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## **BAY AREA COUNCIL SUPPORTS GOVERNOR'S PUSH FOR HIGHER ALGEBRA STANDARDS IN CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS**

**SAN FRANCISCO, July 8, 2008** — Today the Bay Area Council put out the following statement attributable to Jim Wunderman, President & CEO of the Bay Area Council, in support of Governor Schwarzenegger's letter to the State Board of Education urging an increase in 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics standards:

“California increasingly competes in a planet wide competition for talent, driven by the acceleration of globalization. This competition presents significant opportunities and challenges to the state's economic, political and social fabric. We are currently a leader in the global economy, driven by California's distinctive human capital, knowledge assets, culture of innovation, research capabilities, and quality of life. Yet, in a world economy where innovation and technology are increasingly distributed, other countries and regions now compete on the same stage with us.

“As this competition ramps up, California cannot afford to ramp down on the foundational subject of Algebra. Algebra is the gateway to critical mathematical thinking and to educating the engineers, researchers, doctors and scientists we will need in the future. California's booming biotech, high-tech, and green-tech industries demand more and more professionals for whom high-level mathematics is essential. Internationally, 8th graders in the United States are outperformed in mathematics by Singapore, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Belgium, the Netherlands, Estonia, and Hungary.

“If California is to succeed in the new era, we must have an unadulterated commitment to developing the brightest and most innovative minds to invent the future right here. That means higher standards. We applaud Governor Schwarzenegger's embrace of this issue and join in urging the State Board of Education to vote on Wednesday, July 9, 2008 to approve the revised mathematics blueprint on their agenda.”

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### **About the Bay Area Council**

Founded in 1945, the Bay Area Council ([www.bayareacouncil.org](http://www.bayareacouncil.org)) develops and drives regional public policy initiatives and researches critical infrastructure issues. Led by CEOs, the Bay Area Council presents a strong, united voice for hundreds of major employers throughout the Bay Area region whom employ more than 501,000 workers, or 1 of every six private sector employees in the Bay Area.