

# **Executive Summary**

## **Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting**

### **January 21, 2014**

## **High School Graduation Planning and Course Catalog**

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### **Board Goals**

The High School Course Catalog and Planning Guide and the High School Personal Graduation Planner for the 2014-2015 school year supports the following Board goals: Vision goal I C - remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus; Teaching & Learning goal II A – cultivate a consistent, strong, district-wide balanced curriculum based on ongoing needs assessments that supports all students; and Climate goal III D – instill in students a love of life-long learning.

### **Purpose of Report**

HB 5 has brought many changes in high school graduation requirements and provides for a new set of graduation plans for Texas students. These graduation plans consist of a core foundation plan for every Texas student and five endorsements/majors from which students may choose depending on their interests. The incoming freshman class will follow the new Foundation Plan which requires 22 earned credits to qualify for a high school diploma and 26 requirements to include an endorsement. Students, by meeting additional requirements, can also earn a Distinguished or Performance Acknowledgements. Two documents will assist students as they navigate the course selection process, the High School Course Catalog and Planning Guide and the new High School Personal Graduation Planner. The course catalog is comprised of all of the high school course offerings, graduation requirements, testing information, GPA guidelines and information, and college information, and also serves as a planning guide. The changes made to the new catalog were for purposes of updating the new HB 5 graduation requirements, STAAR state assessment requirements, deleting courses no longer offered, adding new courses, reflecting any Board approved changes, and for text editing. All required or editing changes proposed are the direct result of a review by high school principals, associate principals, counselors, registrars, the Academic Leadership Team, the ATC Dean, content area Curriculum Coordinators, the Director of Counseling, the Director of Fine Arts, the Director of Bilingual/ESL Education, the Director of Athletics, the Director of Special Education, and the Director of Secondary Curriculum, Instruction, and Staff Development. The High School Personal Graduation Planner is a new documents developed by the “Think Tank” committee to provide a checklist for planning and additional details on each endorsement.

### **Objectives**

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- To update new graduation requirements from HB 5
- To provide a new document for personal graduation planning
- To update STAAR information and new EOC requirements
- To update the IB information
- To update the dual credit information
- To update all special education information
- To update the current CTE courses of study
- To update any changes in course information
- To correct, edit, and enhance all information provided for students and parents

### **Operational Impact**

The High School Course Catalog and Planning Guide will be provided on-line on the Denton ISD website and each incoming freshman will receive a hard copy of the High School Personal Graduation Planner.

### **Results**

The High School Course Catalog and Planning Guide and the Personal Graduation Planner provide parents and students with valuable information to help guide the course selection process throughout high school. It also provides a wealth of additional information to help students plan their future after high school. Board approval of the changes to the high school course offerings for 2014-2015 will allow the catalog to be available for spring registration.

### **Other Options**

The Board could decide not to approve the changes to the high school course offerings for 2014-2015 or not to provide the Course Catalog and Graduation Planner.