



San Elizario ISD
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MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Trustees
From: Sandra Sanchez, CTE Administrator
Subject: Engineering Drone – Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) High School STEM Curriculum
Date: August 13, 2025

HISTORY: On May 27, 2025, the region was informed that NJROTC will now fall under the umbrella of Career and Technical Education (CTE). On May 30, 2025, arrangements were made via email to discuss this transition. A meeting was held on June 3, 2025, at 1:00 PM with Commander Young and Chief Munoz. During this meeting, we discussed their professional backgrounds, CTE endorsements, and potential Programs of Study. After review, it was determined that the most appropriate Program of Study, aligning with their experience and expertise, would be under the STEM Endorsement, Engineering Career Cluster, Regional Program of Study: Drone (Unmanned Vehicle).

RATIONALE: With drone technology experiencing rapid expansion, there is a growing demand for skilled drone pilots and specialists. This program will provide students with foundational and advanced knowledge in drone aviation technology, fostering interest in STEM and engineering careers. Students will gain hands-on experience operating and designing unmanned aircraft using ground-based controllers. The curriculum provided through AOPA High School STEM Curriculum will align students with learn critical instruction on communication systems between the aircraft and controller, ensuring understanding and compliance with federal aviation safety regulations. The curriculum also aligns with the preparation required to take the recommended industry certification from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 107 Remote Drone Pilot Certification.

BUDGET: There is no budget impact for this item.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the implementation of the AOPA High School STEM Curriculum for the Engineering Program of Study: Drone (Unmanned Vehicle). This program will offer students real-world applications that are current with industry demands.

For Approval? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If no, please check one: ☐ Presentation ☐ Report ☐ Information

Please check if applicable: ☒ Attachment Included

The mission of the San Elizario Independent School District is to graduate students with innovative skills for 21st-century careers by focusing on academic and social skills, fostering transformative practices, and building community support through positive relationships between home and school.