



## **Agenda of Workshop Meeting**

### **The Board of Trustees Belton Independent School District**

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A Workshop Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Belton Independent School District will be held September 20, 2021, beginning at 5:00 PM in the Big Red Room, 400 N. Wall Street, Belton, TX 76513. One or more trustees may participate via video conference.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the same order as shown on this meeting notice.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comments**
3. **Board Workshop on EIC(LOCAL): Academic Achievement - Class** **2**  
**Ranking**
4. **Adjourn**

**EIC (LOCAL)**  
**Workshop**



September 20, 2021

# Purpose

To summarize the Policy Committee's learning study of EIC(LOCAL) and discuss potential options for EIC(LOCAL).

# Why study EIC (LOCAL)?

## Vision

“Empowering each and every learner to pursue their dreams and enrich their communities.”

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Inspiring Dreams. Empowering Futures.

# Driving Questions

- What barriers exist that prevent students from following their pathway?
- How does ranking Belton ISD students impact them during their college admissions process (for students outside of the top 10%)?
- How does class rank and course weighting impact Journey of a Graduate competencies?

## Meetings Overview

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|--------------------|--|
| December 7, 2020   | Reviewed EIC(LOCAL) policies from several districts and discussed our policy and what we want for students.  |
| February 1, 2021   | Discussed what we know and don't know about EIC(LOCAL) and calculating grade point average and the article <a href="#"><u>Class Rank Weighs Down True Learning</u></a> . |
| March 1, 2021      | Reviewed EIC(LOCAL) policy and discussed what data we would collect from students, colleges and reviews of transcripts   |
| April 5, 2021      | Reviewed and discussed data from student surveys   |
| May 3, 2021        | Reviewed and discussed data from conversations with colleges   |
| June 7, 2021       | Reviewed and discussed data from transcript review   |
| August 2, 2021     | Reviewed and discussed EIC(LOCAL), Course Catalog and a Sample 4 year schedule   |
| September 13, 2021 | Review summary of Learning Study, plan for Board Workshop and discuss proposed policy option   |

December 7, 2020

EIC(LOCAL) policies are personalized to the values of a district.

February 1, 2021

- As a district, we need to identify the barriers that potentially exist and prevent students from following their passions, dreams and future. 8
- While nationally many districts do not rank students, Texas requires districts to rank the top 10% of students.

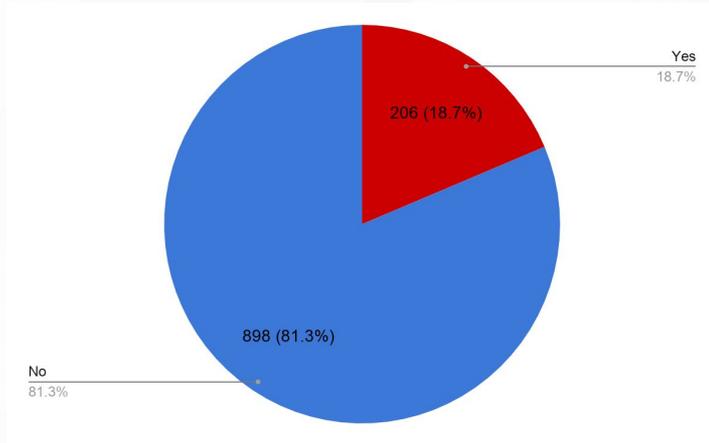
March 1, 2021

To determine if barriers of EIC(LOCAL) exist, and to develop a possible revision if needed, more information needs to be gathered by input from students, discussions with college admissions offices and analysis of prior graduating class transcripts.

April 5, 2021

- Student survey results indicated 81% of students typically do not choose electives, primarily CTE courses, because they are not weighted in their GPA.
- Student survey results indicated students take more AP courses than dual credit courses, with fewer AP exams taken than actual AP courses.

# Class Avoidance due to EIC Policy



## Classes avoided:

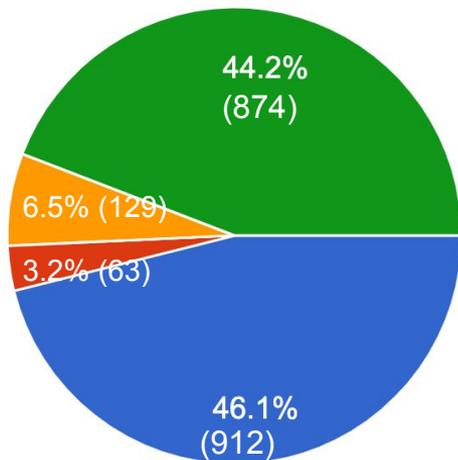
- On-level courses
- Floral Design
- Electives
- Pre-AP Calculus because On-Ramps weighted higher
- Debate
- Medical Microbiology
- Anatomy
- Medical Terminology
- Dual credit courses
- Physiology
- Culinary Arts
- Astronomy
- Accounting II
- Psychology
- Health Science
- Intro to Business
- Special Topics in History
- Art
- Photography

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# Advanced Courses Taken

What advanced courses, if any, have you taken?

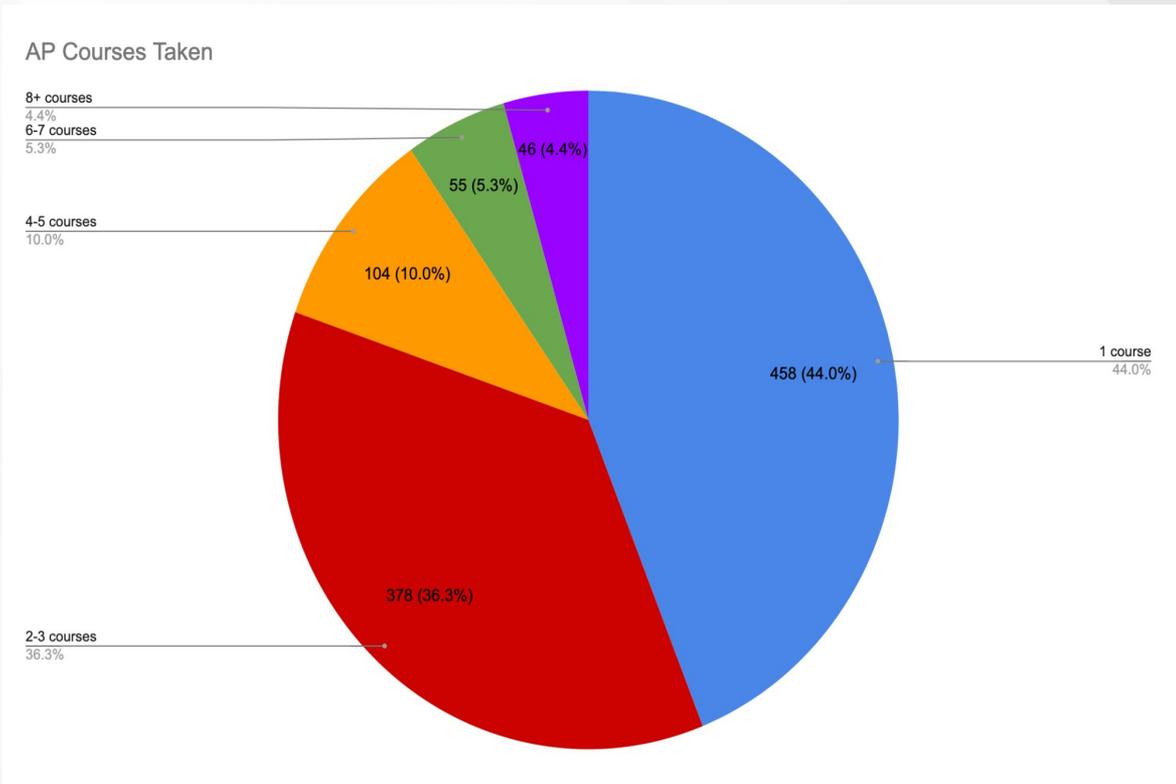
1,978 responses



- AP courses
- Dual credit courses
- Both AP and dual credit courses
- Neither AP or dual credit courses

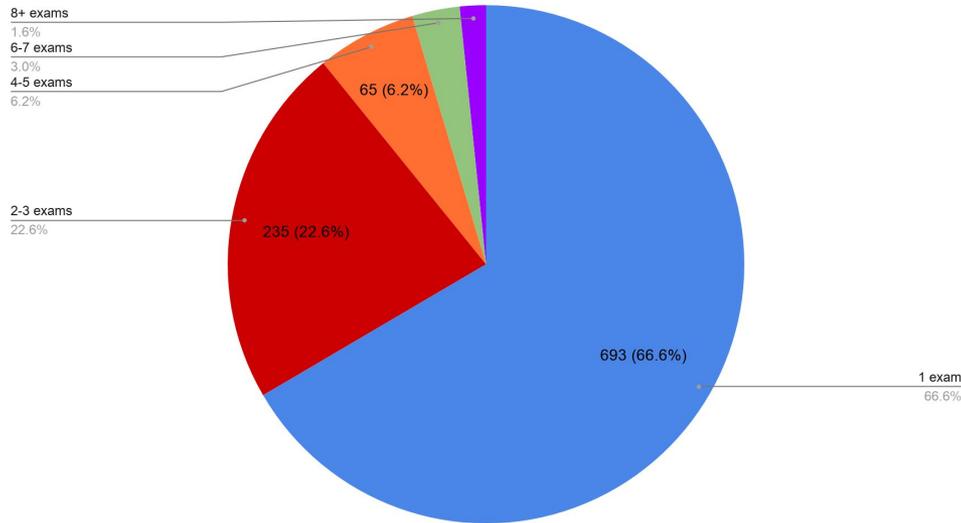
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# AP Courses



# AP Exams

AP Exams



## Reasons for not taking exams:

- Expensive (31)
- Not necessary for my college (34)
- Feel unprepared (107)
  - Difficulty in class (14)
  - Do not expect to earn college credit (4)
  - Belief of failing (42) 14
  - Unprepared (16)
  - Won't score high enough (14)
- Too much stress (18)
- Not enough time to prepare
- Just wanted GPA points for the course (14)
- Covid (13)
- Dropped course (14)
- Not a good test taker (8)

May 3, 2021

- College acceptance requirements are inconsistent among universities and within their colleges of study
- Colleges consistently prefer advanced coursework, including AP and dual credit courses

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# Ranking for Admissions

When you are looking to admit a student coming from a ranking high school, what criteria do you use?

- Some universities look at class rank first (if available)
- Some universities have assured admissions
  - based on quartile rank
  - college admission exams
- Some universities conduct a holistic review of the application

# Advanced Placement vs. Dual Credit

As you review transcripts for admissions, how are AP and dual credit courses considered? Is one type of course valued more than the other?

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- Most universities prefer to see advanced courses
- Advanced courses treated as the same regardless of DC, AP, Honors
  - Why? Not all applicants have access to the same course options in high school

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# Colleges of Study

What about admissions to a specific college within the university (business, communications, etc.)? Is their admission criteria different? If so, what is it based on?

- No clear answer or consistent practice
- Varies by university when students apply
- Different requirements, and can change with new department chair, dean, or faculty recommendation

June 7, 2021

Students take an average of 9 AP courses to be in the top 10% of the graduating class, with a range from 1 to 15.

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# Average GPA and Course Offerings in Top 10%

	Number of Graduates	Number in Top 10%	GPA		Number of Advanced Placement Courses		Number of Dual Credit Courses	
			Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range
Class of 2020 combined	796	81	108	103.13-116.17	9	0-15	1	0-10
Class of 2020 BHS Only	679	68	107.83	102.97-116.17	9	1-14	1.3	0-10
Class of 2020 NT Only	117	12	109.15	104.69-113.813	11	5-15	0	0-1
Class of 2019 combined	795	80	108.23	103.71-114.93	9	3-15	1	0-10
Class of 2019 BHS Only	661	56	108.4	103.71-114.93	9.4	3-15	1.5	0-10
Class of 2019 NT Only	134	24	107.89	104.16-112.62	8	5-12	0	0
Class of 2018 combined	785	79	107.66	103.31- 115.5	8	1-15	1.3	0-8
Class of 2018 BHS Only	662	63	107.83	103.39-115.5	9	3-15	1.4	0-8
Class of 2018 NT Only	123	16	106.98	103.31-112.07	4.8	1-7	1.1	0-4

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August 2, 2021

A review of a sample 4 year plan for students indicates there is room in a student's schedule for advanced courses, involvement in fine arts and/or athletics and a 4 year course of study through a CTE pathway

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August 2, 2021

[Course Catalog PDF link](#)

September 13, 2021

We have 3 options to consider:

- (1) Leave EIC(LOCAL) as it is currently written;
- (2) Consider a Non-ranking GPA system; or
- (3) Revise EIC(LOCAL)

# Discussion of Proposed Course Weighting

