



ALEDO ISD BOARD MEETING TEMPLATE

MEETING DATE: April 21, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: Report Item HB 5 Update – Social Studies Requirements

PRESENTER: Kathy Allen

ALIGNS TO BOARD PRIORITIES(S):

- 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:

- On February 17th, Scott Kessel and Kathy Allen provided an overview for the Board on HB 5 graduation requirements and endorsement offerings.
- Part of the new HB 5 requirements give local districts the option to:
 - require students to take both World Geography and World History; or
 - allow students to select World Geography or World History; or
 - require either World Geography or World History as the social studies offering and have the other course count as a required elective.
- Kathy Allen informed the Board that a Social Studies Arts and Humanities Endorsement could be obtained by successfully completing a total of 5 social studies courses (World Geography, World History, US History, and Government/Economics).
- Completing the five social studies courses along with other endorsement requirements would allow students the flexibility to acquire multiple endorsements.
- On March 19, 2014, TEA posted a new FAQ concerning endorsements. In the FAQ, TEA emphasized that students needed a total of 5 credits to receive a social studies arts and humanities endorsement.
- Both Mr. Kessel and Mrs. Allen had power points and TEA documents that indicated 5 courses were needed for the social studies endorsement rather than 5 credits.
- Mr. Kessel called and emailed Kelly Callaway, TEA Director of K-12 Foundation Education, concerning the conflicting information between the March 19th FAQ and the presentation material received from TEA and the Regional Service Centers. Below is Kelly Callaway's response:

"Scott, I understand the difficulties this presents. I, too, have shared information with groups based on the original language. We have been instructed to make the technical edit from courses to credits to reflect the intent of the board. We have updated the slides on the website and are trying to share the new information in as many ways as we can."

- Based on the updated information from the March 19th FAQ, Mrs. Allen met with Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Tims and Mr. Kessel to discuss possible negative outcomes of the TEA language changing from 5 courses to 5 credits.
- Mock schedules were created to see if student endorsement options would be hampered by continuing to require students to take both World Geography and World History. Data was collected to see how many students entered 9th grade campus with at least 1 high school credit. Based on the information gathered, it was determined that endorsement options might be limited for some students if both courses were required.
- A follow-up meeting was held with the AHS social studies department chair, Candi Proctor. The end result is that it was determined that students would take World History as a required course and be offered World Geography as an elective.
- High school students are required to pass a US History EOC test as part of their graduation requirements. The decision to require students to take World History was based on the sequencing of World History TEKS as the foundation for concepts referenced in the US History course.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS: Updated information concerning graduation requirements for students entering 9th grade during the 2014-15 school year has been disseminated to students, parents, and staff.

FISCAL NOTE: None

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS: Report Item Only