

WHAT ARE THE A to Gs?

The A to G requirements are course and credit minimums set by the University of California and California State University for entrance to the system. The Palo Alto Unified School District's high school graduation requirements meet or exceed the UC/CSU requirements in all but 3 areas. The UC/CSU requires **Algebra II**, 2 years of one **World Language** and some CSUs require that both years of science be a **Lab Science**. There is a discussion about aligning the PAUSD graduation requirements with the UC/CSU system. At present PAUSD Graduation Requirements exceed the California State H.S. Graduation standards.

In 2011 there were 890 graduates from PAUSD. 170 did not meet A to G. These 170 include special education students. There is concern among teachers that changing the PAUSD graduation requirements will not address the underlying issues but will result in more students not receiving a standard diploma.

Let's look at more numbers. Paly graduated 394 students last year. 90 of the graduates did not meet UC/CSU requirements. What courses were they missing?

- 27 Subjects other than Math
 - 46 Math plus 2 or more subjects
 - 10 Math plus 1 other subject
 - 7 Math Only
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- Why did these students not meet the A to G requirements?
 - Will changing PAUSD graduation requirements help those students be UC/CSU eligible or prevent 90 students from graduating with a standard diploma?

PALO ALTO PARTNERS in EDUCATION PiE

REMEMBER to include an endorsement of PiE in your class newsletters or your class websites. Let the parents of your students know how PiE funds support education.

An A to G Opinion

By Jovi Johnston and Linda Kirsch

The proposal to establish A-G as the requirement for the Palo Alto Unified School District diploma will unfairly limit opportunities for students in both the areas of post secondary education and employment. Many private and out of state public schools do not require that A-G be met but always require that students receive a high school diploma. The California A-G requirements for the UC and CSU schools were meant to provide placement for the top 33% of students in the state.

Academic support for students to accompany the increase in courses required has not been discussed by the district. Without support, this would impact our most needy students, including special education, ELL, and underrepresented groups.

Due to the shift needed for A-G from the current graduation requirements, classes in the arts, Career Tech Ed, and many electives would suffer decreased enrollment. This would lead to decreased options for students and a loss of courses that expose students to visual and performing arts and career pathways.

670 seniors from the class of 2011 in PAUSD graduated meeting A-G requirements. 170 students did not. Out of the seniors who did not meet A-G, groups such as special education and ELL were included. This does not mean that those students who did not meet A-G did not attend four-year colleges. In fact, we know many did.

Creating a definition of success based on the A-G requirements is unfair to those students with different aspirations or special needs. To deny these students a high school diploma would result in increased social-emotional stress, lack of or a decrease in occupational opportunities, and could discourage them from aspiring to further their education. The additional stress is also a factor to consider as A-G requirements add on to what students must do in a number of subject areas. Students who cannot complete these requirements successfully will feel like they have failed or are failures.

Although waivers have been discussed, students will know that they have not met the requirements that the district has set for a diploma and will know that their document is different. This will also result in students feeling like they are less than their peers who have completed the regular requirements.

TEACHER ADMINISTERED MEDICATIONS

This Fall 2011 the California State Legislature passed SB 161 authorizing school districts to provide training to personnel who volunteer to administer seizure medication to students. Many members are concerned about being asked to administer these medications. The Association has sent a letter to district Administrators formally declaring that as a group Palo Alto Educators Association members are not volunteering or receiving training in the administration of these medications or the Glucagon injection. This does not preclude a member from individually volunteering if he or she wishes to do so.

CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET & PAUSD

- As you know the current California budget was built upon a hope that state revenues would increase by \$4 billion. At this point revenues have increased by only \$300 million. The state take backs are triggered in mid-December just two weeks away. The K-12 education cuts could cost PAUSD \$500,000 or up to \$2.5 million.
- Property Tax growth has been lower than expected and Prop 8 rebates county wide were higher than expected resulting in a property tax revenue increase over last year of 0.51%.
- The State moved responsibility for mental health services to the school districts. The net cost to PAUSD will be \$1.25 million.
- This year's budget shortfall will be covered by the unrestricted, undesignated reserve.

NEGOTIATIONS

Class Size – At our last negotiations session we discussed a Class Size Remediation formula, which would help to stretch the dollars currently in the budget to cover more grade levels and departments. The use of this new formula would extend classroom support dollars without increasing the expenditures in the budget.

PAEA NOMINATIONS

Palo Alto Educators Association (PAEA) Executive Board elections will be held this coming winter. All positions are open. Your site representative has a description of the roles and responsibilities of the officers and nomination forms. Training and stipends are available for all the positions. Please nominate yourself or a colleague to serve on the board. The positions are:

- **President**
- **Vice-President**
- **Treasurer**
- **Secretary**
- **Member at Large (3)**

In addition we will be looking for new members for various committees such as Negotiations and Joint Benefits.

DEC. Rep Council Meeting will be held Thursday 12/08 4:00–6:00 PM
 At Greenhouse II
 HOST – Triona Gogarty

2011-2012 Representative Council

Addison Teri Baldwin	Barron Park Doug Burress	Briones Kristine Berg Laurie Levy	Children Hospital Kathleen Ho	Duveneck Grace Bunya Mangla Oza	El Carmelo Diane McCoy
Escondido Debbie Scalero Carrie Widener	Fairmeadow Valerie Sabbag	Greendell Marion Krause	Hays Helen Carnes Kevin Rouse	Hoover Lonnie Spencer	Nixon Beryl Deremigio Janice Mulholland
Ohlone Kim Prescott Ashley McCrea	Palo Verde Sheri Cundall Lisa Swagerty	Traveling Music BJ Floersheim	Traveling PE Leslie Bowen	25 Churchill Room for one or a share	
Terman Lynn Repetsky Mark Dungan Rachael Shepherd	JLS Andrea Gruner Linda Howard Noel Berghout Kevin Lynch Dave Tomatis	Jordan Keith Clarke Sarah Pierce Joleen Roach Mary Sano Maria Thomas	Gunn Rachel Grunsky Jovi Johnston Dewett Ken Plough Shivani Pulimamidi Gopi Tantod	Paly Magdalena Rivera Steve Sabbag Margo Wixsom Room for more	

Please send comments, suggestions or requests for the BUZZZ to
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