

MEMORANDUM

To: Greg McIntyre, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction/Personnel

From: Donna Adams, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Date: August 7, 2007

Subject: Curriculum Mapping Software

Agenda Item:

Board Priority/

District Goal:

Background

Beginning the 2001-2002 school year a district-wide initiative, Curriculum Mapping, was implemented. The purpose of the initiative was to place in every teachers' hands viable curricula for all subjects designed by all teachers using the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as the basis for the curricula. Following the initial investigation, an outside consultant, Raylene Renfrow, was hired to design a software package to support the efforts of the teachers. For the past five years teachers have been implementing mapping with success in that the District now has aligned curricula across grade levels and campuses in the majority of the subject areas.

During the summers of 2006 and 2007, a number of Curriculum Coaches attended the Curriculum Mapping conference in New Mexico and Utah. They attended several sessions demonstrating software that was not available when the initiative was implemented in the district. The top three vendors included Curriculum Mapper/Collaborative Learning, Inc., TechPaths/Performance Pathways, and Atlas Curriculum Mapping/Rubicon. In October of the current year all Curriculum Coaches, Greg McIntyre, Jane Rankin, Adren Pilger, Donna Bairrington, Chrissy Hester, Robin Oberg, Judy McLeod, Clark Ealy, Chris Speier, and 3 general education teachers attended a presentation and debrief. Feedback from the participants was positive toward an effort in placing this software package, Tech:Paths: A Curriculum Mapping System, in CSISD.

Reasons for Implementation:

- Curriculum Mapping is our district-wide process for creating and maintaining a viable curriculum for all subjects for all students

- This system is based on the foundation of Dr. Heidi Hayes-Jacob's work in the field. One of the developers is Dr. Bena Kallick who works in conjunction with Dr. Hayes-Jacobs. This ensures that the software will be cutting edge.
- Program is web based, so can be accessed from any location—currently not available
- Off-site web-based system leaves no footprints on the CSISD system network
- Additional data security due to the data being stored and backed up off site
- No CSISD administration—any needed help provided by Performance Pathways, thus giving time back to District tech. support people—this has been a big problem with the system frequently being down when teachers needed access
- No district server space usage
- Higher level of functionality than is currently being used with our Filemaker system
- Reduced overhead for instructional technology in system usage, licensing, and manpower—can reduce the number of licenses required for Filemaker installations district-wide
- User friendly, easy to navigate—teachers and Curriculum Coaches have had concerns every year
- All district personnel can access at the same time—has not been possible in the past causing huge problems during staff development days
- Performance Pathways keeps the software up to date with any TEKS changes—this has to be done manually by teachers currently
- Teachers can access maps world-wide to get additional ideas for classroom activities
- Parents could access—not possible currently
- Teachers can view each others' maps for ideas
- Reports can be run to determine whether specified TEKS have been included in lessons—this feature not currently available
- Principals can view reports indicating gaps in TEKS taught—identifies needs for staff development, conferences, faculty meetings
- Time savings in that the program runs reports that the District has paid teachers extra-duty pay to prepare for staff development each summer
- Format is very similar to the District mapping format, so will be familiar to staff
- Current maps can be easily imported into the new software

Cons:

Recurring cost that will increase as student enrollment grows each year (\$3.00/student).

Cost:

See attached quote for TechPaths: A Curriculum Mapping System

At any time the District might decide to terminate the contract, all maps will be released to the District.

Examples of other districts of similar size using TechPaths:

McKinney ISD—Texas; Beth Parker
Cobb County School District—Georgia; Lynda Martin
Canadaigua School—New York; Nancy Eckhart
Des Moines—Iowa; Jennie Johnson
Kau-Keaau-Pahoa Complex—Hawaii Mary Correa
Snowflake School District—Arizona; Dan Van Gessen
Randolph County School District—West Virginia; Sue Hinzman

Contacts reported ease of use, responsive technical support, ability of teachers and administrators to make instructional decisions based on data.

Performance Pathways is the sole source for the TechPaths software system.

Along with the Curriculum Coaches, I recommend the purchase of the TechPaths software for district-wide curriculum mapping.

Donna Adams will provide this report.