

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco 94102-4689  
Tel. No. (415) 554-5184  
Fax No. (415) 554-5163  
TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

# MEMORANDUM

## RULES COMMITTEE

### SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TO: Supervisor Matt Dorsey, Chair  
Rules Committee

FROM: Victor Young, Assistant Clerk *Victor Young*

DATE: November 13, 2023

SUBJECT: **COMMITTEE REPORT, BOARD MEETING**  
Tuesday, November 14, 2023

The following file should be presented as a **COMMITTEE REPORT** at the Board Meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. This item was acted upon at the Rules Committee Meeting on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., by the votes indicated.

**Item No. 23**                      **File No. 231019**

[Declaration of Policy - Eighth Grade Algebra and SFUSD Math Curriculum Development]

Motion ordering submitted to the voters at an election to be held on March 5, 2024, a Declaration of Policy urging the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to offer Algebra 1 to students by the eighth grade, and supporting the SFUSD in its efforts to develop its math curriculum for students at all grade levels.

RECOMMENDED AS A COMMITTEE REPORT

Vote: Supervisor Shamann Walton - Aye  
Supervisor Ahsha Safai - Aye  
Supervisor Matt Dorsey - Aye

c: Board of Supervisors  
Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board  
Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director  
Anne Pearson, Deputy City Attorney

File No. 231019

Committee Item No. 3

Board Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

# COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: Rules Committee

Date Nov 13, 2023

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Cmte Board

- Motion
- Resolution
- Ordinance
- Legislative Digest
- Budget and Legislative Analyst Report
- Youth Commission Report
- Introduction Form
- Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Grant Information Form
- Grant Budget
- Subcontract Budget
- Contract/Agreement
- Form 126 - Ethics Commission
- Award Letter
- Application
- Form 700
- Information/Vacancies (Boards/Commissions)
- Public Correspondence

**OTHER** (Use back side if additional space is needed)

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Completed by: Victor Young Date November 9, 2023

Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1 [Declaration of Policy - Eighth Grade Algebra and SFUSD Math Curriculum Development]

2

3 **Motion ordering submitted to the voters at an election to be held on March 5, 2024, a**  
4 **Declaration of Policy urging the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to offer**  
5 **Algebra 1 to students by the eighth grade, and supporting the SFUSD in its efforts to**  
6 **develop its math curriculum for students at all grade levels.**

7

8 MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby submits the following declaration of  
9 policy to the voters of the City and County of San Francisco, at an election to be held on  
10 March 5, 2024.

11

12 **Declaration of Policy declaring it the official policy of the City and County of San**  
13 **Francisco to urge the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to offer Algebra 1**  
14 **to students by the eighth grade, and to support the SFUSD in its efforts to develop its**  
15 **math curriculum for students at all grade levels.**

16

17 The People of the City and County of San Francisco hereby declare:

18 It shall be the official policy of the City and County of San Francisco to urge the San  
19 Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to offer Algebra 1 to students by the eighth grade.

20 It shall also be the official policy of the City and County of San Francisco to support the  
21 SFUSD in:

- 22 • developing a coherent math curriculum for elementary and middle school students  
23 rooted in educational excellence;

24

25

- 1 • ensuring that math instruction is student-centered so that students who are  
2 struggling get the help they need, and students who are ready for more, can explore  
3 their potential;
- 4 • building a first-rate math curriculum and instruction team that is committed to  
5 serving students in a challenging, engaging, student-centered, culturally-  
6 responsive, and differentiated way;
- 7 • providing a range of educational options to ensure that elementary and middle  
8 school students have access to courses that would qualify them for science,  
9 technology, engineering, and math majors at colleges in the University of California  
10 and California State University systems;
- 11 • promoting targeted approaches to math education and career guidance for girls to  
12 address the historic underrepresentation of women in certain science, technology,  
13 engineering, and math fields;
- 14 • providing support and guidance to educators so they may be successful in their  
15 efforts to encourage and support students' desire to learn algebra; and
- 16 • meaningfully addressing the California Legislature's findings in the California  
17 Mathematics Placement Act of 2015 (SB 359), that 1) all pupils, regardless of race,  
18 ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background, deserve an equal chance to  
19 advance in mathematics; 2) with the shift towards implementation of the Common  
20 Core State Standards for Mathematics, it is particularly important for all pupils to  
21 have access to high-quality mathematics programs that meet the goals and  
22 expectations of these standards; and 3) it is crucial for educators and guidance  
23 personnel to advise pupils and parents on the importance of accurate mathematics  
24 course placement and its impact on future college eligibility so pupils may take each  
25 course in the mathematics course sequence.

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## MEMORANDUM

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Date: October 10, 2023  
To: Planning Department / Commission  
From: Victor Young, Clerk of the Rules Committee *Victor Young*  
Subject: Board of Supervisors Legislation Referral –  
File No. 231017 Hearing - Declaration of Policy - Eighth Grade Algebra and SFUSD Math Curriculum Development  
File No. 231019 Declaration of Policy - Eighth Grade Algebra and SFUSD Math Curriculum Development

- 
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Determination *CEQA does not apply to a measure submitted to the voters by the Mayor or 4 Supervisors.*  
(*California Public Resources Code, Sections 21000 et seq.*)  
 Ordinance / Resolution  
 Ballot Measure  
10/24/2023 *Joy Navarrete*
- Amendment to the Planning Code, including the following Findings:  
(*Planning Code, Section 302(b): 90 days for Planning Commission review*)  
 General Plan     Planning Code, Section 101.1     Planning Code, Section 302
- Amendment to the Administrative Code, involving Land Use/Planning  
(*Board Rule 3.23: 30 days for possible Planning Department review*)
- General Plan Referral for Non-Planning Code Amendments  
(*Charter, Section 4.105, and Administrative Code, Section 2A.53*)  
(Required for legislation concerning the acquisition, vacation, sale, or change in use of City property; subdivision of land; construction, improvement, extension, widening, narrowing, removal, or relocation of public ways, transportation routes, ground, open space, buildings, or structures; plans for public housing and publicly-assisted private housing; redevelopment plans; development agreements; the annual capital expenditure plan and six-year capital improvement program; and any capital improvement project or long-term financing proposal such as general obligation or revenue bonds.)
- Historic Preservation Commission  
 Landmark (*Planning Code, Section 1004.3*)  
 Cultural Districts (*Charter, Section 4.135 & Board Rule 3.23*)  
 Mills Act Contract (*Government Code, Section 50280*)  
 Designation for Significant/Contributory Buildings (*Planning Code, Article 11*)

Please send the Planning Department/Commission recommendation/determination to Victor Young at [Victor.Young@sfgov.org](mailto:Victor.Young@sfgov.org).



**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Ben Rosenfield  
Controller  
Todd Rydstrom  
Deputy Controller

Ms. Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

November 9, 2023

RE: File 231019 – Declaration of Policy urging the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to offer Algebra 1 to students by the eighth grade

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have no cost to government.

Sincerely,

*Janice Levy* FOR  
Ben Rosenfield  
Controller

Note: This analysis reflects our understanding of the proposal as of the date shown. At times further information is provided to us which may result in revisions being made to this analysis before the final Controller's statement appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet.

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Alondra Esquivel-Garcia, Director, Youth Commission  
FROM: Victor Young, Assistant Clerk, *Victor Young*  
Rules Committee  
DATE: October 10, 2023  
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE MATTER INTRODUCED

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The Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee has received the following Declaration of Policy. This item is being referred for comment and recommendation.

**File No. 231017**

Hearing to consider the proposed Declaration of Policy submitted by four or more Supervisors to the voters for the March 5, 2024, Election, entitled "Declaration of Policy urging the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to offer Algebra 1 to students by the eighth grade, and supporting the SFUSD in its efforts to develop its math curriculum for students at all grade levels."

**File No. 231019**

Motion ordering submitted to the voters at an election to be held on March 5, 2024, a Declaration of Policy urging the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to offer Algebra 1 to students by the eighth grade, and supporting the SFUSD in its efforts to develop its math curriculum for students at all grade levels.

Please return this cover sheet with the Commission's response to Victor Young, Assistant Clerk, Rules Committee ([victor.young@sfgov.org](mailto:victor.young@sfgov.org)).

\*\*\*\*\*

RESPONSE FROM YOUTH COMMISSION

Date: 10/27/23

No Comment  
 Recommendation Attached

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, Youth Commission





## YOUTH COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Victor Young, Assistant Clerk  
Joel Engardio, District 4 Supervisor

**CC:** Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board  
Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director  
Tita Bell, District 4 Legislative Aide

**FROM:** 2023-2024 Youth Commission

**DATE:** Friday, October 27, 2023

**RE:** SUBJECT: YOUTH COMMISSION REFERRED LEGISLATION BOS FILE # 231017 AND # 231019

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At its in-person meeting on Monday, October 16, 2023 took the following action on BOS FILE # 231017 AND # 231019:

1. Motion to Support Referred Legislation BOS File # 231017 [Hearing - Declaration of Policy - Eighth Grade Algebra and SFUSD Math Curriculum Development] **Hearing to consider the proposed Declaration of Policy submitted by four or more Supervisors to the voters for the March 5, 2024, Election, entitled "Declaration of Policy urging the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to offer Algebra 1 to students by the eighth grade, and supporting the SFUSD in its efforts to develop its math curriculum for students at all grade levels."**
2. Motion to Support Referred Legislation BOS File # 231019 [Declaration of Policy - Eighth Grade Algebra and SFUSD Math Curriculum Development] **Motion ordering submitted to the voters at an election to be held on March 5, 2024, a Declaration of Policy urging the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to offer Algebra 1 to students by the eighth grade, and supporting the SFUSD in its efforts to develop its math curriculum for students at all grade levels.**
3. The San Francisco Youth Commission had the following questions about the Declaration of Policy - Eighth Grade Algebra and SFUSD Math Curriculum Development:
  - How does SFUSD plan to support SFUSD students who aren't ready or eligible to take Algebra 1 if that would be offered and implemented as part of the SFUSD Math Curriculum?
  - How does SFUSD and with support of the BOS plan to implement Algebra 1 in middle schools since there are currently classes that don't have enough teachers to teach math courses at every middle school?
  - What are the mechanisms that the City and County has if the Board of Supervisors approved this to be implemented into SFUSD math curriculum and additional school district policies?

Youth Commission  
City Hall ~ Room 345  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place



(415) 554-6446  
(415) 554-6140 FAX

- How would this legislation work to increase students' involvement in STEM courses?
  - Do current private and charter middle schools in San Francisco offer Algebra 1 as part of their independent math curriculums?
  - Where does the state math curriculum stand and how can the City encourage SFUSD to fully implement the state math curriculum?
  - What changes does the Board of Supervisors would need to make if SFUSD agrees to implement Algebra 1 in middle schools? For example: additional funding resources
  - Why were there math curriculum changes and policies revoked in 2014?
  - What kind of support will there be for students wanting to take Algebra 1 if this policy change would be implemented?
  - What would be the scale of implementation if SFUSD would implement Algebra 1?
  - What is the timeline for this declaration of policy to be passed by voters?
4. The commissioner urges SFUSD to partake in the Hearing - Declaration of Policy - Eighth Grade Algebra and SFUSD Math Curriculum Development for the school district to be able to answer some of the questions asked at the 10/16 Youth Commission meeting.

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Please do not hesitate to contact Youth Commissioners or Youth Commission staff (415) 554- 6446 with any questions. Thank you.

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Tom Paulino, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors, Mayor's Office  
Anne Pearson, Deputy City Attorney, Office of the City Attorney  
John Arntz, Director, Department of Elections  
Gayathri Thaikkendiyil, Acting Executive Director, Ethics Commission  
Dr. Matt Wayne, Superintendent SFUSD (waynem@sfusd.edu)

FROM: Victor Young, Assistant Clerk, Rules Committee *Victor Young*  
Board of Supervisors

DATE: October 10, 2023

SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF POLICY INTRODUCED  
March 5, 2024, Election

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The Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee has received following Declaration of Policy for the March 5, 2024, Election. This matter is being **referred** to you in accordance with Rules of Order 2.22.4.

### **File No. 231017**

Hearing to consider the proposed Declaration of Policy submitted by four or more Supervisors to the voters for the March 5, 2024, Election, entitled "Declaration of Policy urging the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to offer Algebra 1 to students by the eighth grade, and supporting the SFUSD in its efforts to develop its math curriculum for students at all grade levels."

### **File No. 231019**

Motion ordering submitted to the voters at an election to be held on March 5, 2024, a Declaration of Policy urging the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to offer Algebra 1 to students by the eighth grade, and supporting the SFUSD in its efforts to develop its math curriculum for students at all grade levels.

Please review and submit any reports or comments you wish to be included with the legislative file.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (415) 554-7723 or email: victor.young@sfgov.org. To submit documentation, please forward to me at the Board

of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

c:     Andres Power, Mayor's Office  
       Michael Canning, Ethics Commission  
       Hong Mei Pang, SFUSD [pangh@sfusd.edu](mailto:pangh@sfusd.edu)  
       Danielle Houch, SFUSD [Daniellehouck@sfusd.edu](mailto:Daniellehouck@sfusd.edu)  
       Maria Trujillo, SFUSD [trujillocm@sfusd.edu](mailto:trujillocm@sfusd.edu)  
       Judson Steele, SFUSD [Steelej1@sfusd.edu](mailto:Steelej1@sfusd.edu)  
       Mele Lau Smith, SFUSD [Lausithm@sfusd.edu](mailto:Lausithm@sfusd.edu)

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Ben Rosenfield, City Controller, Office of the Controller

FROM: Victor Young, Assistant Clerk, Rules Committee  
Board of Supervisors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor Young".

DATE: October 10, 2023

SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF POLICY INTRODUCED  
March 5, 2024, Election

---

The Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee has received the following Declaration of Policy for the March 5, 2024, Election. This matter is being **referred** to you in accordance with Rules of Order 2.22.3.

### **File No. 231017**

Hearing to consider the proposed Declaration of Policy submitted by four or more Supervisors to the voters for the March 5, 2024, Election, entitled "Declaration of Policy urging the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to offer Algebra 1 to students by the eighth grade, and supporting the SFUSD in its efforts to develop its math curriculum for students at all grade levels."

### **File No. 231019**

Motion ordering submitted to the voters at an election to be held on March 5, 2024, a Declaration of Policy urging the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to offer Algebra 1 to students by the eighth grade, and supporting the SFUSD in its efforts to develop its math curriculum for students at all grade levels.

Please review and prepare a financial analysis of the proposed measure prior to the first Rules Committee hearing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (415) 554-7723 or email: victor.young@sfgov.org. To submit documentation, please email or forward to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

c: Todd Rydstrom, Office of the Controller  
Natasha Mihal, Office of the Controller  
Janice Levy, Office of the Controller

**From:** [Maya Keshavan](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [John Trasvina; rex@rexridgeway.com; Joel Engardio; Breed, Mayor London \(MYR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Algebra Resolution 231-017, 231-019 public comment  
**Date:** Friday, November 10, 2023 1:44:50 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To the Board of Supervisors:

In the fall of 2013 at Back to School night at Roosevelt Middle School my son's Algebra I teacher told us this would be the last year Algebra I would be taught in eighth grade. I remember thinking this can't possibly be true. I thought all I needed to do was to go to a Board of Education meeting to explain why this was a really bad idea and it would all be fixed.

It was not.

For years in SFUSD all students took Algebra I in eighth grade. The new sequence delayed Algebra I to ninth grade for all students. This made it impossible to reach calculus in twelfth grade without workarounds.

My daughter, the class of 2020, is two years younger than my son and was caught in this delay.

I paid \$700 for an on-line accredited high school UC-approved Algebra I class which she took concurrently with her eighth grade math class. We were fortunate that I'm an electrical engineer and my son had taken Algebra I recently so we could help her when she got stuck.

To get a sense how long this has been going on? My son is now an electrical engineer himself and my daughter is a senior at a STEM college. She graduates in May.

Over the years I would email the Board of Education and superintendent with my worries the math sequence was creating unnecessary barriers for underserved students. I didn't get much response except telling me that this sequence change was working but without providing any raw data to back their claims.

I realized the district was not going to be transparent and it would take public data requests to understand what was really going on. Which I made.

I finally received [raw data](#) in the summer of 2021 after years of stonewalling.

For years SFUSD said 40% of the final eighth-grade Algebra I class (class of 2018) had to repeat the class in ninth grade.

[The data](#) received from the district shows that 100 out of 2,359 students (4.2% not 40%) failed Algebra I in 2013-14. This was the eighth grade year of the class of 2018, the last year before Algebra I was delayed.

The class of 2019 took Algebra I in ninth grade in 2015-16. 195 out of 2,957 students (6.6%)

failed.

There was no improvement.

The district later added [a caveat](#) (in speaker notes) there was a one-time drop in course repeats between the Class of 2018, last with Algebra 1 in eighth grade and the Class of 2019, first delayed to ninth-grade group.

In the case of the Class of 2018, they said, a student had to score proficient on the Algebra I California Standardized Test (CST) or retake the class. The CST/STAR tests was the old testing system used prior to the Smarter Balanced Assessment testing (SBAC).

There was no such test for the class of 2019. It is disingenuous to compare under two very different conditions.

Meanwhile, October 2013 the CSTs were [discontinued](#) to make way for SBAC field testing. The 2013-14 school year was when the class of 2018 was in eighth grade taking Algebra I. There were no CSTs administered except for science. What exam were they taking? The district has yet to clarify.

Even with the caveat the districts claims can not be reproduced. I speculate somebody made a decimal point error when calculating percents for the class of 2018 and 4% became 40%.

SFUSD also says there has been an increase in precalculus enrollment. There has not.

SFUSD created a compression class called Algebra II + Precalculus for eleventh graders to take so they can take calculus in twelfth if they want. The problem? This class is missing a lot of precalculus content. UC, which analyzes state high school classes to verify they meet state standards, [does not recognize](#) this class as precalculus and categorizes it as Algebra II. Last year, prominent STEM college professors [sent a letter](#) to the SFUSD math department calling this class “antithetical to responsible preparation”.

Recently [a study](#) by a Stanford group corroborated this is not working. Although the people involved in the study were bamboozled by the district into believing the compression course was precalculus when it is not. They have admitted their mistake to The [San Francisco Standard](#).

As you can see this has been going on for years with the district refusing to acknowledge mistakes.

I see this resolution as a last resort to put public pressure on the district with the weight of the city behind it. A ballot measure, while non binding, will demonstrate once and for all the public supports SFUSD students having access to Algebra I in eighth grade, as most every other district in the state provides.

The most vulnerable students are being left behind. Those who want to go into science or engineering deserve access to the same classes as their privileged counterparts so they too can be future leaders in science and technology.

We can't afford to let another 10 years slip by.



Thank you for your time.

Maya Keshavan

**From:** [Brian R](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [trasvina2@gmail.com](mailto:trasvina2@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Algebra Resolution 231-017, 231-019  
**Date:** Friday, November 10, 2023 11:12:25 AM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I am writing in support of Algebra Resolution 231-017, 231-019.

Doubtless your inboxes are full of evidence demonstrating that removing Algebra from 8th grade was a failure. I've yet to see a good faith, objective argument demonstrating that the policy implemented in 2014 helped ANYBODY, least of which the underserved communities some advocates purport to serve.

I understand this is a separate discussion but it is a related theme: the great majority feel the same way about Lowell High School and efforts to "de-merit" admissions. Lowell is a crown jewel for public education **everywhere**, much less SFUSD. Again: who is helped by changing Lowell? Why do we focus on Lowell instead of placing our attention on K-8 education so that we can have more kids ready for Lowell?

And to the point here: why do we remove Algebra instead of focusing on making more kids ready for Algebra before 8th grade?

SFUSD is in crisis. It needs to do more to ATTRACT families. We cannot continue to pursue paths that do the exact opposite - while doing absolutely nothing tangible to help the underserved communities some claim to advocate for.

Thanks for your attention

Brian Rovner

**From:** [Quincy Yu](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [John Trasvina](#)  
**Subject:** Algebra Resolution 231-019  
**Date:** Sunday, November 12, 2023 4:05:23 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I write to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Rules Committee in support of the resolution to re-offer Algebra 1 to students by the 8th grade.

Prior to 2014, Algebra 1 was offered to San Francisco Unified (SFUSD) students in the 8th grade. In 2014, the SF Unified School District tried an experiment to end 8th grade Algebra for all because it felt it was not "equitable" and believed that delaying its availability would improve Algebra and math proficiency for all students.

Algebra and math proficiency did not improve. The change made it harder for students to reach and pass calculus by 12th grade. The results speak for themselves; this experiment failed and actually hampered the progress of students...yet SFUSD failed to reverse this decision even with the feedback from parents and mathematics education experts in leading universities in California.

Offering Algebra 1 in 8th grade is critical to strengthening educational opportunities for San Francisco students to ready them for science, technology, engineering, & math (STEM) careers. To have opportunities right in their backyard for students, but not taking the necessary steps in preparing them to be eligible for those careers is criminal.

The Board of Supervisors may not have direct control over SFUSD, but it is a body that should reflect the sentiments of those it represents to the government bodies that serve its constituents. I thank Supervisors Engardio, Dorsey, Safai, Stefani and Melgar for sponsoring this ballot measure, and ask the Rules Committee supports the furtherance of this ballot measure.

Respectfully,

--

Quincy Yu  
Mobile: 415.297.6168  
Email: [quincyyu99@gmail.com](mailto:quincyyu99@gmail.com)