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## Comal ISD October Curriculum Report

### **HB 3, Course Alignment, Class Rank Structure, Board Policy EIC (Local), and Course Guide Updates**

#### ***House Bill 3 (HB 3) Report***

With the passage of HB 3, which was implemented to provide more flexibility for students in the enrichment areas, new graduation requirements took effect on Sept. 1, 2009. The new HB 3 graduation requirements impacts all high school students (grades 9-12) beginning with the 2009-10 school year who are on the Recommended Graduation Plan. Under HB 3, Health, and Technology Applications are no longer required and PE was reduced from 1.5 credits to 1 credit.

In August, a Planning Team of Comal ISD administrators, counselors, and staff made the decision to continue with the graduation plans as published in the 2009-10 course guides. In the interim, the team developed graduation plans and timelines based on HB 3 that were presented to the DEIC (District Educational and Improvement Council) and the Board of Trustees for input in October.

Before the presentation to the DEIC and the board in late October, the Planning Team met in early October to finalize decisions and recommendations based on a September meeting of the State Board of Education (SBOE) in which the members generally agreed that changes adopted to the Recommended Plan (based on HB 3) regarding PE, Health, and Technology Applications will be aligned with the Minimum and Distinguished plans as well to better meet the needs of all high school students. The SBOE will make a decision about the graduation plans at their scheduled November meeting. All recommendations made by Comal ISD are based on the assumption that the SBOE will align the three graduation plans.

Comal ISD administrative recommendations given at the October school board meeting include applying the new HB 3 graduation requirements beginning with the freshman class of 2011-12 and retaining current graduation requirements for all students who enter high school prior to 2011. Administration will bring additional information to the board for review and input at the November board meeting, and a formal recommendation will be presented to the board for approval at the December board meeting.

After school board discussion of the timeline (Attachment D), the board decided to receive another report from Comal ISD administration on class rank point structure and policy, Pre-AP courses and graduation plans at the Nov. 19 meeting for additional input. A final recommendation will not be made to the board until the Dec. 17 meeting. Course guides will also be ready for the course selection process in February.

The timeline and graduation plan recommendations are included in Attachments A, B and D.

#### ***Course Alignment and Course Offerings***

Middle and High School course guides are updated annually based on new/revised course offerings as well as any new local, state and federal guidelines (i.e. HB 3).

High school courses are offered for students to take in middle school so they can get a jump-start on their high school credits. The high school courses recommended to be offered in middle school are Algebra I, Spanish I, Art I, Health, Speech and PE (Foundations of Personal Fitness). Career Connections, which has been offered as a high school credit in middle school, will become "Exploring Careers" based on the recent TEKS rewrite. It will no longer be considered a high school credit, but it will still be required in middle school.

New high school courses that will be offered in high school included an additional course each for math, science and foreign language. Due to the TEKS rewrite, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses have been completely revised. All courses to be published are on the state-approved list. Courses offered in the past have either been deleted or embedded within a new course.

Several Technology Application Courses have been redefined as CTE Courses. Course guides will specify what campus-specific CTE courses are offered.

Course selection will occur in early February. Please see Attachments F and G for details.

In addition to course guide updates, all Pre-AP courses have been reviewed to ensure each identified course is part of a vertically-aligned series of courses that ends with a specific AP course.

Comal ISD administration's recommendation includes for all current Pre-AP courses to continue to be offered, and for Pre-AP curriculum, scope and sequence, and Curriculum Based Assessments to be developed to distinguish Pre-AP classes from General Education. The recommendation also includes for End-of-Course (EOC) exams to be administered in all Pre-AP classes.

Specific and intensive Pre-AP professional development will also be provided and required for all Comal ISD Pre-AP teachers through Laying the Foundation Educational Corp (LTF). LTF provides a comprehensive Pre-AP training program including resource and planning guides, in-district training, summer institutes, conferences and online resources for English, math and science. The goal of LTF is to support teachers by providing concrete strategies and models for teaching skills in order to prepare students in grades 6-11 to excel in Advanced Placement and other college-level courses.

Please see Attachment C for details and the definition of Pre-AP as stated by the College Board.

### ***New/Revised Class Rank Structures***

Beginning with the freshman class of 2011-12 and beyond, a new class rank point structure is under consideration. A revised rank structure is also being looked at to implement for students entering high school prior to 2011-12. Comal ISD administration will continue to review and study various models to present for discussion to the board at the Nov. 19 meeting and a final recommendation will be presented at the December board meeting for approval.

### ***Board Policy Revision***

Board Policy EIC Local addresses the Graduation and Class Ranking Requirements, including the requirements for recognizing honor graduates. Revisions will be made to reflect current practice and/or new/revised recommended requirements with regard to calculating class rank points and course alignment based on board approval in December. Please see Attachment E for details in which original policy is "struck out" and the proposed new language is underlined.