

ACTION ITEM

Citizen Advisory Committee-Executive Committee

Presented by: CAC College/Career Readiness Subcommittee

Sub Committee Members: Brandon Gulley, James Knipple, Bill Atkinson, Charles Sewell, Maria Array, Leanne Carmona.

Topic: College and Career Readiness

Overview: We researched the current policies, guidelines, and expectations around preparing students for life after high school, whether that is them moving into a career or college, to include what is currently being utilized and where there may be opportunities.

CAC Review:

- Looked at CAT North/South, Internships, and Career Completer programs.
- Examined the current information offered to parents and students around preparing for college, to include school selection and financial aid.

Conclusion:

There are a lot of programs available to students, but the supply may not meet the demand. There also appears to be some inconsistency in what is offered countywide by each individual school, which may be able to be resolved through a combination of efforts, which could include increases in the budgets, partnerships with third party resources, PTA/PTO involvement, and the 21st Century Education Foundation. More research can be done.

Some initial areas of focus could be:

- Investments to grow CAT North/South so more students can participate.
- Keeping current with technology changes for CAT North/South and other CTE Programs.
- Consistency in the internship programs that are offered at the schools.
- Career Research and Development (CRD) CTE Program offered at all schools.
- Hiring more college/career counselors to better balance the student/counselor ratio.
- Increasing acceptance and utilization of outside (third-party) relationships with qualified organizations or companies for both career and college preparation.
- Offering more discussions around college/career at the middle school level.
- Ensuring what is being offered is done in an equitable way.

Offering more information and resources around career paths and college can inspire students to stay focused on their education, help them find purpose and a plan for life after high school, and could help strengthen and grow the county/community.

Recommendations listed on next page.

CAC Recommendations to the Board of Education:

- 1) Review the current offerings for opportunities to grow and improve.
 - A) Perhaps create an ongoing committee of both inside and outside resources to meet quarterly to brainstorm/research ways to improve and grow. This could also support keeping these programs in focus over time.
- 2) Increase acceptance and utilization of community and county resources outside the school system to help minimize the need to increase budgets.
 - A) Review current policies to help with this, and be sure the policies are being communicated effectively.
- 3) Continue to research this topic via future sub-committees within the CAC.