

1 [Evaluating credit recovery programs at SFUSD]

2 **Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Education to evaluate the quality**
3 **and accessibility of credit recovery programs.**

4 WHEREAS, “The mission of the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) is to provide
5 each student with an equal opportunity to succeed by promoting intellectual growth, creativity, self-
6 discipline, cultural and linguistic sensitivity, democratic responsibility, economic competence, and
7 physical and mental health so that each student can achieve his or her maximum potential”, as states
8 on its website¹; and

9 WHEREAS, The SFUSD’s mission statement further states that, “Every student who enrolls in
10 our schools will graduate from high school ready for college and careers and equipped with the skills,
11 capacities, and dispositions necessary for 21st century success;” and

12 WHEREAS, Students must be educated in a rigorous high school curriculum in order to
13 compete and be successful in today’s job market and society; and

14 WHEREAS, The future of San Francisco depends on having an educated workforce and
15 citizenry to maintain the vitality of the city; and

16 WHEREAS, In accordance with their mission statement, in December 2008, the SFUSD raised
17 their graduation requirements to A-G requirements²; and

18 WHEREAS, A-G courses are the high school classes necessary for students to take and pass
19 to be able to enroll in any University of California or California State University; and

20 WHEREAS, The previous graduation requirements did not fully prepare students for college it
21 was possible to graduate and pass and not to be eligible for admission to UCs and CSUs; and

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24 ¹ “Mission Statement” *SFUSD: Overview*. San Francisco Unified School District, n.d. Web Accessed December
25 5, 2012, <http://www.sfusd.edu/en/about-sfusd/overview.html>.

² San Francisco Unified School District A-G Implementation Plan FAQ. Accessed December 5, 2012.
<http://www.sfusd.edu/en/assets/sfusd-staff/curriculum-and-standards/files/a-g-implementation-faq.pdf>.

1 WHEREAS, The Class of 2014 is the first graduating class to go through high school under the
2 new A-G requirements; and

3 WHEREAS, Recently released data from the SFUSD shows that almost half of students from
4 Class of 2014 are not on track to graduate, with 45% of students not on track to graduate and be
5 eligible for UCs and CSUs³; and

6 WHEREAS, Credit recovery programs are defined as programs that “aim to help schools
7 graduate more students by giving students who have fallen behind a chance to ‘recover’ credits
8 through a multitude of different strategies”, thereby increasing the number of high school graduates
9 and their future opportunities⁴; and

10 WHEREAS, Budget cuts in recent years have reduced the amount of funding given to recovery
11 programs, including summer school, severely impacting the amount of opportunities students have to
12 get back on track to graduating if they miss or fail a class⁵; and

13 WHEREAS, There are currently online credit recovery opportunities for students in the San
14 Francisco Unified School District, including CyberHigh, Aventa, and OdysseyWare⁶; and

15 WHEREAS, Credit recovery programs, such as the online options, are the main platform for off
16 track students to regain credits to graduate in a timely manner; and

17 WHEREAS, It is imperative that the SFUSD prioritize current credit recovery programs for
18 students who are not on track to graduate; and

19 WHEREAS, Credit recovery programs are not being used to their fullest potential due to
20 questionable student satisfaction and lack of information for English language learners; and

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22 ³ San Francisco Unified School District presentation to the Board of Supervisor’s City and School District Select
Committee meeting of October 25, 2012.

23 ⁴ "Credit Recovery Programs: At a Glance." *Credit Recovery Programs: At a Glance*. Center for Public
Education, 9 Jan. 2013. Web. 13 Jan. 2013. <<http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/Main-Menu/Staffingstudents/Credit-recovery-programs>>.

24 ⁵ Koskey, Andrea. "Nearly Half of San Francisco Public School Juniors Lack Credits Needed to Graduate." *San
Francisco Examiner*. San Francisco Examiner, 16 Nov. 2012. Web. 13 Jan. 2013.

25 ⁶ San Francisco Unified School District presentation to the Board of Supervisor’s City and School District Select
Committee meeting of October 25, 2012.

1 WHEREAS, An evaluation of current credit recovery programs offered would identify the
2 problems that inhibit its current use and provide robust guidance for the expenditure of limited SFUSD
3 funds; and be it

4 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission and the Student Advisory Council urge
5 the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to urge the SFUSD to evaluate current credit recovery
6 programs offered with youth feedback to improve the quality and accessibility of these aforementioned
7 programs; and be it finally

8 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission and the Student Advisory Council urge
9 the continued communication between the city of San Francisco, the SFUSD, and community based
10 organizations regarding student achievement and the reduction of the achievement gap.

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21 Mia Shackelford, Chair

22 2012-2013 Youth Commission Chair

23 Adopted by Youth Commission January 13, 2013

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