



COPPELL
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Empowering Educational Excellence

Board Action Required

No Action Required

To: Brad Hunt, Superintendent of Schools
From: Tracy L. Cartas, Executive Director of Intervention Services
Date: March 8, 2018
Cc: Deana Dynis, Ron Marie Johnson, Nicole Jund

Re: Innovative Classes

Learners eligible for special education have limited options for electives that offer both meaningful coursework to meet their unique needs and state credit towards their graduation plan. Innovative Courses have TEA approval, and require board approval to be offered in CISD. TEA Currently Approved Innovative Courses that we would like to offer at CISD include:

- College Transition
- General Employability Skills
- Methodology for Academic and Personal Success
- Making Connections I – IV
- Cyber Citizenship

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the addition of the specified Innovative Courses to our course options and Course Guide.

Recommended Innovative Courses

TEA Approved Innovative Courses – Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- **General Employability Skills:**
 - Designed for our students who would require Work Based Learning.
 - We currently have a locally designed class “Occupational Prep.” This year, we have approximately 25-30 learners in Special Education who are in this class. This class will not count towards their 22 credit hours required for graduation.
 - General Employability Skills, because it is an Innovative course, would count towards their 22 required credits and we could eliminate the need for Occupational Prep I.

TEA Approved Innovative Courses – Foundation and Enrichment

- **Cyber Citizenship:**
 - Will prepare students for the social demands of online technology through their communication and collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, and most importantly...making good, safe choices. This class will also address using social media platforms.
 - Understanding the difference between appropriate and inappropriate cyber conversations via text messages, on YouTube, etc. is a great concern, which is magnified when working with some of our learners who may not, understanding the implications of what they are posting and/or saying on social media.

TEA Approved Innovative Courses – Other Electives

- **College Transition:**
 - This course would assist our learners in skills and abilities necessary to be active and successful learners in college. Learners examine numerous research-based learning strategies that are proven to lead to academic success.
 - Course would be designed for our learners in the general education population and include ongoing support through Special Education. This also supports the Indicator 13 and 14 requirements regarding post-secondary preparation required in the secondary schools.
- **Methodology for Academic and Personal Success:**
 - Many of our students struggle immensely in the transition from middle to high school and have not developed skills to make them successful in problem solving, organization, independent thinking, and learning skills without close monitoring and support from their Case Managers. This course would allow us opportunities during the school day to teach learners the skills they need to be more successful in high school and after.

- **Making Connections I-IV:**

- Course is designed to assist learners in developing and generalizing appropriate and beneficial social skills and increase learner's post-secondary outcomes.
- This course is needed by several of our learners on the spectrum and/or learners who do not have the skills needed to self-advocate or learn appropriate behaviors in a variety of settings.