

AT A GLANCE: CG REDESIGN PROPOSAL

Assistant to the Principal Paul Buck has been leading the redesign efforts at Center Grove High School since June. With a presentation due to the school board next month, Buck has outlined a proposal for designing the new high school around six small learning communities and a traditional high school setting. The redesign committee will come up with the final plan. The communities Buck proposes will be phased in from 2009 to 2012.

Here is a timeline of Buck's suggestions:

2009-10: Enroll freshmen in the New Tech High School and Early College High School. Over the next three years, freshmen would be enrolled to reach 400 students for each community with 100 students in each grade.

2010-11: Combine the existing Academy of Finance and a new Academy of Information Technology into a Business Academy. A Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Academy will be added, which will include the existing Project Lead the Way — High School Engineering.

2011-12: Add Health Academy, which would include the new Project Lead the Way — Biomedical, and Humanities Academy.

During the phase-in, teachers and students in the traditional high school setting would continue until they became their own community or disappeared because of the growth of the other communities.

Each student and teacher would get to choose which community they enroll or teach in, and each community would consist of about 350 to 600 students in Grades 9-12.

Options

New Technology High School

What: Curriculum focuses on technology and project-based learning. Instead of daily assignments, teachers assign periodic projects related to different academic subjects.

How many: Three in Indiana

Created: Napa, Calif.

Early College High School

What: The school allows students to earn both a high school diploma and an associate's degree or up to two years of credit toward a bachelor's degree. The school targets students who are from low-income families, first-generation college hopefuls, minorities or those struggling to move on to higher education.

How many: 157 early college high schools across the country; six in Indiana

Created: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation started the high school model in 2002, which targeted large metropolitan areas.

Business Academy

What: The academy would have two separate sub-academies, Academy of Finance and Academy of Information Technology. Center Grove High School already has an Academy of Finance.

Academy of Finance: Academy students take regular high school courses as well as one or two specialized financial and investment courses each semester. They also work with a mentor in the financial profession, take a paid internship between the junior and senior years and take a college-level course the second semester of their senior year.

Academy of Information Technology: Students focus on specific courses to prepare them for education or a career in the

information technology industry.

How many: 15 Academy of Finance schools and one Academy of Information Technology school in Indiana

Created: The academies are set up through the New York-based National Academy Foundation, which aims to build partnerships between high schools and businesses to develop career-themed academies.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Academy

What: An academy focused on preparing students for careers based in strong science, technology, engineering and mathematics background. The academy would have specific math and science courses with applied technology and engineering projects to learn real-world skills. The academy would include the existing Project Lead the Way — High School Engineering Academy.

Project Lead the Way — High School

Engineering: The academy serves 150 students who take highly technical, pre-engineering/engineering technology courses to prepare them for jobs in the engineering industry or higher education.

How many: 2,200 Project Lead the Way academies across the country

Created: Project Lead the Way academies are based on the national nonprofit group, which sets up engineering curriculum for high schools and middle schools, as well as biomedical science curriculum for high schools. The group was created to prepare students for engineering and engineering technology studies in college through a four-year high school sequence of courses.

Health Academy

What: The academy would include a new sub-academy called Project Lead the Way — Biomedical, which would focus on preparing students for higher education or a career in the health field. Buck said that one-third of this year's freshmen class are interested in pursuing a career in the health field.

Project Lead the Way — Biomedical:

The biomedical academy would be like the high school's existing Project Lead the Way — Engineering Academy, where students take traditional high school courses as well as specialized and rigorous courses in math and science each semester to prepare them for a higher education or employment in health-related services.

How many: 2,200 Project Lead the Way academies across the country

Created: Project Lead the Way academies are based on the national nonprofit group that sets up engineering curriculum for high schools and middle schools, as well as biomedical science curriculum for high schools. The group, which was launched by the National Academy Foundation, was created to prepare students for engineering and engineering technology studies in college through a four-year high school sequence of courses focusing on college prep math and science courses.

Humanities Academy

No details available

SOURCES: Center Grove Community School Corp.; National Academy Foundation; Central Indiana Academy of Finance; Project Lead the Way; Jobs for the Future, a nonprofit research, consulting and advocacy group for Early College High School