

Academic excellence is the goal for our city-county school system

How will the four-year high school plan affect academic opportunity?

One of the problems with the current structure is the difficulty in coordinating academic programs between the high schools and senior high schools. Many courses must be taught at both levels. The teachers of the first year of a subject and the second year are often in different schools and have little contact with each other. Guidance counselors at one level do not have daily contact with the teachers of the courses which they help students select.

The programs would be greatly alleviated by the four-year high school. Academic quality must be our first concern. We have made a great deal of progress in recent years so that our test scores are now significantly above the national averages. The four-year high school will help us maintain these gains and provide better quality programs for our students.

Will students have as many electives available even though there are smaller numbers of students in each grade?

Since most electives are open to students in more than one grade, and there will be fewer schools serving grades 9-12 (eight instead of the current thirteen), it will be possible to offer a greater selection of elective courses and also offer more flexibility in scheduling. There may be some difficulty, as there is now, in offering some upper level courses with prerequisites (such as Latin IV) at every school, but there will be

ways available for students to continue a sequence that they have begun.

Will each of the high schools be able to offer a comparable program?

The Board set 1200 to 1800 as the desirable enrollment for a high school in order to offer a full selection of courses and opportunities for students without becoming too large for effective management. Projected enrollments for the eight high schools are well within that range.

Each of the high schools will offer a full academic, vocational and extracurricular program. There will always be, as there are now, variations in electives based on course selection at each school. Teachers and materials will be equitably distributed so that each school has a comparable faculty in qualifications, experience, age, race and sex. While this will cause some disruption among all our faculties, we believe the move is necessary to ensure that the schools can offer equal opportunities for each student.

Will this year's juniors have to change schools for their senior year?

No. The Board of Education has made an exception to the reorganization plan for the class of 1975, now in the junior year. These students will be "grandfathered" so that they can continue at the schools they currently attend. This means that the three new four-year high schools (Carver, Glenn and Mt. Tabor) will have only grades 9-11 in

1984-85.

Will the four-year high school effect the dropout rate?

Our dropout rate is currently well below the state average. We think that it will improve even further as the four-year high school allows counselors and other staff to get to know students better and help meet their needs over four years.

Parent involvement drops off sharply now in the secondary schools. Will the four-year high school help?

Parents should find the four-year high school much easier to work with. Smaller districts and a longer time to get to know the principal and staff should improve cooperation and communication between the home and school.

What will be done about libraries at the eight high schools to accommodate material for four grades?

A staff committee is currently working on plans for redistributing the library materials of the 13 current schools serving grades 9-12 so that each of the new senior high schools has a full set of materials for these grades. The Carver, West and Glenn library spaces will need to be expanded in order to serve their enrollment. Funds for that expansion are included in the costs of implementation. Any new library materials that are needed will be included in the regular annual purchase through special appropriations.

Will the new high schools be able to participate in athletics in their

first year?

The new schools (Carver, Glenn and Mt. Tabor) will not include a senior class during the first year of operation; those students who are presently in the junior class will remain and participate at their current schools. The new schools will field teams using players from grades nine, ten and eleven.

During the first year, the new schools will not be affiliated with any Athletic Conference, because the existing schools will be completing the second year of a two-year contract commitment.


However, each of the new schools will be eligible for full conference participation for the 1985-86 school year. An independent schedule for each new school will be developed for 1984-85. Local school personnel have worked very closely with officials of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association to identify possible opponents in the various sports. Schedules for all sports should be able to be developed. It should be noted that conference affiliation is not required to compete in statewide competition in cross-country, track, wrestling, golf, tennis and

swimming. Conference affiliation in soccer may also be possible since this sport presently is not covered in the usual two-year contract agreement.


What will happen to school rules when we have four grades instead of just two in the high schools?

A committee is studying the rules and policies for the new schools. Issues such as which students are permitted to smoke (and where), park on campus, and leave the campus for lunch are being discussed and recommendations will be made to the Board of Education.

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