

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

December 9, 2014

Update: New Grading and Assessment Practices

Board Goals

Vision I C - remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus; **Teaching & Learning** II A – cultivate a consistent, strong, district-wide balanced curriculum based on ongoing needs assessments that supports all students; and **Climate** III D – instill in students a love of life-long learning; **Growth and Change** VI A, B, and D – review and adjust policy and procedures, create and continuously modify strategies, and work continuously with our community.

Purpose of Report

For the past two years, the secondary Academic Leadership Team (ALT) and the Secondary Curriculum, Instruction, and Staff Development Department have been examining our grading practices in an effort to make sure our practices support our beliefs about learning, assessment, and grading. The result of that work has been the implementation and phase in of new grading guidelines and procedures beginning with the 2014-2015 school year.

During the first semester of this year, our district staff has worked to implement these new procedures with great care and an emphasis on student success. We have reflected on and refined our work by collaboratively addressing the challenges and celebrating the successes that are part of our professional practice. Feedback has been gathered from teachers, principals, parents, students and district administrators. The purpose of this report is to share the feedback that has been gathered and to make recommendations for action that we believe will best support our teachers' and students' efforts.

Objectives

- To review the work of examining our grading practices by the ALT, principals, students and teachers
- To reflect on our beliefs about learning, assessment, and grading and how we align our practices with those beliefs
- To outline the implementation steps currently underway
- To share authentic evidence gathered from teachers, students and parents regarding the challenges and successes experienced as a result of our new practices
- To make recommendations for refinements to our assessment guidelines and professional practices that will provide increased support for teachers and result in increased student success.

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Operational Impact

None

Results

This report summarizes our efforts to reflect on and improve our professional practices around our new assessment guidelines. Feedback has been gathered from students, parents, teachers, and administrators. The recommended revisions to our assessment guidelines are directly linked to that feedback. We will continue to reflect on our practices, gather feedback, and refine implementation. We believe that the revisions presented tonight will provide greater instructional support for our teachers and result in increased success for our students.