



BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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3A. Report

TO: BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

DATE: May 10, 2004

SUBJECT: ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

On December 15, 2003 Academic Pathways, a four-year initiative to improve SAT and Advanced Placement enrollment and scores was approved by the Board of School Trustees. In accordance with the plan, the following goals were set to be accomplished in the Spring of 2004:

- Plan AP training for teachers
- Plan AP classroom visits for 6-8 teachers
- Begin Parent Education regarding Pre-AP/AP classes in grades 5-12
- Utilize Parent Letter of Understanding at entry level to the program
- Utilize a myriad of methods to inform parents of Pre-AP/AP opportunities
- Begin Public Awareness Campaign regarding the elimination of "Senior Off" and weighted classes in the Fall of 2007
- Provide Pre-AP/AP opportunities through open enrollment
- Provide profile of students who typically experience success in Pre-AP/AP coursework*
- Begin the establishment of Pre-AP/AP Vertical Teams
 - Establish Summer Reading for Middle School
 - Revisit High School Summer Reading for Consistency

Over 40 Middle School and High School teachers have registered for a five-day College Board content specific summer AP Institute. In addition, 20 Middle School Pre-AP Science teachers participated in College Board's Building Success Pre-AP Science Workshop on May 6th and 7th. The Middle School Pre-AP science teachers are also in the process of visiting high school Pre-AP and AP classrooms. This has been coordinated by the department heads of each campus.

Beginning in January 2004, I have visited Elementary, Intermediate, Middle School and High School Campuses and presented Academic Pathways information to campus faculty and staff, PTA, and CEIC groups. Academic Pathways has also been presented to all campus principals, DEIC and added to our District Improvement Plan. Secondary campuses have utilized the Parent Letter of Understanding in conjunction with registration to further inform parents. A copy of this letter has been enclosed.

In mid March, secondary English and social studies teachers came together to compile a district wide Pre-AP and AP Summer Reading list. These lists have been sent home, are posted outside classrooms and will be on our website as well. Barnes and Noble has ordered the necessary books and will display them on a table throughout the summer for student purchase.

In response to the concerns about Texas Scholars and in an effort to increase the number of Distinguished Achievement Plan graduates, a Texas Scholars/DAP coordinator has been named at each high school campus. In the 2004-05 school year, the responsibility of identifying, tracking and assisting students in attaining Texas Scholars and DAP will fall under this new role. As of the last board meeting, nineteen students have attained one DAP measure as a result of their PSAT scores.

The philosophical change in the AP program to open enrollment has resulted in an increase of Pre-AP and AP sections at the middle and high school levels for the 2004-05 school year. This higher enrollment will lead to more students taking the AP exams in the future. As of Monday, May 03, 2004, registration has submitted for 1,140 exams. This accounts for a growth of 67% in one year!

I recently met with College Board to reevaluate our contract for the 2004-05 school year. Scott Kampmeier, K-12 solutions manager, shared the following highlights:

- Keller ISD sophomore PSAT mean scores on the verbal and math sections were higher than the state verbal and math mean scores for comparable groups.
- Keller ISD junior mean scores on all three sections of the exam were higher than the state mean and national mean scores for comparable groups.
- The number of graduating seniors completing the SAT increased slightly (4.6%) between 2002 and 2003.
- Keller ISD senior SAT verbal and math scores were higher than state and national mean scores for 2003 graduating seniors.
- The number of AP examinations taken increased dramatically (32.2% increase) from 2002-2003.
- AP examinations grades with a score of 3 or above increased dramatically (64.7 %) from 2002-2003.

All documents shared by College Board have been enclosed for your review including the Letter of Agreement for the 2004 PSAT/NMSQT Early Participation Program. This is an increased cost of \$2,190 reflective of enrollment growth, and the additional high school. All sophomore and junior level testing will be purchased by the school district.

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Respectfully submitted,

Nika Davis
Director of Secondary Curriculum