

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

August 11, 2009

Minimum Graduation Plan

Board Goal:

Teaching & Learning... In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- expect full curriculum implementation on each campus by instructional leaders
- cultivate a consistent, strong, district-wide balanced curriculum based on ongoing needs assessment that supports all students

Vision ... In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- develop a culture where learning is our first priority
- remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus

Purpose of Report

- This report is a follow-up to discussions held on July 28, 2009 regarding the changes to graduation requirements under House Bill (HB) 3, and to continue discussions regarding the number of credits required for DISD students to graduate under the minimum graduation plan requirements.
- DISD staff will recommend changes to current DISD requirements of the *Minimum* graduation plan

Objectives

- To communicate the impact of HB 3 on DISD graduation plans
- To discuss current DISD graduation requirements for DISD students on the Minimum, Recommended, and Distinguished graduation plans
- To demonstrate the comprehensive level of academic guidance provided by DISD counselors regarding student personal graduation plans (PGP).

Operational Impact

Students in the DISD, with a few exceptions, have had the ability to choose from two graduation plans – the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) or the Distinguished Academic Program (DAP). The HB 3 changes have provided more flexibility in the enrichment (elective) areas for students who will graduate under the RHSP without changing the number of credits necessary to graduate. HB 3 states that students graduating under the RHSP will no longer be required to take Health or Technology Applications, and only 1 credit of Physical Education instead of 1.5 credits; however these courses will count as the required state electives for all students. The DAP and Minimum Plan requirements continue to include health, technology, and 1.5 credits in PE. In addition, one credit in fine arts is now required in the Minimum Plan. Variation among the state graduation plan courses currently required for graduation under HB 3 will be considered at a tentative work session scheduled for Friday, August 14, 2009 with the

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TEA and the State Board of Education. An option for the state board to consider will be to modify the *Minimum* and *Distinguished* graduation plans to coincide with the legislatively required changes to the *Recommended* plan.

Although there are a number of challenges created by this untimely change in graduation plan requirements, our high schools are staffed based on student schedules created last spring. Consequently, we are unable to accommodate students requesting schedule changes. District and campus procedures for schedule changes will remain the same. Students are expected to continue with their pre-enrolled schedule since the classes count as required electives toward graduation. Any courses already taken by students toward their graduation plan will continue to count as required or elective courses toward graduation.

Results

Although there are a number of challenges created by this untimely change in graduation plan requirements, our high schools are staffed based on student schedules created last spring. Consequently, we are unable to accommodate students requesting schedule changes. District and campus procedures for schedule changes will remain the same. Students are expected to continue with their pre-enrolled schedule since the classes count as required electives toward graduation. Any courses already taken by students toward their graduation plan will continue to count as required or elective courses toward graduation.

Other Options

Options to consider for future discussion regarding the Minimum Graduation Plan and Denton ISD.

Option 1: Maintain the HB 3 requirements and number of credits (26) for graduation at any or all DISD high schools on the minimum high school program.

Option 2: Maintain the HB 3 requirements, reducing the number of credits to 22 only at Fred Moore High School (see HEB ISD for sample policy).

Option 3: Maintain the HB 3 requirements; reducing the number of credits to 22 at all DISD high schools (see Keller ISD for sample policy).

Option 4: Maintain the HB 3 requirements, reducing the number of credits at any or all DISD high schools to a number determined by staff recommendation and board consultation (see district samples).

Option 5: Maintain the HB 3 requirements, increasing the number of credits to 27 at any or all DISD high schools (see Mansfield ISD for sample policy).