

Cedar Hill Independent School District
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Date: October 6, 2008

Presented by: Horace Williams, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Advanced Academic Cluster Program

Information Item

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Advanced Academic Cluster Program will provide leadership for innovative instructional programs that promote equity, diversity, and academic excellence amongst our advanced academic students through the creation of mini-magnet schools within our elementary, intermediate, and middle school campuses.

RECOMMENDATION:

This information has been provided to you for informational purposes only.

BOARD ACTION REQUIRED:

No action required.

POLICY AUTHORIZATION:

EGA (Legal)

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Dr. Homer Carter, Chief Academic Officer
Brenda Courtney, Gifted and Talented Instructional Coordinator
Anika Perkins, Instructional Coordinator

ENCLOSURES:

See attachments

Cedar Hill ISD's
Advanced Academic Cluster Program

Goal

Provide a system where advanced academic teachers in grades K-8 can efficiently differentiate instruction to provide a rigorous curriculum for our advanced academic learners.

What Is the Advanced Academic Cluster Program?

The advanced academic cluster program consists of a group of schools that feed into one another and meet regularly to discuss and plan instructional activities that will be offered at their campuses to ensure both horizontal and vertical curriculum alignment as we prepare our advanced academic students for the rigor of high school advanced placement and dual credit courses.

Students are selected to be in this program based on their performance on assessments, classroom performance, and attendance. Students do not have to be classified as gifted and talented in order to participate.

Each campus is required to submit an instructional plan for their campus that outlines their campus focus of study that will provide an extension of the district's regular curriculum.

Why Do We Feel This Is Needed?

As the state is debating how grade point averages will be calculated at the high school level, we are proactively creating a culture where our advanced academic students will continue their quest to be challenged academically at the secondary level, not just to simply get weighted credit, but because they will have been set on a path to expect and want to be provided with instruction that meets their intellectual needs.

Time Frame

For the 2008-2009 school year, we will begin with Cluster-A which will include:

Bray Elementary
Lake Ridge Elementary
High Pointe Elementary
West Intermediate
Permenter Middle School

During the 2009-2010 school year, we will incorporate Cluster-B which will include:

Plummer Elementary
Highlands Elementary
Waterford Oaks Elementary
Joe Wilson Intermediate
Beltline Intermediate
Bessie Coleman Middle School

How Will Our Students Benefit?

This program will assist both the district and campuses in ensuring we are meeting the cognitive needs of our advanced academic students by providing them with an accelerated curriculum that incorporates:

- Development of Higher Level Thinking Skills
- Interdisciplinary Learning Opportunities
- Development of Creative Thinking and Problem Solving Skills
- Exposure to Content beyond the Prescribed Curriculum
- Exploration of Creative Arts
- Field Trips
- Exposure to Professionals from Fields of Study
- Special Classes
- Shadowing/ Mentorships
- Academic Competitions