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**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2019

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July 2, 2019

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 159
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SB 328 (Portantino)
OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member O'Donnell:

The Oakland Unified School District (USD) must respectfully oppose Senate Bill (SB) 328, as amended on May 8, 2019, which would prohibit middle schools and high schools from starting their school day before 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., respectively.

While Oakland USD does not question research that has demonstrated the negative effects of sleep deprivation among adolescents, we do not believe that mandating a statewide later school start time is a simple fix. School schedules affect a broad array of academic and operational programs including, but not limited to, academic intervention, after school programs, athletic programs and other extracurricular activities, and many others. The process of creating and maintaining a school district master schedule is a complicated one that must balance many different factors, and a change in that schedule, even of minutes, can result in unintended consequences for students, staff, parents, and the community. Given the complexities of the impact of such a policy, Oakland USD believes that these matters are best decided and negotiated at the local level.

Oakland USD is supportive of the bill's overall goal to improve learning conditions for students. However, ultimately it is the governing boards in local communities and governance teams in local educational agencies who are best suited to make these decisions, with the input of students, families, teachers, staff, and community stakeholders. Each school district operates under a unique set of circumstances, and mandating a statewide solution on this issue is unlikely to result in informed and responsible decisions that best protect the health and safety of our students.

For the reasons outlined above, we must respectfully OPPOSE SB 328 and request your NO vote when the bill comes before you.

Sincerely,

Aimee Eng
Board President

cc: Members, Assembly Education Committee
The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Marguerite Ries, Consultant, Assembly Education Committee
Robert Becker, Republican Consultant, Assembly Education Committee