

# Graham Independent School District

## Board Agenda Item Synopsis

**Subject: Program Overview - Steered Straight Programming - For May 18-21**

### **Background Information:**

Steered Straight is a 17-year proven program that does *not* explain drug prevention at school assemblies but *TEACHES* the reality of drugs and devises a prevention message the students implement themselves within their school system.

Steered Straight has become the number one booked program in America with assemblies focused on drug education prevention. The program is primarily based on the uniqueness of the messenger, someone who has suffered the consequences of negative decisions. We have found that youth instantly identify with Michael DeLeon as a changed, motivated teacher with a real-life story to tell.

Steered Straight does not simply educate students about the harmful nature of vaping, drugs and alcohol but provides the reality and deadly impact it can and will have on their lives. Steered Straight honors the concern parents' have on how to help their kids and provides active solutions.

Steered Straight Purpose: To reach youth and young adults through motivational speaking, life-sharing seminars and interactive curriculum in order to:

- Provide youth with real-life examples of negative consequences that resulted from making poor decisions.
- Impact the minds of youth to steer their lives in positive ways and encourage them to make positive life-choices.
- Give kids the ability to develop a sense of understanding about the positive and negative choices in their lives.
- Reduce the number of youth who end up in the criminal justice system due to making poor decisions.

Programming will be presented at each Graham ISD campus with the message transitioning from kindness & inclusion to making good choices, to vaping and drug prevention.

### **Administrative Consideration:**

Steered Straight programming was recommended by Graham Police Department and funded through a grant by the City of Graham. Steered Straight programming was reviewed and approved by the Graham ISD School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) on October 16, 2025. Graham ISD will provide all families with an avenue to consent for participation (We will determine if we opt in or opt out). Assemblies will be hosted at each campus the week of May 18-21. A parent presentation and staff training will also be included.

### **Budgetary Impact:**

None for Graham ISD

### **Alignment to District Goals:**

- 1. **Academics:** All students will be prepared for success at the next level.

- 2. **Our People:** Recruit and retain highly qualified employees at all levels.
- 3. **Finance and Facilities:**
  - Optimize revenues and impact student achievement by increasing attendance rates at all campuses.
  - Commit to excellence in facilities that promote innovative, health, and welcoming learning environments.
- 4. **Culture:** All stakeholders will take ownership in creating a welcoming, compassionate, unified school community striving for aspirational achievements.
- 5. **Safety:** Provide a safe, healthy and secure environment for all stakeholders.
- 6. **Communications:** Support student success through clear, consistent, and inclusive communication and marketing that builds trust, reflects our diverse community, and empowers all stakeholders.

**Recommendation:**  
Information Only.

**Meeting Date:**  
April 22, 2026