

MURRIETA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 26/27-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
MURRIETA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA TO REINSTATE
STANDARDIZED MATH ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS
FOR STEM ADMISSIONS**

WHEREAS, the University of California adopted a test-blind admissions policy beginning with the 2021–22 admissions cycle, permanently eliminating consideration of SAT and ACT scores in undergraduate admissions; and

WHEREAS, a November 2025 report from a UC San Diego Senate–Administration Workgroup on Admissions found that the number of entering first-year students with math skills below a middle school level has increased over 20-fold since 2020 — from approximately 0.5% of the incoming class in 2020 to nearly 12% in 2025 — when the University of California first suspended standardized testing requirements; and

WHEREAS, UC faculty report that instructors must now reteach middle school mathematics concepts while simultaneously delivering college-level coursework in STEM fields, placing at risk the academic success and degree completion of students admitted without adequate preparation; and

WHEREAS, the same November 2025 USCD report further found that among students placed into remedial math, 25% had earned a perfect 4.0 high school math GPA, demonstrating that high school grades alone do not reliably predict college math readiness; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology reinstated standardized test requirements in 2022 after its own research demonstrated that standardized test results are necessary, alongside grades and coursework, to reliably predict student success in rigorous STEM programs — a finding that has since been cited repeatedly in the national debate over test-blind admissions; and

WHEREAS, more than 2,300 UC faculty members — including seven of nine UC Mathematics Department Chairs, 73 additional STEM department chairs, and five Nobel Laureates — have signed an open letter urging the UC Board of Regents and Academic Senate to reinstate standardized math score requirements for STEM applicants; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2026, more than 900 University of California faculty members from the humanities, social sciences, law, business, and education disciplines signed an open letter endorsing reinstatement of standardized verbal reasoning testing for all UC undergraduate admissions, bringing the combined total of UC faculty signatories across both letters to more than 3,000; and

WHEREAS, published research on UC admissions outcomes has found that, under the test-blind admissions policy, acceptance rates have declined for high-achieving students from rigorous urban and magnet academic programs, as admissions processes cannot distinguish between a hard-earned grade from a demanding program and an inflated grade from a less rigorous one — inverting the equity rationale offered in support of test-blind admissions and demonstrating that an objective, standardized measure is essential to ensure fair evaluation of all students regardless of their school's grading culture; and

WHEREAS, in July 2026, the UC Academic Senate's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) rescinded a June 5, 2026 policy roadmap that had established faculty-led workgroups to evaluate standardized testing requirements, and on July 14, 2026, the UC Board of Regents Chair committed the Academic Senate to completing its admissions review by June 2027 — a timeline that leading UC mathematics faculty have publicly characterized as insufficiently urgent given the severity of the academic preparation crisis; and

WHEREAS, the July 2026 rescission of the BOARS roadmap — occurring just five weeks after adoption — demonstrates that sustained external advocacy from school districts, faculty, and the public directly influences UC's admissions review process, making continued engagement by California school boards both appropriate and effective; and

WHEREAS, meaningful equity in college outcomes requires matching students with academic programs for which they possess the foundational preparation to succeed; admitting students into STEM programs without verified math readiness does not advance equity - it increases the risk of course failure, academic difficulty, and degree incompleteness; and

WHEREAS, the Murrieta Valley Unified School District is committed to preparing all students for rigorous, successful post-secondary education and has a direct interest in ensuring that the University of California's admissions standards accurately reflect the preparation required for STEM academic success;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees of the Murrieta Valley Unified School District hereby expresses its strong support for the reinstatement of SAT or ACT math score requirements as a component of the University of California's admissions process for undergraduate STEM programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board calls upon the UC Board of Regents and the UC Academic Senate to treat SAT/ACT score reinstatement as a matter of educational urgency and to act as expeditiously as possible — without awaiting the conclusion of the June 2027 review process — to restore standardized math score requirements for STEM applicants, prioritizing student preparedness and long-term academic success over admissions criteria that have demonstrably failed to identify students prepared for STEM coursework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the UC Board of Regents, the UC Office of the President, the Academic Senate's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools, and the Governor of California; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board encourages all California public school districts to consider adopting similar resolutions in support of evidence-based admissions standards that serve the genuine long-term success of all students.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Murrieta Valley Unified School District at the Board Meeting held August 11, 2026 by the following vote:

AYES:	<u>5</u>
NOES:	<u>0</u>
ABSTAIN:	<u>0</u>
ABSENT:	<u>0</u>

I, Christine Schmidt, Clerk of the Board of Education of the Murrieta Valley Unified School District of Riverside County, California, hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the said Board at its regular meeting held on the 11th day of August, 2026.


Christine Schmidt, Clerk of the Board
Trustee, Area 5 (Sponsor)