

Memo



To: Dr. Karla Guseman

From: Dianne McDonald

Date: September 4, 2026

Re: Addition-Introduction to the Trades course

I respectfully recommend the addition of Introduction to the Trades, a one-semester, unweighted course for grades 9–12, for the 2027–2028 school year.

Offering an "Introduction to the Trades" semester course for grades 9–12 directly addresses the growing national labor shortage in essential fields like electrical, HVAC, welding, and carpentry by introducing students to lucrative, high-demand careers early in their education. A single-semester format provides underclassmen with a low-stakes opportunity to explore vocational options before committing to specialized regional programs, while giving upperclassmen immediate familiarity with industry tools, terminology, and safety protocols. By highlighting union apprenticeships, certifications, and earn-while-you-learn opportunities, the course delivers a viable, debt-free alternative or supplement to traditional four-year college degrees and creates direct recruitment pipelines for local employers.

Ultimately, the class elevates vocational education within the district, equipping students with essential mechanical aptitude, safety awareness, and a clear vision for post-secondary success.

This has been discussed and approved at the Curriculum Coordinating Council.

Thank you and please let me know if you have further questions.