

**BOARD OF EDUCATION** Attachment: Discussion 11  
**PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT** Date: 01.31.12

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Kevin Skelly, Superintendent  
SUBJECT: Graduation Requirements – Preliminary Thinking

**STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE**  
Academic Excellence and Learning

**BACKGROUND**

On May 27, 2008, the District adopted a strategic plan that recommended staff develop a College Readiness initiative consistent with the District's goals, values and mission that would increase college eligibility rates, particularly among historically under-represented student populations. One of the initiatives included:

**Strategic Initiative A2** - Better align graduation requirements with college entry requirement  
**A2.1** - Better align graduation requirements with college entry requirements

In September of 2010, the Board updated its graduation requirements policy so that beginning with students in the Class of 2012, students must earn 40 English units and earn their Visual and Performing Arts credits in a single subject course.

One of our focused goals this year is:

**A. Academic Excellence and Learning**

2. Present the plan to have more students complete college preparatory coursework and more fully support those who do not.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This Board item is intended to share present thinking on the topic of PAUSD's graduation requirements. A PowerPoint presentation will be made at the Board meeting. The presentation at this meeting will not be comprehensive, but rather serve as a starting place for our discussion in shaping this work and sharing our thinking with the community. At an upcoming Board study session on March 13, 2012, this item will be revisited and additional information and more specifics will be added, informed in part by the Board discussion on this agenda item. The present schedule has staff coming to the Board on May 8 and May 22, 2012 for discussion and action on any changes to graduation requirements.