

# Graduation Requirements



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# 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).

# Current State



- As a result, DISD staff and students are in a “holding pattern”.
  - Faculty and staff have been employed to teach what students requested last Spring.
  - DISD students will fulfill their graduation requirements using the classes and schedules selected last Spring.
  - These courses will count as the “required” state electives under any new plan, or as “required” stand alone classes in the former plans.
  - District Staff will continue conversations regarding possible district course requirements in addition to any state requirements as the fall progresses.

## Graduation Requirements –DISD Minimum Plan Background and Information



- The Recommended High School Program (RHSP) is the default plan of the district, and ALL DISD students are expected to meet the requirements of that plan
- Spring of 2009, DISD staff began having conversation regarding the number of credits required for students to graduate on the Minimum High School Program (MHSP)
- District staff surveyed area district polices to compare the number of credits required for students to graduate on the minimum plan, and the criteria required for students to move out of the RHSP to the MHSP

## Graduation Requirements –DISD Minimum Plan Background and Information



- Reviewed state law concerning requirements for moving to the Minimum graduation plan.
- Provided sample policies from area districts
- A minimum number of students currently graduate on the minimum plan .

# Graduation Requirements –DISD Minimum Plan Background and Information



- Staff activity since July 28, 2009
  - Reviewed current procedures of academic advisement
    - ✦ 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade handbook
    - ✦ 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade handbook
    - ✦ High School Credit Verification
    - ✦ Denton ISD personal Graduation Plan
    - ✦ Getting to Graduation Presentation
    - ✦ Denton ISD application for assignment to Minimum Graduation Plan
  - Research of Current Students
    - ✦ Number of students graduating on minimum plan in 2008-2009
    - ✦ Non-graduating students with 22 or more credits

## Graduation Requirements –DISD Minimum Plan Background and Information



- **Additional Information to Explore...**
  - Number of student withdrawing to other Texas Public Schools with 22 or more credits .
  - Number of students completing their fourth year of high school with less than 26 credits, but more than 22
  - Other?

# Staff Discussion



- All four DISD high schools should offer the same graduation plans.
- Important for students to graduate from “their” high school.
- Students need college/career ready skills as DISD graduates
- Communication of the benefits of the RHSP is paramount, required by state statute, and local policy.
- Expectations for all students to graduate on the DAP or RHSP.



## Staff Discussion (Cont'd)



- Future development of one year certification CTE programs to be known as “Fast Track”.
- Continue the focus and emphasis on College and Career Readiness.
- Minimum plan as a final option for students who would otherwise not complete high school.
- Continue to refine and evaluate academic advising procedures

# Options to Consider



- **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).

# Staff Recommendation



- **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).
  - Develop written procedures for all four DISD high schools
  - Maintain the RHSP as the default graduation plan for DISD students.
  - Collect data on all students demographics regarding graduation plans
  - Other ?



Questions or  
Comments?