



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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SUPERINTENDENT

Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**In the Matter of
Commitment and Support of the CalKIDS Program**

Resolution 24-41

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes the exceptional opportunity the CalKIDS program presents to over 60,000 eligible Fresno Unified students to begin tax-free saving, via an initial seed deposit and potential financial incentives for college tuition, career training, books, computers and room and board;

WHEREAS, all socioeconomically disadvantaged students in grades 1-12 may have at least \$500 already deposited in a CalKIDS account, with an additional up to \$1000 automatically deposited for over 1000 district students experiencing homelessness or living in foster care;

WHEREAS, all newborns born after July 1, 2023, many of whom will be future Fresno Unified students, will have \$100 already deposited in a CalKIDS account;

WHEREAS, less than 25% of Fresno County residents ages 25 and over have a bachelor's degree or higher and studies have shown that as little as \$500 in a college savings account can make students three times more likely to enroll in college and four times more likely to graduate from college;

WHEREAS, investments in higher education have historically proven to lift individuals out of poverty and contribute to economic growth;

WHEREAS, the CalKIDS program complements the district's existing commitment to instilling the belief that education is attainable and realistic for all students through dual enrollment and the Bulldog Bound program;

WHEREAS, the district is further committed to maximizing student utilization of CalKIDS, encouraging eligible families to take advantage of the program to jumpstart their children's savings for higher education;

WHEREAS, less than 7% of eligible Fresno Unified students have claimed their CalKIDS account, this Board recognizes the clear need for intentional district outreach, education and support to increase access to the \$30 million of funding for which our students are eligible, with a goal of increasing student account access to at least 25% of all eligible students districtwide and 50% for those specifically in high school by June 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Board herein commits that the Superintendent or designee shall provide a CalKIDS engagement plan by June 2024, outlining strategies for program activation and data collection for all eligible students, with an emphasis on incoming first and ninth grade students, as well as concrete goals for ensuring graduating Fresno Unified students utilize their funds for post-secondary futures;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the engagement plan shall include semi-annual Board updates;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board fully supports the implementation of the CalKIDS program to benefit all our eligible students, and the Fresno Unified School District will work collaboratively with the State of California, relevant agencies, and key community stakeholders to ensure promotion and successful implementation of the program within our district.

ADOPTED THIS March 6, 2024 by the Board of Education of Fresno Unified School District, by the following vote:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSENT: _____

Susan Wittrup, Board President

Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D., Superintendent