

2024 Negotiated Rulemaking for Higher Education – Federal TRIO Programs

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Propose to change the language of the Upward Bound Grant Objective #2:

Academic Performance on Standard Test: % of UB seniors during the project year will have achieved at the proficient level on state assessments in reading/language and math.

California uses the Smarter Balanced Assessment System (SBAC) to provide information about state assessment scores in English language arts and math. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, SBAC scores, particularly in Math, have declined (Source: [EdSource](#)). The JCYC UB serves four target high schools in SFUSD: Balboa, Thurgood Marshall, Mission, and John O’Connell. These high schools have experienced sharper decreases in Math achievement levels than the district and State average (Source: [EdSource SFUSD](#), and [EdSource: Locate SFUSD High Schools](#)). In summary, less than 20% pass Math at 3 of our 4 target schools. Reviewing the data from the tables provided shows a strong correlation linking low-income status to lower passing rates on the SBAC tests in our UB target high schools, SFUSD and California.

In addition, an [NCES](#) longitudinal study shows that the country has experienced its sharpest decline in Math and English achievement in decades. For English, national achievement rates haven't declined since 1990. However, with the pandemic in 2019, math scores dropped for the FIRST year in the study's history.

Proposing new language: % of UB seniors during the project year will have achieved at the proficient level on state assessments in reading/language **or** math.

For California, the standards for not meeting or exceeding English and math assessment tests point to a systemic problem since the COVID-19 pandemic. Passing one, not necessarily both, sections of the SBAC can still serve as a demonstration of academic performance and college readiness. Consequently, achieving this objective will provide California’s UB TRIO programs a better opportunity to earn PE points.