

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

May 10, 2022

Discussion of Raising Blended Learners Grant Program

Board Goal:

Teaching and Learning...In pursuit of excellence, we will

- Develop and maintain a culture where learning remains our first priority
- Advocate and practice true accountability based on measurement of individual student progress over time, regardless of external mandates
- Establish high expectations with a curriculum fostering inquiry, critical thinking, civic responsibility and exemplary citizenship
- Cultivate a network of professional learning communities addressing the educational needs of every child in our district
- Foster continuous improvement in teaching, learning, technology and leadership
- Foster and support an advanced digital learning environment

Culture & Climate...In pursuit of excellence, we will:

- Establish high expectations for success
- Instill in students a love of lifelong learning
- Promote mental health, physical wellness and social-emotional well-being

Opportunities for Students...In pursuit of excellence, we will:

- Support college, career, military and life readiness
- Develop academic skills and interpersonal relationships necessary for student success in college, the workplace and for life

Purpose of Report

This report will provide the Board of Trustees with an update on the progress of the Raising Blended Learners Grant Program. Raising Blended Learners is a four-year initiative showcasing strategies for using blended learning to help close achievement gaps between continuously enrolled and non-continuously enrolled students in 9th grade Algebra One.

Objectives

- In 2019, DISD students that were continuously enrolled (CE) for four or more years were 1.53 times more likely to reach mastery level on the Algebra I End of Course assessment than students that were non-continuously enrolled (NCE). Our Raising Blended Learners grant program is designed to close the gap between CE and NCE students in Algebra I.

- All students enrolled in the Blended Learning Algebra I courses will demonstrate an increased attachment to their high school.

Operational Impact

By the end of 2024, after four years, the Raise Your Hand Texas Foundation will have provided \$261,996 in grant money to Denton ISD. This grant provides professional development for teachers and district support staff, coaching from our partners at Region 11, substitute teachers for the RBL teachers when they must be away for professional learning, computer hardware for student use, reading materials, and stipends for some district staff. It could also be used to send teachers to conferences at which they can learn more about blended learning. We currently have eight teachers participating in the program, two from each high school. The program serves approximately 950 students.

Results

Algebra One teachers will refine their style of instruction to incorporate additional student centered strategies, taking into consideration student voice and choice and varying student needs and ability levels.

Non-continuously enrolled students will close the end of course assessment gap with continuously enrolled students, and feel a greater connection to their high school.

Other Options

N/A