

Pathway Graduation Requirement Proposal

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *How would fine arts programs (like band, choir, drama, and art) be impacted by this proposal?*

A: Fine Arts/Visual and Performing Arts classes could be used to fulfill requirements within all three of the proposed pathways (College Preparatory, Career Preparatory, and the Individualized Plan).

Since the vast majority of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) classes are A-G approved (as either an “f” or “g” requirement), **college preparatory** students would continue to enroll in these classes to fulfill their A-G requirements. Students meeting the requirements of the college preparatory pathway will not need to meet the requirements for the Career Preparatory or Individualized Plan pathway. The district does not anticipate a change in the number of VPA courses our A-G students choose to enroll in.

Under the new Pathway program, **all** KHSD fine arts classes will also be included in the “Arts, Media, and Entertainment” pathway. Students who choose to fulfill the pathway graduation requirement through the **career preparatory** pathway will have the option of enrolling in any of the career pathways at their school site, including the Arts, Media, and Entertainment pathway. If a student completes 20 credits (beginning with the class of 2013) within the Arts, Media, and Entertainment pathway, he/she will have completed the pathway graduation requirement. Students meeting the requirements of the career preparatory pathway will not need to meet the requirements for the College Preparatory or Individualized Plan pathway. While the district cannot accurately project the change in enrollment due to student interest, the district does not anticipate a decline in enrollment in VPA classes due to the addition of the career pathway requirement. In fact, the district anticipates there may be a slight increase in the demand for VPA classes. Since students are required to complete one fine arts class as part of the existing graduation requirements, several students may choose to complete a second VPA class to fulfill the career pathway requirement.

Students will also have the option of fulfilling their pathway graduation requirement using the **Individualized Plan**. Designed to allow the student to meet a specific educational plan, students (with the approval of the principal or designee) may enroll in a variety of courses, including VPA classes, to complete the 30 credits (beginning with the class of 2013) pathway requirement. Students meeting the requirements for the Individualized Plan pathway will not need to meet the requirements for the College Preparatory or Career Preparatory pathway. The district does not anticipate a decline in enrollment in VPA classes due to the addition of the Individualized Plan pathway.

Q: *There has been some concern that fine arts classes would be replaced by other CTE classes if this proposal is approved. Is this true?*

A: Since all VPA classes are included in the Arts, Media, and Entertainment career pathway, it is unlikely that a school would carve CTE sections out of the existing VPA program. A school choosing to do so would just be substituting one career path for another – this would **not** be a method for creating additional CTE classes.

Q: *If a school does not offer a career pathway my son/daughter is interested in, may I request an intra-district transfer for my son/daughter?*

A: Parents may request an intra-district transfer for their son/daughter for curricular reasons. These requests will be processed in accordance with existing district policy and available space in the request program. Intra-district transfers based on curriculum will carry a two-year period of athletic ineligibility. Please see <http://www.kernhigh.org/instruction/schoolSupport.aspx?section=policyEnglish> for more information on the district's Intra-district transfer policy.

Q: *How could existing programs not face a negative financial impact if additional career tech courses are added to school schedules? How much will this proposal cost?*

A: In the initial proposal, referred to as the 30.20.30 plan, schools will **not** have to add additional Career Technical Education courses. All 18 comprehensive school sites currently have the resources and capacity to assure all students will be able to meet the new Pathway graduation requirement. Since the proposed pathway graduation requirement draws from the existing electives requirement, schools will not need to add any additional CTE courses. A study of the district's 2008 graduates revealed nearly 88% of graduates completed 20 or more CTE credits as part of the courses they completed to satisfy their elective requirement. The board views the initial proposal (the 30.20.30 plan) as a foundation to build upon. It is designed to help students focus on their post-secondary plans, rather than being a plan for career technical education expansion. The board desires to expand career technical education as funding allows. * The impact of impending state budget cuts on this proposal has not been determined at this time.

If the board takes action to change the pathway graduation requirements to the 30.30.40 plan for the graduating class of 2015, it is estimated that an additional 161 sections of CTE would be necessary to accommodate the increased career pathway credit requirement. * How these additional sections will be created (or funded) has not been determined at this time.

Q: Will a student be able to change pathways if he/she discovers they prefer a different pathway?

A: Students pursuing the College Preparatory pathway may opt to fulfill the pathway graduation requirement by switching to the Career Preparatory pathway. Students may do so by simply completing 20 credits in a specified career pathway. Many of our college preparatory students will have already taken a career preparatory class prior to deciding to switch pathways. These students would only need to complete the 20 credit requirement in the same pathway to fulfill the pathway requirement.

Students pursuing the Career Preparatory pathway in one subject area (i.e. Agriculture) may opt to switch to another subject area pathway (i.e. Engineering) at any time. The student would have to complete the 20 credit requirement in the new career pathway (if he/she hadn't completed the requirement in the pathway they switched from), or would be required to meet with his/her counselor to develop an Individualized Pathway Plan.

Students wishing to change from a Career Preparatory pathway to a College Preparatory pathway would need to meet with their counselor to determine if an educational plan could be developed to allow the student to complete their A-G requirements by the time they graduate. Because of the number of courses required to meet the A-G requirements, switching from a general level program to a college preparatory program may be difficult (or impossible) following the freshman year. The addition of the pathway requirement makes this switch no more, or no less difficult than with the existing graduation requirements. Please contact the counseling department at your school for additional information.

Q: How can students be expected to choose a career path at the age of fourteen?

A: The intent of the proposed pathway requirement is to help students begin to think about their future and keep them engaged in/connected to school. Research continues to indicate that students who enroll in CTE courses have higher attendance rates, are more likely to pass the high school exit exam, are more likely to graduate, and improve their grade point averages (GPAs) at greater rates than comparable students who do not enroll in CTE courses¹

Research also indicates the average person will change jobs/careers several times during the course of their lifetime. Many students will use their high school (and sometimes college) experience to explore and discover their "calling". Therefore, we do not expect all students will be able to choose a pathway. The proposed plan would require students to begin to think about their post-secondary plans and to work with their parents and counselors to develop plans for after high school. Students will have the option of meeting the pathway requirement through the Individualized pathway, and may choose to take several courses from a variety of pathways.

1. *Career Technical Education: Creating Options of High School Students*, Little Hoover Commission, November 2007