

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting (5/22/2018)

(UNT CVAD/Denton ISD Fine Arts Partnership)

Board Goal:

I. Vision

- cultivate a network of professional learning communities addressing the educational needs of every child in our district
- establish goals for individual campuses that incorporate both measurable and intangible factors

II. Teaching & Learning

- 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

IV. Parent and Community Involvement

- foster a positive and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community partnerships to achieve success for all our students.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this item is to present a working partnership between The University of North Texas, College of Visual Arts & Design (CVAD), and Denton ISD Fine Arts Department.

Objectives:

We are seeking consent for a formal partnership between UNT CVAD and Denton ISD Fine Arts. This partnership aims at several goals in the first year including:

- Develop and refine a TEKS based secondary art curriculum that employs Design Thinking strategies and fosters interdisciplinary connections.
- Cultivate students' leadership capabilities through 21st-century skills including collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and innovation afforded through specialized curriculum.
- Provide professional development in Design Thinking concepts and practices to Denton ISD Visual Arts faculty.
- Collaborate in developing a UbD-based curriculum framework with aligned scope and sequence outlines for level one courses in the first year.
- Provide opportunity for observation for qualitative data collection (if approved by UNT IRB & Denton ISD IRB) surrounding Denton ISD and UNT CVAD culture and current best practices in an effort to promote planning that enhances K-16 vertical alignment.

Operational Impact:

Currently secondary art programs are not aligned in curriculum. While our teachers follow the Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills, which are large-grained standards, there has not been opportunity for vertical or horizontal alignment of scope and sequence planning or curriculum

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unit planning in secondary art in Denton ISD. (*NOTE: Elementary art has been developing and implementing UbD curriculum plans in Denton ISD through working with elementary curriculum over five years. Secondary has not engaged in this process to date.*)

This partnership will:

- Result in a vertically and horizontally aligned curriculum plan for secondary arts programs in Denton ISD using a version of the district approved UbD format, and UNT CVAD's foundational practice of Design Thinking across art content and curriculum.
- Provide opportunity for observation for qualitative data collection surrounding Denton ISD and UNT CVAD culture and current best practices in an effort to promote planning that enhances K-16 vertical alignment.
- Create opportunities for co-planning of lessons and/or units, and for co-teaching with Denton ISD Master Teachers and UNT CVAD Faculty in Denton ISD classrooms. These opportunities can be used as models for unit plan implementation across the district.
- Create opportunities for students to present their Design Thinking work throughout the local Denton community and beyond.

Results:

Input has been sought from UNT Faculty Members, UNT CVAD Leadership, District Fine Arts Leadership, and District Fine Arts (Secondary Art) Lead Teachers. Approving this partnership will allow District Fine Arts Administration, UNT CVAD Leadership & faculty, and Denton ISD Secondary Art Faculty to proceed in a formal partnership immediately.

Aligned curriculum creates a more equitable experience for students across the district.

Partnership with a research university benefits the bigger picture, by examining best practice in the arts and learning from a research-based (qualitative and quantitative data) approach to determine what works for students.

A focus on Design Thinking allows for transfer beyond the art classroom, breaking down silo's, creating potential for arts integrated work beyond the secondary art classroom.

Other Options:

Denton ISD could hire an art content coordinator to oversee secondary art curriculum development in an effort to vertically and horizontally align curriculum, using Plano ISD's staffing model for Fine Arts. This would come at a greater expense to the district than the proposed plan.

Denton ISD could engage art teachers with the DISD secondary curriculum office to write without the benefit of UNT's involvement. However, this would exclude resources such as: Design Thinking experts, K-16 focus and collaboration, professional partnership development focus, and in-kind support from UNT CVAD.