

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number EA-1**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Kristi Imber-Olivares, Director  
Cabinet Approval:

Date: August 28, 2020

Phone Number: 457-3896

Regarding: Differentiated Assistance and Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) in Fresno Unified School District Update

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board an update on differentiated assistance and the district's ongoing supports of schools identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) sites as identified by the California Department of Education.

With California's recent accountability system through the California Dashboard, districts were identified as qualifying for differentiated assistance under the statewide system of support. As a result, County Offices of Education have partnered with local schools/districts to define a high quality and consistent approach to differentiated assistance toward improving student outcomes for our lowest performing students. A school district is eligible for differentiated assistance if any student group is red for two or more indicators on the California Dashboard.

On March 27, 2020, California received federal approval to waive assessment and accountability requirements for the 2019/20 school year. As a result, the U.S. Department of Education wrote that California must ensure that schools identified for CSI or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) in 2019/20 will keep that status in 2020/21 and will continue to receive supports and adhere to their improvement plans. In addition to not identifying any new/additional school sites that need comprehensive support and intervention in 2020/21, California will also not identify any new school districts or student groups for differentiated assistance in 2020/21. School districts and schools will continue to receive assistance through 2020/21 if they were already identified based on the 2019 Dashboard.

In 2019/20, the California Department of Education identified FUSD as a Differentiated Assistance District. Three student groups were identified in need of differentiated assistance—foster youth, homeless students, and students with disabilities. Foster youth and students with disabilities are no longer red in suspension rates and ELA, but they have two red indicators for graduation rates and college and career. Homeless students have two red indicators in chronic absenteeism rates and suspension rates. Collaborative teams were formed with representatives from the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, FUSD departments, and schools to develop and implement an assistance plan to address and improve identified performance issues and significant disparities for these specific student groups. The collaborative teams support through a continuous improvement science process and involves a shift from compliance to capacity building and “doing with” instead of “doing to” schools, identifying strengths and areas of need, and gathering and reviewing evidence to encourage reflection throughout the process.

Fifteen schools were identified for CSI for 2019/20, and those school sites will continue their CSI status into 2020/21. Please see the attached document of schools in CSI and ATSI by region. CSI sites will continue with their Guiding Coalition meetings and adapt the structure of the meetings to fit our virtual environment. Sites will also continue to use tools/strategies learned from the CSI Guiding Coalition meetings, to implement and guide faculty/staff through new procedures/processes. Throughout July, optional CSI Guiding Coalition Meetings provided sites and various departments the opportunity to learn and grow from each other; developing strategies, procedures, and policies that benefit our system. We are excited for second semester because we will collaborate with School Leadership in developing specific and tailored Professional Learning for 2020/21.

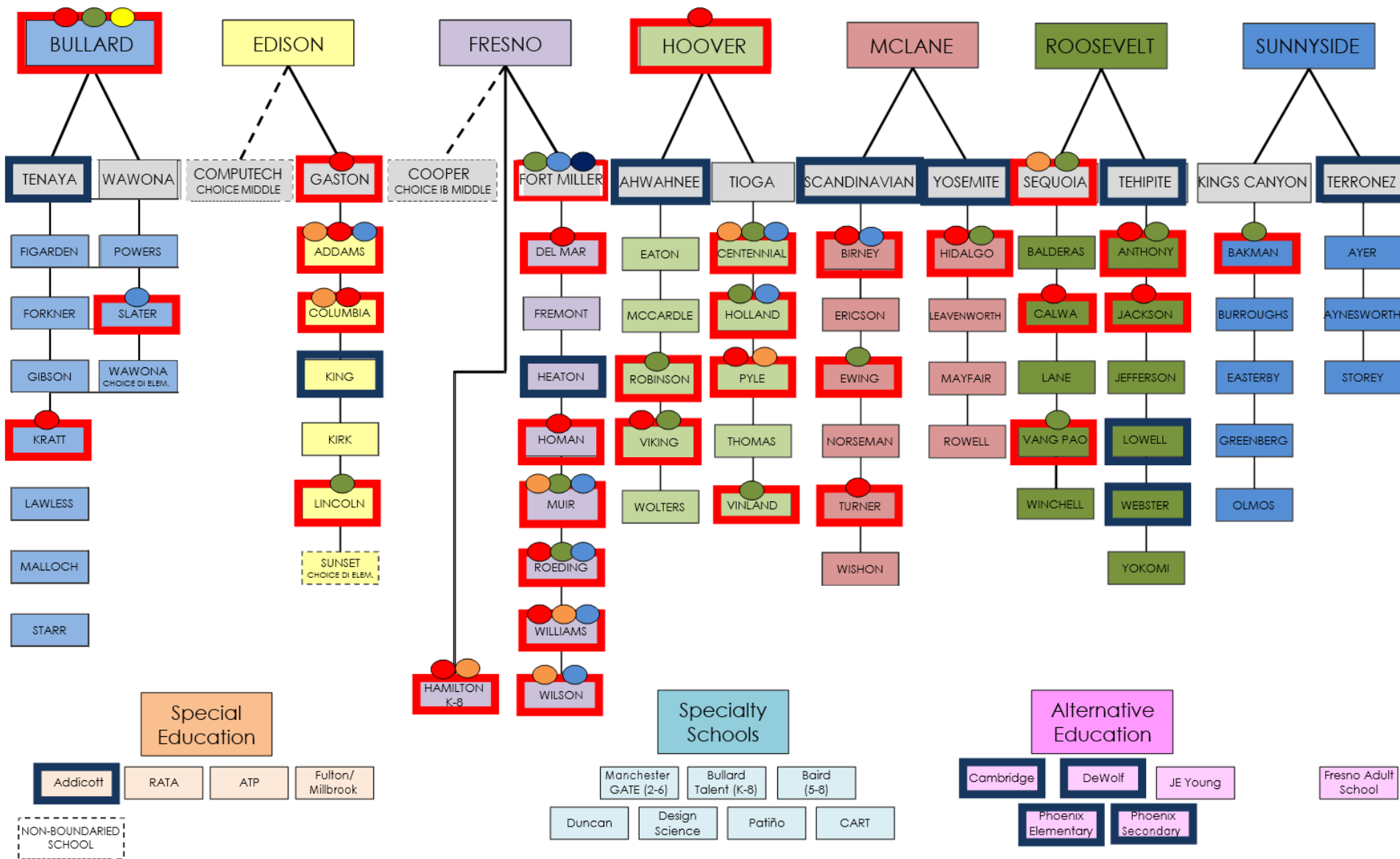
If you have further questions or require additional information, please contact Lindsay Sanders at (559) 457-3471

Approved by Superintendent  
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 08/28/2020

# 2020-2021 CSI, ATSI Schools



## ATSI Eligible Student Groups

CSI (15 schools)

ATSI (32 schools) \*

\*Not including Charter School Sites

SWD (19 schools)

African-American (16 schools)

EL (1 school)

Homeless (9 schools)

White (10 schools)

SED (1 school)