



ALEDO ISD BOARD MEETING TEMPLATE

MEETING DATE: March 17, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: Action Item – Innovative Course Approval – Peer Assistance for Students with Disabilities I and II

PRESENTER: Kathy Allen

ALIGNS TO BOARD PRIORITY:

- Learning – The District will provide an aligned, rigorous curriculum, with instructional and technology programs preparing students to meet or exceed all educational standards.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The Texas Administrative Code (TAC), [Section 74.27](#), allows school districts to offer approved innovative courses to enable students to master knowledge, skills, and competencies in courses for which there are no Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
- Innovative courses must be approved by either the State Board of Education (SBOE) or the commissioner of education before a district may award state credit toward graduation. With the approval of the local board of trustees, school districts and charter schools may offer innovative courses as elective offerings.
- Aledo ISD currently offers an innovative course called Peer Assistance for Students with Disabilities I and II. This is a two semester course which provides the peer assistant the opportunity to develop leadership skills and service to others in a monitored classroom setting. The peer assistant is exposed to a wide variety of medical and cognitive abilities as they work with the classroom teacher and assist with instruction. In addition, the peer assistant is exposed to career fields such as Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Music Therapy, Adaptive Physical Education, Speech, and Assistive Technology. This opportunity allows peer assistants to explore future career paths in these areas.
- The Peer Assistance for Students with Disabilities course is currently up for renewal.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS:

- Approve the Peer Assistance for Students with Disabilities I and II as an Aledo ISD elective offering

FISCAL NOTE: There are no fiscal implications

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS: Administration recommends the Board approve the Peer Assistance for Students with Disabilities I and II course as an Aledo ISD elective offering.