



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

July 1, 2021

Tony Thurmond
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

RE: Opposition to the Proposed Draft Mathematics Framework

Dear Superintendent Thurmond,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you in strong OPPOSITION to the draft Mathematics Framework from the California Department of Education. While the draft Mathematics Framework is designed to provide guidelines and selected research-based approaches to ensure optimal instruction benefits for all students when learning math, our City is deeply concerned the current draft Mathematics Framework discourages students who have a higher aptitude for mathematics from being placed in the correct curriculum for their abilities.

Although the draft Mathematics Framework does allow local school districts to accelerate honors and gifted students, it does not allow Algebra or Geometry to be taught in middle school. This hinders the growth of those middle school students who would be appropriately challenged by Algebra and Geometry by removing the ability to teach these classes at the middle school they are attending.

The City understands and appreciates the level of work that went into the draft Mathematics Framework, especially its attempts to create different ways to teach math so it is adaptive to each student's individual needs. However, we are not in support of limiting opportunities for students who excel in math. This would be similar to holding back a musical protégé from attending music classes that further their love for music or not allowing gifted athletes who may only just be entering high school from competing on the world stage at the Olympics.

Furthermore, the draft Mathematics Framework encourages parents to seek alternatives to the public school system in order to educate their gifted middle school students. Public schools are best served by having a diverse representation of students present from the community. As proposed, the draft Mathematics Framework may further divide the community rather than generate support for public schools. It is our fear the proposed Mathematics Framework will provide motivation for parents to see appropriate educational opportunities for their children outside the public school system.

While we do agree with the areas of the framework that offer support for those who struggle with mathematics, we must respectfully request and encourage your reconsideration of those elements of the Mathematics Framework that would limit opportunities for gifted math students to take advanced courses if they have the skills and aptitude.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills must respectfully OPPOSE the proposed draft Mathematics Framework.

Sincerely,



Robert Wunderlich

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Governor Gavin Newsom
State Board of Education
IQC Subject Matter Committee
The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 26th District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Assemblymember 50th District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange