

Important Facts About the Single Path Diploma Plan

- **Single Path provides academic survival skills for all students.** New survival skills exist for today's young people as they leave K-12 schools and move on. The single path sets academic standards which will guarantee that students have the necessary, knowledge, and skills they need as they move into higher education, further training, or the world of work.
- **The Single Path Diploma Plan will make a difference to the county's future workforce and has the support of the business community.** On January 29, board members of the Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution giving unanimous support to this effort. Representing over 1700 members, this group of business owners know the tools needed for their future workforce needs and gave resounding approval to this effort.
- **A variety of groups have had significant input into the plan.** On August 8, 2002, the Department of Education's professional development day included an extended presentation to high school guidance counselors and principals about the effort. From that date, principals were continuously involved in the development of 11 drafts of the plan before a final plan was completed. In December, Dr. Register encouraged information exchanges between principals regarding the process. The principals and their leadership teams agreed to serve as vehicles of communication to staff and other groups in their schools. In January, Dr. Register met with secondary counselors for the purpose of discussion. Their ideas were also included in the plan. At an October Student Speak Out organized by the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, students representing each high school were asked for their input in monthly meetings. The Superintendent's Student Advisory Council was also given the opportunity to provide input. Additionally, e-mail communications from teachers, counselors, and students were all added into drafts of the plan.
- **The Single Path Diploma Plan will have a positive impact on lower level students.** Students will complete course work in math, science, foreign language, and fine arts. By doing so, they will have increased access to post-secondary training programs whether in college, technical schools, military, apprenticeship or work related training programs. They will be able to focus on areas of choice as well as enriched preparation via hands-on, relevant courses.
- **The Single Path Diploma Plan will have a positive impact on high level students.** Course requirements will remain the same with the exception of the senior project or service learning. Students will also have the opportunity to increase their access to career and technology programs as well as participate in courses that offer dual credit and Advanced Placement options, preparing them for college.
- **Eighth grade phase-in.** Middle schools currently teach math and science. Next year some eighth grade courses in math, science, and foreign language will be credit bearing.

- **Should a student wish to change his or her major, it can be done up to grade 11.** Students can declare a major as early as grades 9 or 10, but with common academic core requirements, students may change from one focus to another without delaying the completion of graduation requirements.
- **The Plan will not reduce the student's opportunity to pursue elective courses such as band, ROTC or chorus.** Nothing prohibits a student from taking band for four years or chorus for four years.
- **There will be adequate space for the programs at each school.** No new classes are required in the middle schools and the high school facilities reflect minor renovations, but no new classrooms.
- **Opportunities for special education students will increase.** Inclusion in academies provides significant options. Development of new courses and altering instructional approaches will also offer additional opportunities. However, IEP procedures will remain intact.
- **Plans are in place to make sure our students are successful!** Safety nets are being put in place for all students. These will include hands-on real work/ concrete applications in course work; flexible course lengths, after school credit recovery programs, summer school credit recovery programs, increased exceptional education staff, transition programs, Carnegie concentration on lower quartile in all schools, on-line curriculum/course/credit, adult high school as center for alternative learning, schools of choice (middle college, Sequoyah, adult high school, technology school at Chattanooga State), after school GED program, integrated programs at Sequoyah and Harrison Bay, 9th grade academies, 8th grade credit bearing opportunities, and flexible schedules at high schools.
- **The Single Path Diploma Plan will be cost effective.** Initially, single path costs are estimated to be approximately \$1 million for county-wide implementation the next two years. Academy costs will be added as schools develop their academy focus. The business community is making a commitment for support of the academies.
- **The Single Path Diploma Plan will make a difference for our entire region.** This is a bold plan for the future of our workforce and our region. In order to be successful, our business community must be competitive in today's world. Our students will come out of high school ready to meet the challenge of the workforce or higher education. And because they will be ready to compete- -so will we!
- **Under single path, students have MORE options.** For example, a student on a traditional schedule in the university path currently has 5 choice courses, but under the single path that student would have 7 choice courses.