Dear FUHSD Parent/Guardian,

On March 15, 2017, the California Department of Education released a new accountability system and corresponding website designed to help parents and communities access important information about K-12 districts and schools across the state and how well they are serving their students. Called the California School Dashboard (www.caschooldashboard.org), the new accountability system looks at multiple measures of school and district performance, including test scores, graduation rates, English learner progress and suspension rates. The new system is based on the Local Control Funding Formula, replacing the former state accountability system, the Academic Performance Index (API). The Dashboard reflects some of the major shifts in California’s public education system that have raised the bar for student learning, transformed testing and placed the focus on equity for all students. To learn more about California’s accountability and continuous improvement efforts, visit www.cde.ca.gov/dashboard.

The Dashboard is a significant departure from the Academic Performance Index system. There is no longer a single number assigned to a school to determine how well it is serving students. Rather, the Dashboard is a more nuanced look at a school or district’s progress, similar to the report cards your child receives throughout the school year.

The new accountability system is a key part of California’s commitment to transparency and continuous improvement. California’s future success depends on tapping into the potential of all students, ensuring they graduate well prepared for college, a career in the global workforce and life beyond K-12 education. In order for schools to reach this goal, teachers, parents and the community need clear and useful measures of progress that provide information on different aspects of student performance and support for student learning. The Dashboard also reports on growth in order to show a school’s trajectory over time.

The Dashboard is deliberately designed to be a work in progress, with metrics and reports added over time. During this transitional phase, the state will be gathering feedback to make additional modifications.

The exciting changes taking place in education in California will take time to fully implement. While our schools are doing well in many key areas, there is always more work to do. The Dashboard is part of an ongoing conversation with our community on both how we’re doing and how we can do better. Meeting goals will take a united effort, and I look forward to working with our families, teachers and staff to ensure success for every student.

Sincerely,

Polly Bove
Superintendent