



WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
589 HOSPITAL DRIVE, SUITE A
WARREN PA 16365-4875

WILLIAM A. CLARK, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

Board Members,

Below you will find a summary of my meetings with students in all four high schools. The students that I met with were primarily 9th – 12th grade honors and AP students. I felt the experience was very rewarding and appreciated the time that I had with the students. I also felt the information that I received from them was thoughtful and sincere. One key characteristic to remember in this situation is that they are not benefitting by any change to the policy which we are presenting. They are advocating on behalf of the students that follow them, and I believe they genuinely want what is best for students as a whole.

The students wondered why there is a proposal to change the weighted portion of Policy 9744 to a graduated weight. They were unaware of any problems that have existed as a result of the weight being equally distributed within this policy. They do not see the need to make any changes at this time.

The following is a summary of student thoughts and feelings in regard to changing to a graduated weight within Policy 9744:

First and foremost, the message that was most conveyed focused on reward and incentive for enrolling and completing AP Courses. AP courses are not easy. Students feel that they should not be penalized with lower grades for stepping up and taking advanced courses that challenge them. They are demanding courses that take considerable time and effort from dedicated students. The weight is simply the reward for putting forth this time and effort and the incentive for students to attempt to take a difficult course. Without this weight the students believe that a decline in enrollment will take place. The advanced work also includes summer work to prepare for the course with students often having required summer reading and assignments that are due upon entry in the fall.

Secondly, students believe that any decline in enrollment will result in the loss of AP courses for students. There are two issues with this. Students already have seen a decline in the course offerings and do not feel they can afford to lose any more offerings in their buildings. In the outlying areas especially, there are very few AP offerings. This has resulted in students taking courses via distance learning, which they are not happy with. The other issue is that many students are on track to take AP courses from an early part of their high school career. Many language arts students, for instance, would begin in tenth grade with English 10 Honors. The Course Description states within the planned instruction, "This course is the first of a three-year program ending with Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition in grade 12." Without the AP course being available, students would not be able to complete the Language Arts track in which they began as sophomores. It is similar within all core content areas.

The Warren County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or employment practices and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to Mrs. Amy Stewart, Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator at 589 Hospital Drive, Suite A, Warren, PA 16365 or (814) 723-6900.

And finally, I would add that very few students connect weight with the effect that it has on GPA. In most cases students at the lower grade levels in all the high schools didn't know they were receiving weight. Only those at the very top of the class acknowledge that the weight would have impact on rank. There are so very few of those students in comparison to the total number taking AP courses that it becomes insignificant.

On another note, when asked, almost every student indicated that if the Warren County School District paid for the AP exam, students would take it. If the district decided to pay for the students to take the AP exam, it would cost the district approximately \$16,000.

The Warren County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or employment practices and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to Mrs. Amy Stewart, Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator at 589 Hospital Drive, Suite A, Warren, PA 16365 or (814) 723-6900.