

January 13, 1994

TO: Bill Whiteneck

FROM: Don Murfin

SUBJECT: Special legislation for a THREE-YEAR TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

I have attached a summary of the Kern High School District's proposed Three-Year Technical High School. This school will offer a full four-year program in terms of both time (minutes of instruction) and curriculum. Students will graduate with 225 units of credit.

In order to accomplish this the district will need to receive the full four-years of ADA over the three years of instruction.

At the present time the district is required to offer 64,800 minutes of instruction each year for four years to receive four years of ADA. That is a total of 259,200 minutes (64,800 minutes x 4 years).

The proposed Technical High School will offer 414 minutes per day x 210 days per year which equals 86,940 minutes per year. In three years the program will offer 260,820 minutes which totals more time than the present four-year program.

Perhaps the simplest way to solve this problem would be to use existing attendance reports and pay the district 133% of one year ADA when we report approximately 87,000 minutes of instruction.

One approach to the required special legislation could be to simply allow charter high schools, that are graduating students in three years, to collect 133% of normal ADA for 87,000 minutes of instruction.

The advantages of three-year graduation include:

1. efficient use of facilities (25% reduction of needed facilities).
2. year-around employment for teachers and staff.
3. opportunity for the technical school to develop a full-year relationship with cooperating businesses.
4. lower cost of fringe benefits.
5. accelerated preparation of students for the work force.

KERN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

The Kern High School District proposes to establish a technical high school, which will open in the fall of 1996 as a charter school with an enrollment of 400 ninth graders. It will build to a total enrollment of approximately 1200 by fall 1998. Its mission will be to offer an instructional program that will raise the aspirations and expectations of students and provide them with the skills necessary to adapt to the changing society and occupational needs of the 21st Century.

- The school will be governed by a Site Council, which will provide for shared decision making by administrators, teachers, classified staff, parents, and students.
- The school will operate on a year-around calendar, with three semesters of approximately 70 days each. With the increased days of attendance, students will complete the regular four-year graduation requirements in three years with no reduction from that of the regular schools in the number of minutes of instruction per semester period of credit.
- The students will attend the school on the basis of choice, with efforts made to recruit eighth grade students whose learning styles and long-range goals will best be served by teaching strategies that emphasize technical application of academic skills, knowledge, and concepts.
- A major goal of the school will be to raise student expectations so that they will aspire to pursue some type of advanced training after high school - trade/technical school, community college, or university - or be prepared with appropriate technical skills to enter the work force upon graduation.
- Classes of approximately 25 students will be grouped into communities of 100 students with four teachers jointly planning the total curriculum for the community. We believe this structure will allow for the maximum integration of instruction.
- The normal student guidance services - academic, personal/social, and long-range planning - will be provided within the instructional community by the teachers who work daily with the students, thereby reducing fragmentation of resources and effort.

- Curriculum will emphasize the basic core academic classes (English, math, science, social studies) in the first half of the three-year program with increasing emphasis given to tying academic study to career choices for the student.
- The second half of a student's program will involve more specific integration of academic study with a career field. By the final year, the student will be enrolled in an appropriate 2 + 2 program at Bakersfield College or an ROP class or be engaged in work place learning.
- Instructional strategies will emphasize the integration of technology appropriate to a student's career path with hands-on application of academic skills and knowledge. The TECH PREP structure and approach will serve as a model.
- Students will be expected to demonstrate mastery of work place competencies as described by the SCANS Report of the U.S. Department of Labor (1992), as well as mastery of academic skills and knowledge in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies as defined by the various State Frameworks.
- Evidence of student achievement will be provided on a regular basis through a variety of instruments, including objective exams, student portfolios of work, business and industry validation of student performance, success in advanced training, and follow up studies.
- Certificated staff members will be required to hold the appropriate credential for employment in their assignment or show clear evidence of training and experience to qualify them for their position.

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1/10/94