School Board Executive Summary

Topic: New Courses at Westside High School - 2027-2028 School Year

Date: November 16, 2026

Presented by: Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning

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Recommended Action:

- [x] Information Only
- [ ] Presentation/Discussion
- [ ] Discussion/Action by Board of Education
- [ ] Presentation/Action Next Meeting

Recommendation: Recommendation: None at this time; informational report to the Board of Education.

Background: Each year, information is presented to the Board of Education about new course offerings at Westside High School. This year, there is one new course and a few structure changes.

New Courses

- **AP Seminar English 10:** This course will replace English 2 Honors. AP Seminar is an Advanced Placement course that exposes students to a variety of texts covering multiple genres, topics, and rhetorical contexts in a seminar-style setting. The course fosters students' abilities to summarize and explain the salient ideas in a text by analyzing an author's perspective, rhetorical choices, and argumentative structure. Students evaluate a variety of literary, informational, and visual texts, and synthesize perspectives to develop evidence-based arguments. Students convey their findings through multiple written formats, multimedia presentations, and oral defenses. The Nebraska Department of Education has worked with the College Board to crosswalk 10th grade ELA standards with College Board course outcomes.

Course/Structure Changes:

- **World Language Level 5:** Students previously could choose between 5 Honors and 5 AP; moving forward all level 5 students will take AP
- **Culinary Skills 2:** Will be expanded to a full-year course that allows for additional certification and FCCLA competition elements to be embedded in the course. As a result, Global Foods will be eliminated as a course.
- **Treble Show Choir:** (SI) will be open to freshmen students. Ninth graders will now have the opportunity to be placed into Warrior Express Show Choir or Treble Show Choir.

Other Changes:
There are some minor name changes, course description changes, and prerequisite changes. These adjustments were made to avoid confusion, provide more accurate information, and/or allow students more opportunities to participate in coursework.

Attachment(s): None