

ATTACHMENT X-C

ATTACHMENT X-C:	AP Courses - Update
Suggested Motion:	Informational
Recommended Action:	None

This is what was presented at the May Regular Board Meeting and approved:

In March, the Curriculum Committee discussed giving students in AP courses the option to take the AP exam. Currently the district requires all students to take the AP test and often encourages student to take AP courses to expose them to the rigor of a college course. The committee recommended allowing the AP tests to be optional for students.

A 2018-2019 Board goal is to raise the percentage of students passing AP tests. The administration met with the AP teachers at the high school on May 2, 2018 to discuss the challenges and possible solutions towards achieving that goal.

Following are recommendations that emerged from our discussions:

- 1. Plan and budget for professional development in district as well as provide outside opportunities for AP Teachers.*
- 2. Review criteria and course options for student placement in AP courses.*
- 3. Make AP Exams optional for students.*
- 4. Consider smaller class sizes for running AP Courses.*

Here is a Board Update on the AP Courses at the High School:

Currently this year we have the following number of students enrolled in these AP Courses;

- Psychology – 16
- World History – 48
- Calculus – 11
- US History – 32
- Human Geography -16
- Biology – 14

The practice of the district is to only offer the class if there are at least 15 students meet the criteria to take the class. Some classes dip below the number of 15 because of schedule changes/adjustments and drops.

We have initial data back regarding the results of the students that took AP Exams (all students were required to take them) in the Spring of 2018 (chart attached). We had more students get a 3 or better in Calculus and Psychology last year than in the previous year. Overall, we had similar numbers take the exams and pass the tests as the previous year.

This year all of our AP Teachers will be attending an AP Conference on October 1st and 2nd. Professional development follow up sessions will be planned throughout the year. Meetings are taking place for discussions and planning to strengthen our AP Program. Money was also budgeted to provide for learning sessions that occur outside the school day.

High School AP Course Summary

AP Courses listed in the Curriculum Guide

1. English Literature and Composition
2. Statistics
3. Calculus
4. Chemistry (2019-2020)
5. Biology
6. World History
7. U.S. History
8. Human Geography
9. Psychology

2016-2017 Student Data

Course	Students Enrolled	3 or Better on Exam
Calculus	12	1
Human Geography	38	13
Psychology	5	0
U.S. History	17	2
Biology	33	4

2017-2018 Student Data

Course	Students Enrolled	3 or Better on Exam
Calculus	14	8
Human Geography	46	2
Psychology	39	4
U.S. History	14	1
English Lit. and Comp.	8	3

AP Course Benefits:

- Exposure to higher level learning environment
- College level structure (pace, input, advocacy, and rigor)
- Building confidence and self esteem
- Enhance research, analysis, and ability to rationalize
- Potential college credit

Explanation of AP Course Concerns:

- More effort required for acquirement of higher level thinking skills
- Pace- Schedule set by College Board
- Unit breakdown limits teacher independence/flexibility
- Inconsistency with baseline
- Content requires teacher experience & prep time
- Breakdown of content delivered in the class compared with content reviewed independently

Description of earned credit:

- Retakes
- Provide tutoring opportunities
- Formal and Informal Assessment Review / Feedback

Ideas for Growth & Improvement:

- AP Exam Optional
- Budget for AP Training (In and Out of District)
- Staff AP Summer Seminar Sign-ups
- Student Boot Camps / Tutoring Sessions (Summer or Weekends)
- Be open to smaller classes in hopes of achieving higher goals
- Standardized testing location (comfortable yet structured)

Criteria Placement:

- Teacher Recommendations
- Grades from Prior Courses
- Methods of analyzing achievement are under review