

# Executive Summary

## Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting June 9, 2009

### District Social Services Update: Parent Education through DISD Family Education

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#### **Board Goal:**

III. Climate (b. communication; c. high expectation for success; e. embrace full responsibilities as active citizens ...)

IV. Parent and Community Involvement (a. positive and welcoming environment; d. support services and ... health and wellness; e. develop and enhance parenting skills and participation)

VI. Growth and Change (b. modify strategies to mitigate increasing stresses)

#### **Purpose of Report :**

As our district has grown, so have the challenges of providing services to students and families in need. With the retirement of the previous, (and first), DISD Social Worker in December of 2007, the Counseling Services department endeavored to meet that challenge with a restructuring of the Social Work component of the Counseling Services department to establish a focus on delivery of parent education services for the district through the Parent-School Partnership, "Family Connections" and building those relationships to link parents and families to school and community resources. The vacant Coordinator of Social Services position was filled by Barbara Haflich who has served the district as Teen Parent Coordinator for 13 years, prior to accepting her new position.

#### **Objectives**

- To maintain existing Parent Education programs for students Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup>
- To expand Parenting Education programs for students grades Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup>
- To build relationships with families which allow us the opportunity to work with them to meet their social, emotional and academic challenges
- To strengthen the capability of our families to draw upon available resources for their own and their children's well-being
- To identify specific parenting and educational concerns of families and develop strategies and programs to enhance parenting skills and effectiveness
- To develop positive personal and school relationships with parents and families that will assist in strong family engagement to increase success in all areas for all students
- To build partnerships in the district and in the community to strengthen the development of parenting activities

#### **Operational Impact**

The current district parenting program operates on a small Title I budget, volunteer time, and donations from community and PTA resources. No operational impact is anticipated at this time.

#### **Results**

The focus of the **Denton ISD Family Connections** program is to focus on specific parent issues which occur during critical periods of child and development and are designed to enhance healthy functioning at home and at school. The program builds on existing strengths of families, is long term, and develops collaborations to provide services and support to families. The facilitators are well trained, with excellent interpersonal and facilitative skills, and

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they have a deep commitment to provide this valuable service to families. The **Family Connections** program gives families and educators alike the ability to be proactive instead of reactive; we become prevention promoters instead of crisis caretakers.

#### Other Options

Building family strengths is ingrained in the watchwords of Denton ISD, "Excellence with Kindness." We do not accept an option that does not offer the children and families of our educational community the opportunity to grow in their abilities to be successful now and in the future!