Executive Summary
Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting
February 28, 2012

Virtual Learning Workshop

***Board Goal*:**
I.b.,
II. c., g., i.

Purpose of Report   The Virtual Learning Coordinating Team will share the process and action plan being used for the development of virtual learning environments for Denton ISD high school classrooms. A **virtual learning environment** is an education system based on the web that models conventional real-world education by integrating a set of equivalent virtual concepts for tests, homework, classes, classrooms, and the like, and perhaps even museums and other external academic resources. It normally uses Web 2.0 tools for 2-way interaction, and includes a learning management system.

Virtual learning environments are the basic component of contemporary distance learning, but can also be integrated with a physical learning environment. This is sometimes referred to as Blended Learning.

Objectives

- to share the background and history of virtual study in Denton ISD
- to share the intended benefits and goals of creating virtual learning environments **(see attachment)**
- to share key terms that assist understanding about virtual learning **(see attachment)**
- to share roles of the VL Coordinating Team **(see attachment)**
- to share the pyramid of virtual learning environments for DISD—traditional/conventional learning, blended learning, and virtual learning
- to share the training continuum necessary for each teacher
- to share the learning management system (LMS) used in Denton classrooms: Moodle
- to share the direct correlation of virtual learning to supporting 21st Century Learning Skills plus College and Career Readiness Skills
- to share Denton ISD's course development approach
- to share Denton ISD's curriculum quality controls
- to share RHS' Blended Classroom model **(see attachment for some details)**
- to share next steps for development

Virtual Learning Workshop

Operational Impact

As the program develops, funding will be needed for the following:
1) personnel costs when teachers teach a course in addition to the traditional schedule;
2) stipends for teams of teachers to collaborate during summer curriculum development, research, and rubric assessment development; and,
3) staff development for teachers—e.g. Moodle, Region XI courses such as "How to Manage and Develop an On-line Learning Course."

Results

Denton ISD graduates will receive the opportunity to take additional courses to better meet their individual learning needs or interests now that schedules will be more flexible because of virtual and/or blended course availability.

Moreover, our graduates will have experienced on-line learning either through a blended or virtual learning environment that matches the rigor of a conventional/traditional classroom experience, yet, gives the student the advantage when faced with a virtual learning expectation in post-high school learning or career training.

Other Options
NA