

# Executive Summary

## Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

### January 11, 2011

## High School Schedule

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### Board Goal:

- I. Vision ... In pursuit of excellence, the district will:**
  - a. develop a culture where learning is our first priority
  - b. remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus
- II. Teaching & Learning... In pursuit of excellence, the district will:**
  - a. stay abreast of and incorporate best practices into teaching, learning and leadership
- III. Climate... In pursuit of excellence, the district will:**
  - a. motivate and prepare students to embrace their full responsibilities as active citizens of their community, nation, and world

### Purpose of Report

- As DISD moves to a Professional Learning Community (PLC) framework at each of the secondary campuses, it is necessary to review current practice to determine modifications to current instructional delivery methods. These methods could include teaching strategies, curriculum redesign, student support systems, efficient allocation of resources, etc.
- The impact of the 4X4 course requirements has impacted student participation in state elective courses
- Denton continues to grow approximately 4% annually, class sizes continue to increase and the class schedule becomes more inflexible. One of the first items for research is the current A/B Block Schedule.

### Objectives

The schedule should

- Provide time within the school day for teacher collaboration about student learning.
- Create a systematic support system within the school day for struggling students
- Be designed to reduce class sizes in an era of potential financial shortfalls
- Provide incentives for students to successfully matriculate through the system
- Maintain flexibility to meet individual student needs

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### Operational Impact

- ❖ Budget constraints will necessitate staffing/scheduling changes.
- ❖ As enrollment increases, every effort is being made to keep class sizes manageable.
- ❖ Teachers on the committee have visited extensively with teachers in other districts (including evaluation of over 20 schedules).
- ❖ Every effort has been made to be cognizant of all departments and special groups.

### Results

- ❖ Move to a modified block schedule for the 2011-12 school year allowing each campus to capture units from double blocked classes
  - Need Decision by January 11, 2011
- ❖ Any added local graduation requirements are an added budgetary consideration
- ❖ The addition of the 4x4 requirement necessitates review and study of current practice of student release.
  - ◆ Math (4)                      Science (4)      Fine Arts (1)
  - ◆ Social Studies (4) English (4)      Communications (.5)
  - ◆ World Language (2)      PE (1)                      Electives (5.5)
- ◆ **Total: 26 Credits**
- ❖ Consider (study) requiring all freshman and sophomores to take 8 classes, consider less or virtual course requirements for juniors and/or seniors based on credits, attendance, behavior, etc.

### Other Options

- ❖ Depending on future budgetary constraints, DISD could:
  - Require students to take only 7 classes each year. Teachers teaching 6
  - Increase teaching load to 7 of 8 classes. While maintaining 8 classes for all students
  - Increase the number of students in each class