

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
San Juan Capistrano, California

RESOLUTION NO. 2627-12

RESOLUTION OF THE CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA TO ENSURE EVIDENCE-BASED STEM ADMISSIONS PRACTICES THAT PROMOTE STUDENT READINESS AND SUCCESS

WHEREAS, the Mission of the Capistrano Unified School District (District) is to prepare students to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world; and

WHEREAS, the Vision of the Capistrano Unified School District is an unwavering commitment to student success; and

WHEREAS, the District is committed to preparing all students for success in college, career, and life by providing rigorous academic opportunities that foster critical thinking, innovation, and lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines are essential to California's economy, national competitiveness, and the future workforce, and require strong foundational knowledge and academic preparation; and

WHEREAS, the District recognizes the value of multiple measures of college readiness, including rigorous coursework, academic performance, and nationally recognized assessments such as the ACT and SAT; and

WHEREAS, the District continues to provide students with opportunities to participate in rigorous college readiness assessments, including the ACT and SAT; and

WHEREAS, the University of California suspended standardized testing requirements beginning in 2020 and adopted a fully test-blind admissions policy beginning with the 2023-24 admissions cycle; and

WHEREAS, a November 2025 report from a University of California San Diego Senate-Administration Workgroup on Admissions found that the percentage of incoming freshmen requiring mathematics remediation increased from approximately 0.5 percent of the incoming class in 2020 to nearly 12 percent in 2025; and

WHEREAS, University of California faculty have reported increasing challenges in providing rigorous college-level STEM instruction when students enter without the mathematical preparation expected for success in those courses; and

WHEREAS, the same University of California San Diego report found that approximately 25 percent of students placed into remedial mathematics had earned a 4.0 high school mathematics grade point average, suggesting that grades alone may not fully predict college mathematics readiness; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by institutions including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has found that mathematics assessments provide information beyond high school grade point average in predicting student success in rigorous STEM coursework; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,500 University of California faculty members, including seven of the University's nine Mathematics Department Chairs and numerous STEM department leaders, have signed an open letter encouraging the University to review admissions practices for STEM applicants; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2026, the University of California Academic Senate's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) approved a Policies and Partnerships Roadmap establishing faculty workgroups to review undergraduate admissions policies, including the role of standardized testing and A-G requirements; and

WHEREAS, Regents Policy 2102 provides that University entrance requirements are intended to ensure students are adequately prepared for university-level work, and recent faculty reports have prompted an ongoing review of whether current admissions practices accurately identify students prepared for rigorous STEM coursework; and

WHEREAS, the District believes that educational equity includes both expanding access to postsecondary opportunities and ensuring students possess the academic preparation necessary to succeed once admitted; and

WHEREAS, the District has a strong interest in ensuring that its graduates entering STEM fields are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and preparation necessary for long-term academic achievement and success;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Capistrano Unified School District reaffirms its commitment to preparing students for success in rigorous college and career pathways, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board supports undergraduate admissions policies for STEM programs that are grounded in objective, evidence-based measures of student readiness and that promote long-term academic success for all students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board encourages the University of California Board of Regents and the Academic Senate to complete their ongoing review of undergraduate admissions policies using the best available research, institutional data, and faculty expertise to determine which admissions measures most accurately identify students prepared for rigorous STEM coursework;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board encourages the University of California to adopt validated measures of college readiness, whether through standardized assessments, demonstrated academic performance, or other evidence-based indicators shown through research to predict student success in STEM disciplines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board recognizes that strengthening student preparation and success in STEM should advance both academic excellence and equitable educational opportunity for California students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board affirms its belief that expanding educational opportunity and maintaining rigorous academic standards are complementary goals that together promote meaningful student success in higher education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent or designee to transmit copies of this Resolution to the University of California Board of Regents, the Office of the President, the Academic Senate's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), the Governor of California, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and members of the California Legislature representing the Capistrano Unified School District;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Capistrano Unified School District encourages California public school districts to support policies that strengthen college readiness, improve long-term student success in STEM fields, and rely upon evidence-based admissions practices that best identify students prepared for rigorous postsecondary study.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Capistrano Unified School District on Thursday, August 13, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: ()
NOES: ()
ABSTENTIONS: ()
ABSENT: ()

I, Christopher Brown, Ed.D., Secretary of the Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees, hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the said Board at the meeting on Thursday, August 13, 2026, by a roll call vote.

Jennifer Adnams, Trustee
Clerk of the Board of Trustees

Christopher Brown, Ed.D., Superintendent
Secretary of the Board of Trustees