to communicate the District’s position to our elected representatives, the twenty (20) largest school districts throughout the State, the news media, SFUSD parents, students, teachers and staff, as appropriate.

4/27/04
5/11/04

Please Note:
- Referred on 4/27/04 to the Rules, Policy, & Legislation Committee by order of the Chair.
- Taken up by the Rules, Policy, & Legislation Committee on 5/6/04. Forwarded to the Board with a positive recommendation as amended. New language in bold and italics.
- Adopted, as amended, on 5/11/04.