

January 9, 2025 Board Meeting

Board Members' Questions and Staff Responses regarding BoardBook materials

(Course Catalog)

Board Member Question	Staff Response
<p>1. What is enrollment in Automotive courses (sum total) for each of the past two years?</p> <p>2. What is enrollment in each of the levels of French for the past two years?</p> <p>3. What is enrollment in Health Sciences for each of the last two years?</p> <p>4. For each of the four Pathways (Arts, Business, Design, Health), how many certifications have been earned for each of the past two years?</p>	<p>Click here for data regarding questions 1-4</p>
<p>I have questions/comments about the new required English course.</p> <p>First, the description states that one goal of the course is to prepare for the ACT test. But since the ACT is generally taken in 11th grade, I'm wondering if this is appropriate timing for a course that is geared toward excellence on the reading/writing portion of the test?</p> <p>Second, one of the District's principles is "student agency". The ELA fundamentals are covered in 9th and 10th grade courses. To provide students with the ability to follow their interests and to be involved in coursework that matches their abilities, I'm wondering if offering this English class as an elective course was considered? Or how to adjust 9th and 10th grade courses to address the skills on the ACT (timing to align with taking the test)?</p>	<p>Teachers possess the instructional knowledge and experience to guide curriculum decisions and coursework offered. When developing courses they provide a strong rationale for the offerings. The ELA department has been tracking the skills and the successful credit earned rate for the students in grade 11. The move to combine the American Portraits course and Introduction to Composition provides the following academic and systemic benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a guaranteed, viable, equitable curriculum for all 11th grade students • Ensure state standards are appropriately met for all 11/12 students • Increase the number of students who successfully earn their English credit for 11th grade • Allow for more balanced course numbers • Greater accessibility to co-taught classes for SPED students <p>The challenges of addressing the college and career ready standards across the 18 electives has resulted in noticeable decline in writing competencies in grade 12. Teachers have done the curriculum work to address more rigorous writing skills and scope/sequence aligned to the ACT College/Career targets. With so many writing electives, some courses were not able to rigorously address comprehensive writing skills. All of the electives will continue to be available to students in grades 12.</p>

	<p>Students in grades 11 will move from 18 choices to three: ELA 11 A/B, AP Lit & Comp, or Inver Hills A/B. While students can take the ACT as sophomores, junior year is the most appropriate time as they will have completed most of the course work content that ACT assesses. It also gives students a comparison of their results for age and grade like grade peers. Most of our students take PreACT as a 9th grade or 10th grade student, thus allowing them to become familiar with the test content and format and to receive a report about their strengths and areas for improvement.</p> <p>9th grade courses are aligned to required Minnesota standards. The standards provide a foundation for the reading skills that must be applied when taking the ACT. In the 2025-26 school year the ELA standards are organized in three strands: 1. Reading – Taking in information from a wide variety of sources through reading, listening and viewing. 2. Writing – Sharing information with a variety of audiences through writing, speaking and presenting. 3. Listening, Speaking, Viewing and Exchanging Ideas – Communicating and collaborating with others through speaking, listening and viewing.</p> <p>Each area has anchor standards, such as for reading: R4 Read critically to comprehend, interpret and analyze themes and central ideas in complex literary and informational texts.</p>

(Personnel Report)

Board Member Question	Staff Response
<p>Please elaborate on the 1.0 FTE custodian at Metcalf Middle School. I am curious as to why there is FTE at MMS, and there appear to be none at ST and MWS. I see this reflected in the Adopted FY25 budget, looking more closely at this document (p. 117).</p>	<p>The 1.0 covers all the vacant sites and helps fill in for others as needed.</p>

(Topic)

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