

SACRAMENTO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
 10474 Mather Boulevard, P.O. Box 269003
 Sacramento, CA 95826-9003

Subject: Endorsement to Further Explore the Community School Plan	Agenda Item No: VI.A. Enclosures: 1
Reason: Authorization for Staff to Further Explore the Community School Plan	From: Sue Stickel Prepared By: Tamara Sanchez Board Meeting Date: 05/17/11

BACKGROUND:

Since the 2009/10 school year, the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) has assisted Sacramento County school districts by providing community schools at low or no excess cost. Because of the use of one-time resources (ARRA, SFSS, and other SCOE resources), SCOE has historically been able to supplement this program through difficult budget times. Unfortunately, all of our one-time options have been eliminated, districts are under greater pressure to secure every dollar possible, and the state is expected to continue to cut the Revenue Limit resources.

In the budget study session held on March 22, 2011, staff showed the budget difficulties faced by the Community School Program. The study session showed that hundreds of thousands of dollars of losses have occurred in this program alone. Board members requested that they would like SCOE staff to continue to look for resources to save this program if possible.

Staff has drafted a scaled down Community School plan with the goal of long-term sustainability. This scaled down model allows us to use ROP and Title I dollars differently. In order to implement this scaled down model and maintain services to our districts for expelled youth in the ~~2010/11~~ **2011/12** school year, three things must fall into place:

1. Participating school districts must be willing to guarantee enrollment and fund a per-student excess cost for approximately 4-5 hours per day;
2. SCOE management must work together with our associations to change our current LINKS model; and

3. We must wait for the May Revision of the Governor's Budget to obtain as many details as possible on the future State funding for this program.

The proposed LINKS model will move program away from a classroom-only model to a classroom-based model with credit recovery and GED labs. Enrolled LINKS students ages 14-16 will be in an extended school day (about six hours) that focuses on returning the students to their own districts. Academic teachers will be paired with ROP instructors in an academy-like model that allows for higher enrollment per academic teacher, yet smaller class sizes for each class period. Referred students who are ages 17-18 will complete their high school education through the credit recovery and GED labs in a daily 4-hour instructional program. The higher enrollment combined with the excess cost will greatly enhance the revenue available to run this program.

A detailed line item budget for the new LINKS model will be discussed during the Board Meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Interim Superintendent recommends that the Board authorize staff to further explore the Community Schools Plan and begin conversations with school districts and our associations.