

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

F-6

Meeting Date: November 29, 2011

Item Title: Update on Review and Possible Revisions of High School Graduation Policies

Item Type: Information

BACKGROUND: One of the core values of AUSD is to prepare students for college and career readiness. To that end, AUSD staff have been discussing potential policy recommendations for changing AUSD graduation requirements to align with our vision and mission.

While we envision being able to make a few preliminary revisions to provide student, family and staff benefit immediately, ultimately AUSD aims to phase in any revisions to the District's graduation requirements in order to conscientiously and intentionally communicate to families and counsel students toward what will be asked of them. Our goal is to phase in any revisions that entail any major new graduation requirements that may be instituted for the class of 2016 in order to provide ample time for consideration, planning and implementation.

Our first staff recommendation and Board of Education decision point will be January 17 when we will formally recommend dropping the Senior Portfolio from AUSD's graduation requirements as has been vetted with and recommended by high school stakeholders in previous months. The Board will be asked on January 24th to vote to approve that first staff recommendation.

Our intent is to have final recommendations in place by the end of the 2011-2012 school year and engage in structured discussions with the Board of Education, AUSD staff and community stakeholders. These policy change recommendations would update our AUSD graduation requirements to provide greater clarity for students, families and staff. We will return to discuss these efforts on January 17, 2012 when we can revisit this topic after further discussion with AUSD staff.

(Continued)

Over the course of the next few months, AUSD staff and stakeholders will convene to brainstorm and confirm other potential policy revisions with regard to AUSD graduation requirements. In June of 2012, the Board will be asked to approve final policy revisions with regard to the following topics:

1. reducing the number of credits required for graduation from 230 to 210
2. eliminating the 1.75 minimum GPA requirement for AUSD graduation
3. eliminating the Certificate of Achievement and requiring CAHSEE passage as a minimum requirement for the AUSD diploma
4. specifically requiring students receive counseling regarding completion of minimum requirements for admission to state colleges and universities (i.e., UC "a-g" requirements)
5. planning for any potential exemption from the current two-year PE requirement for students who are active in interscholastic or other competitive sports activities
6. specifically requiring one year of Visual and Performing Arts and one year of World Language (instead of the current 20 units required in either VAPA, World Language or Technology)
7. specifying that the two years required in Science be taken in UC "d" laboratory science courses to ensure students are better prepared for admission to state colleges and universities

FISCAL ANALYSIS: Not Applicable

- General Fund
 Categorical Funds
 Parcel Tax Funds

\$_____ [Savings] [Cost]
 _____ Department Budget

RECOMMENDATION: This item is presented for information only.

AUSD Guiding Principle: 1. All students have the ability to achieve academic and personal success. 2. Teachers must challenge and support all students to reach their highest academic and personal potential.

Submitted by: Sean McPhetridge, Assistant Superintendent

Approved for Submission to Board of Education


 Kirsten Vital, Superintendent