

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

January 20, 2015

High School Graduation Planning and Course Catalog

Board Goals

The High School Course Catalog and Planning Guide and the High School Personal Graduation Planner for the 2015-2016 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 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 any clarifications in HB 5 graduation requirements, any STAAR state assessment requirement changes, 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.

Objectives

- To clarify graduation requirements from HB 5
- To provide a document for personal graduation planning

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- To update STAAR information and EOC requirements
- To update the IB information
- To update the dual credit information
- To update Credit by Exam requirements
- 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 2015-2016 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 2015-2016 or not to provide the Course Catalog and Graduation Planner.