



San Elizario ISD
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MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Trustees
From: Sandra Sanchez, CTE Administrator
Subject: Consider and possible Board action to approve the Engineering Drone – Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) High School STEM Curriculum – Teacher Addendum
Date: September 16, 2025

HISTORY: On May 27, 2025, the region was informed that NJROTC will now fall under the umbrella of Career and Technical Education (CTE). On May 30, 2025, arrangements were made via email to discuss this transition. A meeting was held on June 3, 2025, at 1:00 PM with Commander Young and Chief Munoz. During this meeting, we discussed their professional backgrounds, CTE endorsements, and potential Programs of Study. After review, it was determined that the most appropriate Program of Study, aligning with their experience and expertise, would be under the STEM Endorsement, Engineering Career Cluster, Regional Program of Study: Drone (Unmanned Vehicle).

RATIONALE: With drone technology experiencing rapid expansion, there is a growing demand for skilled drone pilots and specialists. This program will provide students with foundational and advanced knowledge in drone aviation technology, fostering interest in STEM and engineering careers. Students will gain hands-on experience operating and designing unmanned aircraft using ground-based controllers. The curriculum provided through AOPA High School STEM Curriculum will align students with learn critical instruction on communication systems between the aircraft and controller, ensuring understanding and compliance with federal aviation safety regulations. The curriculum also aligns with the preparation required to take the recommended industry certification from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 107 Remote Drone Pilot Certification.

Participation in AOPA Foundation, Inc. High School Aviation STEM Curriculum – Teacher Addendum, the teacher will be granted access to the AOPA Foundation, Inc. High School Aviation STEM Curriculum for a 4-year Drone curriculum plan. As a condition of participation, the teacher will be required to submit the following program-related data:

- School demographics
- Number of students enrolled in the Drone Program
- Number of Certification outcomes
- Number of students who will attend college, technical school, workforce, military, or unknown

The mission of the San Elizario Independent School District is to graduate students with innovative skills for 21st-century careers by focusing on academic and social skills, fostering transformative practices, and building community support through positive relationships between home and school.



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All data collected will be general in nature. No personal or individually identifiable student information is required or shared.

In return, the school will receive access to the AOPA High School Aviation STEM Curriculum at no cost, provided that a Drone Program remains in place.

BUDGET: There is no budget impact for this curriculum implementation.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the implementation of the AOPA High School STEM Curriculum – Teacher Addendum. The teacher will be granted access to a 4-year Drone curriculum.

For Approval? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If no, please check one: ☐ Presentation ☐ Report ☐ Information

Please check if applicable: ☒ Attachment Included

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