



Framework for Homeschool Development

ATTACHMENT 20

Since 1990, Paso Robles Joint Unified School District has provided a K-8 public homeschool option for parents who have chosen to educate their children under the guidance of credentialed district teachers. This homeschool program has provided hundreds of parents the flexibility to individualize learning for their children in a family environment while maintaining grade-level accountability and academic performance standards.

In recent years, there has been a dramatic shift in societal acceptance of alternative approaches to learning commensurate with an opening of post-secondary education and employment options for students who have followed a homeschooling path. This shift has seen an explosion in charter school openings with a variety of emphases.

Our district plan seeks to maintain responsiveness to parent choice by increasing opportunities for homeschooling families while maintaining high levels of academic excellence. To accomplish this, we are currently exploring fiscally responsible options for curricular expansion, instructional delivery, and enhancement of enrichment learning opportunities to be provided within existing district facilities.

The addition of the temporary site now occupied by The Arts Academy of Bauer Speck has provided temporary district classroom excess into which our existing constricted homeschool may organically expand. Through consolidation, program expansion may be supported through existing elementary facilities and if homeschool growth continues, an eventual proposal for an occupation of the temporary facility site may be proposed.

The current curricular homeschool option tightly parallels the effective standards-based district approved curriculum. Due to the desire for expanded choice, we are exploring alternate curriculums that are accessible by parent instructors while meeting state educational requirements. We desire to provide a core curriculum that allows for a variety of topical exploration in subject areas of STEM, humanities, arts, civics, and more that provides the flexibility to learn at whatever pace the student is capable.

We are also looking to open and better utilize for homeschooling families the existing enrichment school opportunities, particularly in the areas of athletics and VAPA, while seeking to expand the off-campus learning opportunities in our community that a homeschool schedule affords.

As the Homeschool program develops, we will also develop a responsive plan for support of a continuum of delivery options from a more independent parent-instructor based model to a hybrid partial school week instructional model augmented by home-based learning.

Through this programmatic vision, we hope to facilitate our current homeschool families in the quality support they have come to expect while attracting additional families through expanded choice and opportunity.