

April 23, 2010

Dear LISD School Board and Administration:

Earlier this year, the Lewisville ISD School Board voted to eliminate the technology credit as a requirement of graduation after the 2010-2011 academic year. This move gave autonomy to each local school district. However, was Lewisville ISD's choice to eliminate this critical educational requirement necessarily the best decision for our students and the school district's finances?

Please consider that many colleges and universities still require technology credit on high school transcripts for acceptance. Having taught these specialized courses in multiple districts, I have seen firsthand that high school students oftentimes lack the necessary technology skills for success in college and future careers without exposure to said courses. As a former business owner, I can assure you that businesses in our community wishing to hire entry level employees will be searching for candidates with skills taught in Technology Applications courses.

The attached article addresses the successes of Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses throughout the United States. The Career Readiness Paper, written by the Association for Career and Technical Education, identifies many of the skills taught in CTE classes. Additionally, I have provided you with the Issue Brief entitled "Why Districts Should Consider Technology Applications Credit." In this document, there are five identified reasons for reversing your decision to eliminate the Technology Applications credit after the current year. I hope you will take the time to thoroughly review these two articles and reconsider your position to eliminate the Technology Applications classes as a requirement for graduation for LISD students.

If you wish to discuss this further in session, I would welcome the opportunity to speak to the full school board in person. I feel confident that with your positive support of our technology courses, LISD students will master the skills for success in college and career for years to come.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Blier
Business and Technology Teacher
Flower Mound High School, Lewisville ISD