

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION OPTIONS





ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Creating a tiered approach that is efficient, effective, and fiscally responsible that will best support the students, families, and staff of DCPS.



Currently DCPS utilizes a secondary school only model for Alternative education (NDLA) accessible to all district schools. There is no DCPS elementary option available to all schools. The TSP program is an intervention provided by a contracted vendor (SEIS) and funded through the COP grant provision of the Blueprint legislation, since 2019.



Our Discussion, Task & Mission

Analyze and determine the most efficient and appropriate model that will create the most benefit for the students of Dorchester County Public Schools



Options

A

Continue current programming as structured.

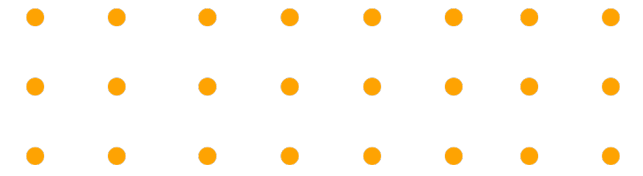


B

Create a Reduced, Regional Program and add a countywide Elementary NDLA

C

Create an in-school Tier 1 alternative intervention at all DCPS schools, and implement a countywide Elementary NDLA



Specialized Education

SERVICES, INC.

Dorchester County Public Schools Therapeutic Support Program Partnership

The academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs of each student are met through a highly structured therapeutic environment that includes:

- Supported academic instruction
- Guided instruction on pro-social behaviors
- Direct instruction on coping skills
- Engaging mindfulness activities
- Comprehensive positive behavior management system

Grant Funded



Dorchester County Public Schools Therapeutic Support Program Partnership

Overall Program Staffing:

- Total number of DCPS Students Capable of Supporting: 45
 - Total number of teachers: 5
 - Total number of Social Workers: 2
- Number of support Staff: 10 in room, Behavior Specialist, 4 supervisory staff



The CASE Approach utilizes a multi-tiered PBIS framework to increase socially appropriate behaviors.

Positive reinforcement provides continual reinforcement of respectful engagement and academic participation.

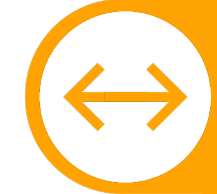
Therapeutic Approach teaches coping skills and builds self-regulation techniques.

Rewards-based incentives is a level system that reinforces and motivates students to display appropriate behaviors.

Data drives all programming and intervention decisions.

A safe environment is developed through staff training in verbal de-escalation and crisis intervention.

- Typically, 45-day (may be longer based on need) classroom programming for students experiencing challenges participating appropriately in general education setting.
- Smaller, supportive environment allows each student to receive the attention and care they need to thrive in the classroom setting and begin to enjoy school.
- Focuses on improving peer interaction and social skills, learn prosocial classroom skills, understanding school expectations, and increasing academic engagement.
- Positive skill development allows students to transition back to their homeroom class and fully participate in school.



COST ANALYSIS OPTION A



Fully grant funded: 1.2 million

The COP Grant has been utilized since 2018-2019 to fund the program.



Training

All training provided by TSP. DCPS does include the staff in local training for consistency.



School impact

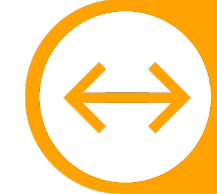
TSP handles all classroom management issues and only involves school administration when severe.



Capacity/Staffing

The TSP program can accommodate 45 students. TSP is responsible for fully staffing their program locations. Support of transitioning students.





B. Regional

TSP Regional Program

- 2 In-District Classrooms
- 9 student seats in each classroom (18 seats total)
- Staffing:
 - 2 Certified Teachers (*one in each classroom*)
 - 2 Assistant Teachers (*one in each classroom*)
 - 2 Behavioral Support Staff (*one in each classroom*)
 - 1 Social Worker
 - 1 Program Coordinator
- Pricing:
 - \$35,500 per seat
 - \$639,000 total cost



NDLA Elementary

- 1 In-District Classrooms
- 7 student seats in each classroom total
- Grades 3-5 only
- Staffing:
 - 1 Certified Teachers
 - 2 Assistant Teachers (*one in each classroom*)
 - 1 Social Worker
- Pricing: \$ 369,861.00



Overall Cost

The regional program would have a capacity of 25 students. The NDLA cost would be general fund at \$, TSP regional programs from COP grant at \$639,000.





COST ANALYSIS OPTION B



Partially grant funded: \$639,00.00

The COP Grant has been utilized since 2018-2019 to fund the program. NDLA elementary would be DCPS funded, including transportation.



Training

All training provided by TSP for 2 programs. DCPS will need to train the NDLA staff.



School impact

TSP handles all classroom management issues and only involves school administration when severe in the 2 regional programs. All other issues would be addressed by DCPS.



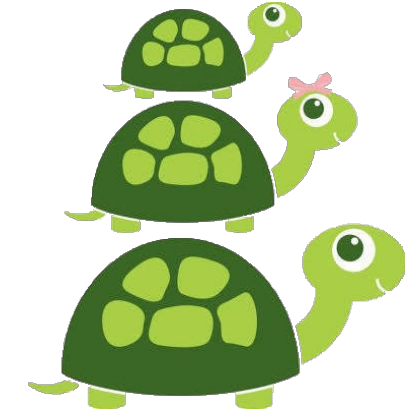
Capacity/Staffing

The TSP program can accommodate 18 students. TSP is responsible for fully staffing their program locations. Support of transitioning students. NDLA Elementary can accommodate 7 students DCPS must hire & provide training.





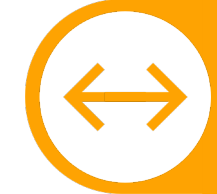
C. In-school Tier Alternative



Option C would eliminate the TSP partnership completely. The NDLA elementary would remain as stated in option B. The key component would be an alternative intervention classroom at each DCPS elementary school.
NDLAE alone \$369, 861.00

Staffing per School:
1 Certified teacher per room:7
2 IAs per room: 14
1 additional School Social worker per school (2)
2 additional School Counselors
Total Cost: \$ 1, 494, 109.00- School based

Total Cost: \$ 1,863, 970.00



COST ANALYSIS OPTION C



Fully DCPS funded:

DCPS would have to fully fund the staffing for 7 schools and may be able to assign the 5 COP school staff needs to the COP grant.



Training

All training provided by DCPS. DCPS would likely have to identify training, contract with a vendor, and pay staff over summer to receive training.



School impact

DCPS would handle all classroom issues/needs.



Capacity/Staffing

The Tiered program in all 12 schools can accommodate 84 students, at 7 per school. DCPS can reduce the number of schools that the programs are offered but that could potentially restrict NDLA access.



Redistribution of COP Grant Funding

- By reducing or eliminating the contract with the vendor DCPS can address systemic support concerns.
- School Counselors:
 - CSDHS/NDHS:
 - CSDHS currently has 4 counselors for 799 students. NDHS has 2 school counselors for 565 students. A 234-student difference. The proposal would be to add 2 counselors to NDHS as the area is experiencing the most growth.
 - MLMS/NDMS:
 - MLMS currently has 3 counselors for 505 students. NDMS currently has 2 counselors for 398 students. A 107-student difference. The proposal would be to add 1 counselor to NDMS as the area is experiencing the most growth.
 - HES/WES:
 - HES currently has 2 counselors for 358 students. WES has 1 school counselors for 339 students. A 19-student difference. The proposal would be to add 1 counselor to WES as the area is experiencing the most growth.
- School Social Workers:
 - Currently SDS, VES, WES, NDLA, NDMS only have access to part-time School Social workers. As the student population and the behavioral/mental health support needs of students has increased so has the need to provide services. The request would be to assign a fulltime SSW at NDMS, NDLA, and WES. The proposal would be to allow VES & SDS to continue part-time but increase the number of days available for a SSW.

The additional staffing costs for non-COP schools would be offset by transferring the School Counselors (7 positions) from the COP schools to the grant.

The 5 added school counselors to NDLA (1), NDHS (2), NDMS (1), and WES (1) as well as adding 1 additional SSW to WES would result in a net general fund savings of 1 position or \$ 77, 498.00 minimum

Staffing Cost Analysis

	Dorchester County Public Schools	Estimated cost of various positions - FY23			8/26/2022
	Position:	Salary	Health Ins (Husband/Wife)	FICA	Total Cost
	Coordinator	\$ 80,071	\$ 15,644	\$ 6,125	\$ 101,840
	Teacher	\$ 54,570	\$ 15,644	\$ 4,175	\$ 74,389
	Social Worker	\$ 62,155	\$ 15,644	\$ 4,755	\$ 82,554
	Guidance Counselor	\$ 57,458	\$ 15,644	\$ 4,396	\$ 77,498
	Ed Specialist	\$ 28,815	\$ 15,644	\$ 2,204	\$ 46,663
	Student Support Monitor	\$ 24,570	\$ 15,644	\$ 1,880	\$ 42,094
	Pupil Personnel Worker	\$ 62,759	\$ 15,644	\$ 4,801	\$ 83,204

Option Cost Analysis

Total Cost Comparison	Option A	Option B	Option C
<p>Total amount & funding sources</p>	<p>\$ 1,221,280.00 Funded through COP grant * total students at 1 time-45</p>	<p>\$ 1,051,302.00 COP grant would fund \$ 639,000.00 General fund from DCPS would cover \$369, 861.00 *does not include training or building preparation costs ** total students at 1 time-25</p>	<p>\$ 1,863, 970.00 General fund from DCPS would cover all *does not include training or building preparation costs ** total students at 1 time- 42</p>

A grayscale background image of a graduation ceremony. Graduates in caps and gowns are seen from behind, with their hands raised in the air, some holding their caps. The scene is dimly lit, creating a somber and celebratory atmosphere. Two horizontal orange lines are positioned above and below the main text.

THANK YOU!!!

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PRESENTATION
2022