

**City of Oakland
Agenda Report**

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY OF OAKLAND
05 MAR -3 PM 3:53

To: Life Enrichment Committee
From: Councilmember Jean Quan
Date: March 8, 2005

Re: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADULT EDUCATION

SUMMARY

Currently 30,000 Oakland residents over the age of 18 depend on essential programs provided by the Adult Education Program of the Oakland Public Schools. The School District's proposed removal of these programs from Oakland Unified School District by the end of June poses tremendous hardships on the young adults seeking Graduate Equivalent Degrees (GED), immigrants learning English as a Second Language (ESL) and applying for Citizenship, and seniors who depend on Oakland's Adult Education Program for enrichment, socialization and stimulation. The relationship between an educated workforce and a healthy, vibrant city is of paramount importance to the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

The State Administrator of the Oakland Unified School District is considering eliminating it's Adult Education Program without consultation with the Joint Education Partnership Committee or with public input. This resolution opposes the loss of adult Education programs in our local communities, encourages the State Administrator, the Oakland Public School Board and the teachers union to seek and implement alternatives that will preserve Adult Education Programs throughout the city, and recommends placing this item on the Joint Education Partnership Committee so that the City Council can play an active role in meeting with the parties concerned and state officials to develop a fair resolution.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: Adult Education contributes to job creation in two fashions. It provides employment for teachers, and it helps prepare adults for the job market.

Environmental: There are no environmental consequences.

Social Equity: Free Adult Education is a vital component in the quality of life for all Oakland citizens, especially those with low and moderate incomes. Immigrants rely on the free Adult Education programs to learn English and prepare for jobs and citizenship. Seniors rely on free Adult Education in order to remain active and healthy. And Adult Education gives disadvantaged youth a second chance by affording them the opportunity to earn a Graduate Equivalent Degree (GED) and job training.


DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

Senior citizens directly benefit from Adult Education. Without Oakland-based Adult Education, disabled individuals would have to travel long distances for an essential service.

RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE

Approve the resolution in support of Adult Education.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean Quan", written over a horizontal line.

Jean Quan
Councilmember, District 4

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2005 MAR -3

DRAFT

Resolution in Support of Adult Education

WHEREAS, close to 30,000 adult students rely on the Adult Education Program of Oakland Public Schools for essential courses in English as a Second Language (ESL), Citizenship, Graduate Equivalent Degrees (GED), and Healthy Living;

WHEREAS, many of these adult students are parents of the approximately 15,000 Oakland Public School students who are classified as English Language Learners because their family does not speak English as a primary language, and

WHEREAS, many of these parents are recent immigrants to this country who do not meet the enrollment requirements for ESL programs at the community college level, and these courses are offered close to or in many of our local schools increasing ties and participation in their children's education;

WHEREAS, close to one-third of Oakland's high school students drop out of school before they can earn a diploma, and

WHEREAS, securing a GED is a necessity for earning a living wage in the Bay Area, and

WHEREAS, local community colleges are not currently offering GED courses, and access to GED programs in neighboring communities is limited and more costly for many of these adult students), and

WHEREAS, having parents and young adults well-prepared to successfully participate in our local workforce fosters a strong and vibrant local economy,

WHEREAS, adult education also offers crucial courses for health and social support for many Oakland seniors;

WHEREAS, adult education programs are currently funded by the state separately from K-12 education and have not affected that funding;

AND WHEREAS, the location of these programs at many dozens of sites throughout the city is an integral part of the communities served;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Oakland City Council oppose the loss of Adult Education programs in our local communities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council encourages the State Administrator, the Oakland Public School Board, and teachers' union to seek and implement alternatives that will preserve Adult Education Programs throughout the city;

AND LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council will place this item on our Joint Education Partnership Committee and play an active role in meeting with the parties concerned and state officials to develop a fair resolution.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, REID, QUAN, WAN and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: _____
LaTonda Simmons
Interim City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California