

STAGE 2 – PATHWAY SELECTION, COURSE SELECTION, AND TALLIES

LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

(work in progress)

- Many schools organize student and parent pathway and course selection informational meetings to support entering or interested students and parents in making informed choices. Schools and Districts with themed Pathways/Academies often schedule a “Choice Fair” OR “Theme Week” (SLC/ Academy selection) prior to “Registration Week” (course selection). A Pathway Choice Week or Pathway Theme Week usually entails informational posters in the hallways, booths at lunchtime, videos, and announcements about the registration process. Typically, there are either classroom presentations and/or assemblies in which students receive information about the various pathways and elective courses available to them.

- Most high schools with multiple pathways/academies have found it works best to have students select back-ups to their first SLC/ Academy choice at the time they register, with an understanding that while every attempt will be made to honor their first choice this can't be guaranteed.

- Special Education students who are able to be main-streamed (and their parents) and English language learner students (and their parents) should be included in this pathway and course selection process. With the exception of a few students with acute special needs, pathways/ academies should be designed to accommodate all students and should be expected to reflect the diversity of the school/district as a whole.

- Whether or not a high school permits each SLC to schedule its own students, individual student conferences are often held at this time of the year. The student, perhaps her/his parents, the Pathway/Academy Lead, and/or a school counselor may meet to review the student’s growth and progress and discuss course selections for the coming year (including summer school plans), and perhaps credit recovery or credit acceleration options. NOTE: One school described a dramatic reduction in student requests for course changes after implementing a pre-pathway and pre-course selection