

Board Workshop Item
Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting
March 20, 2018

Redefining Ready in Denton ISD

Board Goals:

Vision – Cultivate a network of professional learning communities addressing the educational needs of every child in our district; develop and maintain a culture where learning remains our first priority; remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus; establish goals for individual campuses that incorporate both measurable and intangible factors; effectively communicate achievements and recognitions to the Denton ISD community; and, prepare our students to be successful in a global society while instilling an appreciation for community service.

Teaching and Learning - Cultivate a consistent, strong, district-wide balanced curriculum based on ongoing needs assessments that supports all students; establish high expectations with a curriculum that fosters inquiry and critical thinking; develop academic skills and interpersonal relationships necessary for student success in college, the workplace and for life; expect full curriculum implementation on each campus by instructional leaders; stay abreast of and incorporate best practices into teaching, learning, technology and leadership; advocate and practice true accountability based on measurement of individual student progress over time, regardless of external mandates; and, actively pursue, foster and support an advanced digital learning environment

Climate – Celebrate, respect and promote the values of diversity in our Denton ISD Community; and, encourage and nourish a safe learning and compassionate working environment which ensures open and transparent communication and is supportive, cooperative, and ethical; establish a high expectation level for success for all students, staff, parents, and community; instill in students a love of life-long learning; and, motivate and prepare students to embrace their full responsibilities and obligations as active citizens of their community, nation, and world..

Parent and Community Involvement – Foster a positive and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community partnerships to achieve success for all our students; utilize citizens' advisory committees to focus on short and long-term tasks; and, promote child advocacy across the state and nation.

Growth, Change & Fiscal Responsibility – Review and adjust policies and procedures as appropriate to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community; create and continuously modify strategies to mitigate increasing stresses on our children, our schools and our community; work continuously with our community to adjust and enhance district goals as appropriate; demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources; and, provide leadership and/or oversight to ensure District meets all fiscal, legal, and regulatory requirements.

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Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this workshop is to provide an overview of the *Redefining Ready!* initiative advanced by AASA (The School Superintendents Association). This national effort is intended to reveal new research-based metrics, which more appropriately assesses our students' college, career, and life readiness. The Denton ISD has held a long-standing belief that our students are more than a test score. As such this national initiative is grounded in readiness indicators, developed from research that more accurately reflect the educational landscape of the 21st century using multiple metrics. This workshop item is intended to generate discussion regarding Denton ISD's *redefining of ready*.

Resources:

- Learn more about the *Redefining Ready!* national initiative at www.redefiningready.org
- *Redefining Ready!* resource booklet (included)

Operational Impact:

As the Denton ISD identifies and refines the readiness indicators, program evaluation and funding sources may also be considered. It is the goal of the District to evaluate current structures and funding sources in a manner which may allow mitigating any increased cost. For example, where current PSAT/SAT assessments are funded, the utilization of funds may shift if a different assessment replaces a current assessment.

Results:

Advantages:

Participating in this initiative allows the District to access an extensive body of research that supports multiple measures of readiness indicators. Most importantly, redefining ready in Denton ISD allows us to recognize the efforts and successes of each child as they strive for college readiness, career readiness, and life readiness; rather than their readiness being determined by a test score.

Disadvantages:

None noted

Other Options:

None noted