

Attachment B

The New Tech High School Model

The Austin Independent School District (AISD) has researched and visited the most successful high school reform models from coast to coast. The impact of many of these models, while impressive, is also narrowly focused on a specific neighborhood and demographic and not applicable to a broad spectrum of students. The New Tech High School Model is the exception. From the Napa Valley to South Central Los Angeles the children of vineyard owners and day laborers alike are thinking and performing differently in preparation for their future.

Program Design

- *Explicit* – All students are college AND career ready
- *Intimate* - The small school will initially serve 400 or fewer students, but will be allowed to grow to a cap size of 525 students.
- *Unique* - A unique school name, PEIMS code and modified facility
- *Flexible* – Non-selective admission policy with open enrollment

Project Based Learning Curriculum

- *Focused* – All projects are anchored in the TEKS
- *Relevant* – Students master content knowledge with 21st Century Skills in a team taught, integrated curriculum
- *Supportive* – English Language Learners are constantly immersed in social and academic English
- *Accountable* – A culture of trust and responsibility is required of every project and every course

Authentic Assessments

- *Differentiated* - Skills based gradebook allows teachers to record content knowledge and skills, collaboration, work ethic, written and oral communication, professionalism and other performance data separately so that they may quickly identify individual student's strengths and weaknesses.
- *Reflective* – The Evaluation Tool digitally creates student performance rubrics so that teachers, students and parents can monitor a student's growth over time
- *Triangulated* – Peer Evaluation and Feedback Tool digitally produces averaged reports from student peer groups and teachers for every project
- *Professional* – Each student's capstone project is a digital portfolio capturing the student's mastery of learning outcomes

Use of Technology

- *Resourced* – Requires a 1:1 student to computer ratio
- *Transparent* – Course calendars and student assessments are posted for students and parents
- *Expansive* – Digital journals allow teacher and students to collaborate beyond the school walls
- *Generative* – Discussion forums are a platform for nation-wide exploration

Innovative Community Partnerships

- *Rigorous* – Austin Community College will offer high-end articulated elective sequences for college credit

Relevant – From innovations in health and technology industries such as 'green buildings' and renewable energy sources students will vet their solutions to real world challenges with industry leaders in the Austin Community

Results

Rockman et al conducted a six-month study of New Technology High School (NTHS) alumni for the last eight years for the New Technology Foundation (NTF). The study was designed to gather feedback from NTHS graduates regarding their postsecondary education and/or career, 21st Century skills, knowledge and use of technology, and on what they valued most about their NTHS experience.

Data discussed in the report that follows suggest that New Technology High School is meeting the academic and skill needs of its 21st Century students. Overall feedback indicated that:

- 89% of the responding alumni attended a 2-year or 4-year college/university or professional or technical institute.
- 92% of respondents have applied some or a great deal of what they learned at NTHS to their postsecondary education or career.
- 96% of the respondents would choose to attend NTHS again.
- 40% of the alumni respondents were either majoring in STEM fields or were working in STEM professions.

In their first year of implementation, students in the Students Empowerment Academy (SEA), a New Tech High School in South Central Los Angeles that is housed at Jefferson High School:

- Posted some of the largest academic gains in the district on the Academic Performance Indicator (API) in 2007.
 - The State API standard for 2007 was 800
 - SEA scored 638
 - Jefferson students scored 457 (*All of SEA's students would have otherwise attended Jefferson*)

- Truancy rate (students with unexcused absences or tardies on three or more days) of 0.46% in 2006-2007 versus 50.55% at Jefferson

Of all of the 35 New Tech High Schools across the country, the Student Empowerment Academy is most similar to the demographic of the new school formerly known as Johnston High School.