



To: AISD Board of Trustees

From: AISD School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)

Date: June 18, 2014

Re: Recommendations re Garza Online Health and P.E.

Austin ISD has long history of educating the whole child, as well as a history utilizing technology to deliver content.

This spring, the SHAC has endeavored to review the Garza Online Health and P.E. courses to ensure that they reflect the local community values as mandated by statute. The SHAC undertakes periodic review of the standard AISD Health and P.E. courses as part of its mandate as well.

The Texas Education Code, Sec. 28.004 (b) states: A school district must consider the recommendations of the local school health advisory council before changing the district's health education curriculum or instruction.

The Garza Online Health and P.E. courses were developed separately from the other AISD Health and P.E. courses (as part of all the Garza Online offerings), and therefore SHAC believes the review needs to be handled separately. The SHAC has not reviewed these courses previously as SHAC was not aware of the separate development of the Garza Online Health and P.E. courses. A preliminary review has now been completed.

After reviewing the Garza Online courses for Health and PE, SHAC has passed the following recommendations to the Board:

- Stopping future enrollment to students until the curriculum has been reviewed by the SHAC.
- Make recommendations for stipends to teachers to help oversee curriculum and monitor the course more closely.
- Have a proctor that signs off on everything, approves the student for the course and discusses options.
- Help student plan a course of action of how to achieve physical activity and make a plan.
- Pretest by a teacher and FITNESSGRAM and have coursework done with 6 weeks to complete physical activity
- Have someone in the district go through curriculum and check to see if it is following legislature mandates.

Garza Online classes have the potential to provide a strong alternative approach to classroom learning. The SHAC would like to ensure the courses are in compliance with statute before the classes are offered to any more AISD students.

If we can provide additional information regarding these recommendations, please contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Vivian Ballard, Chair
Austin ISD SHAC