MEASURE N AND H - COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS COMMISSION

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Measure N - College & Career Readiness - Commission

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Memo

To Measures N and H – College and Career Readiness Commission

From Vanessa Sifuentes

High School Network Superintendent

Board Meeting Date

Subject Services For: High School Linked Learning

Action Requested and Recommendation

Discussion and possible adoption of the new Measure H funding policy for 2025-2026.

Background (Why do we need these services? Why have you selected this vendor?)

Last December 2024, a Commission discussion regarding the "conditionally approved" school funding policy began in light of the approval of two schools being removed from their conditionally approved status. Late in February, the MNH staff proposed a new funding policy for new schools seeking Measure H funding.

Competitively Bid : Was this contract competitively bid? No

If no, exception: N/A

Fiscal Impact Funding resource(s): Measure H

Attachments 25-0216 MNH Updated Funding Policy

The Issue:

Under the current system, a school enters a conditional approval status period if, during the review of its spring Education Improvement Plan, staff notes inadequate performance in two or more domains of the linked learning rubric.

At the conclusion of a conditionally approved period, the Measure H/N staff makes a recommendation on whether the school should exit conditionally approved status based on whether the school has adequately addressed the previously identified issues. If a school has made adequate progress on those issues, it exits the conditionally approved status and proceeds through the normal spring EIP process.

However, a limitation of the current process is that the staff's recommendation only considers the issues identified at the beginning of the cycle, which led to a school being placed in conditionally approved status. Staff is precluded from considering a full review of the school's program in making a recommendation to exit the conditionally approved status. Put another way, while a school may have made adequate progress on the previously identified areas, it may have lost ground in other areas such that it should remain in conditional approved status and keep receiving additional support from central staff.

Additionally, the Commission has seen schools and pathways that have substantially lost the ability to deliver on their core program due to factors such as widespread staff turnover or leadership turnover.

The Solution:

When a school or pathway enters conditional approval, the reasons will be clearly articulated so they can be addressed during that period. At the conclusion of the conditional approval period, the staff's recommendation to the commission for what actions to take next shall be based on a full programmatic review of the conditionally approved school or pathway to ensure the school or pathway has maintained areas of strength while improving areas of concern.

As a result of this review, the staff shall recommend that the school or pathway:

- 1. Exit conditional approval to full implementation and retain full funding,
- 2. Remain conditionally approved, receive partial funding and additional support for an additional period, or
- 3. Enter a re-establishment phase with a reduced level of funding at \$200 per pupil, similar to the planning phase.

The Commission can also recommend on its own motion that a conditionally approved school or pathway be moved into the planning/re-establishment phase.

The goal of the re-establishment phase is to allow the school the opportunity to relaunch its Linked Learning program. Schools in the re-establishment phase would receive \$200 per

student (the traditional planning grant level). It is possible for the \$200 per pupil funding level to be increased based on clearly articulated factors such as:

- The need to retain key staff,
- Extensive training needs,
- External leadership supports,

The re-establishment phase would last 1-2 years, and schools would go through the process followed by new schools. At its conclusion, staff will make a recommendation as to whether the program should receive full implementation funding of \$850 or a partial funding level of \$525.

During the re-establishment phase, monies that would have otherwise been allocated to the school under full implementation will be retained by the school in its carryover account.

Under this funding policy amendment, the following areas need to be articulated by staff:

- Creating a rubric to make an objective assessment for exiting conditionally approved or re-establishment status. This could include having different stakeholders in site visits (pathway coaches, WBL, CTE, etc.) using the same rubric to make an informed decision as a team.
- The approach to rating quality improvement of the school/pathway in alignment with District-adopted school improvement frameworks.
- Articulate a proposal for appropriate funding levels for when schools exit the re-establishment status.
- Defining the "additional support" to be provided to schools which are conditionally approved or in the re-establishment status to fund quality improvement for schools with high needs in implementing Linked Learning. This proposal would articulate how this would impact on the current MNH staff and Admin 10% budgeting.