

Board Workshop Item
Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting
April 27, 2021

The College and Career Academy
at LaGrone Advanced Technology Complex Update

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; establish quality staff development programs that promote professional learning communities; 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.

Purpose of the Workshop:

The purpose of this workshop is to provide an update of the expansion of the College and Career Academy at the LaGrone Advanced Technology Complex. As previously shared with the trustees, the College and Career Academy will allow our students who have identified their college/career path by their junior year to attend the academy full-time in an effort to focus intently and intentionally on their post-secondary aspirations.

Objectives:

- Provide an overview of our community presentations
- Review the ‘work’ that is happening behind the scenes in preparation for 2021-22 fall opening
 - Staffing
 - Enrollment
 - Scheduling/Flexibility
 - Budget
 - Application
 - Marketing
 - Curriculum and Instruction

Operational Impact:

As the Denton ISD remains committed to enriching teaching and learning experiences and increasing opportunities for students, program evaluation and funding sources will be a consideration as we look forward to opening the College and Career Academy. It is always a goal of the District to evaluate current structures and funding sources in a manner which may allow mitigation of any overall increase to cost; however, there may be staffing implications to consider. As staffing and programming are evaluated, we will provide more specific cost analysis during board workshops this spring.

Results:**Advantages:**

Establishing a College and Career Academy provides a school of choice option for juniors and seniors who are focused on post-secondary readiness in a setting which allows students to pursue a college/career pathway with a strong academic core designed to support their aspirations.

Disadvantages:

Possible financial implications. However, increased participation in CTE programming may offset some of the anticipated expenses for establishing the College and Career Academy as a stand-alone campus.

Other Options:

None noted
