

HOPE Learning Centers

Scope of Work

Project Summary

Supporting our school district to quickly pivot to deliver remote digital instruction to all 33,000 DPS students is an enormous undertaking. There are several critical pieces that must be in place to ensure digital equity for all students: (1) devices and internet access, (2) tech support, (3) well trained and supported teachers, and (4) a physical environment conducive to learning. If students are missing any one of these components, they won't be able to access learning this fall and the consequences on their lives and our broader community will be felt for decades.

HOPE Learning Centers - *Harnessing Our Partnerships for Education* - is a community response to ensuring all K-12 students have safe, welcoming and supportive space to access their online learning. These learning centers respond to a need seen across the state and country to provide a supervised, supportive environment for students who do not have access to a space conducive to remote learning during the day. These centers will not only provide an environment and adult support to access their online learning but will also provide support for meeting our most vulnerable students' social-emotional and nutrition needs.

Durham Public Schools, Durham County, Durham City and the broader Durham community are making huge investments in making DPS a 1:1 district (one device for every student) and putting in place the infrastructure to support strong digital instruction and remote learning. The community's investment in HOPE Learning Centers is an investment in ensuring the full ecosystem necessary for equitable access to digital remote learning is in place for all students, including our most vulnerable students.

This initiative aligns with Durham's County's Target Area **Community Enrichment**: *Provide resources and opportunities that increase family success and prosperity; children and youth are provided learning and enrichment opportunities that support educational achievement.*

Project Partners

DPS Foundation is serving as the fiscal sponsor for HOPE Learning Centers. In this role, DPS Foundation will administer project funds to HOPE Learning Center partners and manage reporting. The DPS Foundation will also lead fundraising to bring in philanthropic support for HOPE Learning Centers as part of the Accelerating Digital Equity campaign.

The HOPE Learning Centers model has been developed through a partnership of Durham Public Schools, Student U, YMCA, Durham Children's Initiative, Made in Durham, Emily K, and Boys and Girls Club.

The current partners that have committed to run one or more learning site as part of this collaborative are Durham Public Schools, Student U, YMCA and Kate's Corner. Other partners may join the collaborative if they agree to the following guidelines that govern the work of members of the HOPE Learning Center Collaborative. Community partner who formally join the collaborative agree to:

1. Prioritize serving children and families in our community who could not otherwise access care during this time.
2. Follow all DHHS rules for safely operating childcare centers in NC.
3. Provide an experience that focuses on: creating a safe and supportive space to complete DPS online learning, providing two meals a day and snacks throughout the day to sustain learning and implementing activities and experiences which increase the social and emotional capacity of our young people during this challenging time.
4. Participate in training on 1) child abuse prevention 2) providing trauma informed care 3) understanding DPS curriculum and expectations for online learning 4) Administering first aid and CPR trained
5. Create accessible enrollment processes for the families to access and work closely with DPS, DHA, DSS and other partners to identify vulnerable students.
6. Support the public campaign for Learning Centers throughout the community.
7. Share resources and learnings with each other to better serve all our children.

Hope Learning Center Partners agree to adhere to the collaboration agreement mentioned ahead in service of building consistency across the community and provide resources to partners interested in supporting children as a HOPE Learning Center. Our primary focus is to ensure that every family who needs this service and could not otherwise afford to provide it for their children, is served. By delivering these centers as part of the larger HOPE Learning Centers partnership, organizations will build consistency across the community and provide resources to partners interested in supporting children as a HOPE Learning Center.

Project Goals

Durham HOPE Learning Centers will provide:

1. Safe and supportive space to complete DPS online learning.
2. Two meals a day and snacks throughout the day to sustain learning.
3. Activities and experiences which increase the social and emotional capacity of our young people during this challenging time.
4. Recreation/physical activity

Learning Centers do not provide academic instruction. Rather, they provide a safe, supportive environment where students can access their DPS learning.

HOPE Learning Centers aims to provide free access to as many DPS students with the greatest need for this resource as possible. Based on available funding and space, partners will prioritize providing free access to vulnerable students.

Enrollment and Access

Partners estimate that at least 3,000 DPS students need free access to learning centers. This estimate is based on several pieces of data including the number of DPS students who qualify for free-reduced price lunch, regularly accessed free meal sites during school closures, and live in DHA sites. Our goal is to provide free access to as many families as need this option.

Partners will prioritize free seats for our most vulnerable children who will suffer devastating consequences from loss of learning and lack of social-emotional support if they do not have a safe, nurturing space to access their online learning. Partners are currently working with DHA, Durham County Social Services, and DPS school social workers to identify students with the greatest need.

Durham HOPE Centers will prioritize providing free access to children who:

1. Are experiencing homelessness or transitional housing
2. Qualify for free or reduced lunch
3. Have parents who work in essential jobs and aren't able to have childcare at home during the day (food industry, custodial staff, healthcare)
4. Have parents who have become unemployed due to COVID
5. Are part of the foster care system
6. Live in Public Housing

The current goal is to begin some HOPE Centers on September 8th and add more sites as space and funding permits.

Learning Center Implementation

HOPE Learning Centers will be located at 6 DPS schools as well as in community sites across Durham County. We are currently seeking additional community spaces that meet our space requirements for ensuring safety.

All learning centers connecting to this initiative will operate within all DHHS guidelines. This includes but is not limited to:

- Students will be assigned to learning pods with no more than 12 children.
- Students will be screened daily upon entering the building.
- All learning centers will require universal masking and keep children 6 feet apart.

Each partner implements their own staffing process so staffing models vary. All partners pay staff a living wage and require background checks for all staff.

Centers will have their own approaches for engaging with teachers but will make efforts to reach out to teachers and inform them that students are in our learning center.

Supporting students with IEPs, special needs and ELLs will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Learning Center partners recognize that these students require a higher level of care, and as such, will work closely with DPS to determine the right approach and supports for each of these children.

Partners will send COVID-reporting directly to the county health department.

Based on DPS's current schedule, there is an opportunity for other partners to support, especially on Wednesday and Fridays when DPS has a more flexible schedule. Involving other partners can be challenging due to COVID guidelines but Learning Centers will seek additional partnerships as it is feasible and will help meet the initiative's goals.

Reporting and Evaluation

DPS Foundation will:

- Submit a COI from all participating partners to Durham County and Durham City that meets insurance requirements;
- Hold and administer funds dedicated to HOPE Learning Centers to the participating partners;
- Collect reporting from partners and submit reporting to Durham County and Durham City.

DPS Foundation will collect and submit the following reporting from HOPE Learning Center partners:

- **September 30, 2020:**
 - Enrollment report showing the number of students enrolled per site per week, number of students who live in DHA, number of students who qualify for FRL, number of students who were referred by a DSS or school social workers.
 - Attendance report showing the rate of attendance at each site.
 - Overview from partners on efforts to recruit students and identify the most vulnerable students for enrollment.
 - Update on the assessment of demand and need from partners based on early recruitment.
- **November 20, 2020:**
 - Enrollment report showing the number of students enrolled per site per week, number of students who live in DHA, number of students who qualify for FRL, number of students who were referred by a DSS or school social workers.
 - Attendance report showing the rate of attendance at each site.
 - Narrative report from participating partners on what is going well, challenges that have arisen and strategies to address challenges.

- Overview from partners on projected plans for 2021 based on current knowledge of school reopening plans.
- **December 18, 2020:**
 - Enrollment report showing the number of students enrolled per site per week, number of students who live in DHA, number of students who qualify for FRL, number of students who were referred by a DSS or school social workers.
 - Attendance report showing the rate of attendance at each site.
 - Update on plans for 2021.

Learning Center partners will continue to work with community partners in our collective effort to determine the remaining unmet need for learning centers. DPS is well positioned to assess the full need of learning centers for students. Family surveys that DPS is conducting may help assess this as can information being collected by other entities.

Project Budget

Through DPS Foundation's Accelerating Digital Equity campaign the HOPE Learning Center partners are pursuing additional funding to both expand the number of students served and the length of time we can commit to students having access. Goals for increasing free seats and/or extending the length of time learning centers will operate will respond to DPS's evolving plans for school reopening.

Revenue

Source	Amount	Percentage	Current Status
Durham County	\$ 405,600	30%	Secured
Durham City	\$ 338,000	25%	Secured
Durham Public Schools Foundation - <i>committed as of 9/3/20</i>			Secured
	\$ 300,000	22%	
Durham Public Schools Foundation - <i>active fundraising is ongoing, actual amount TBD</i>			Expected - based on fundraising
	\$ 300,000	22%	
TOTAL	\$ 1,343,600	100%	

Note: DPS is also providing support through the DPS Learning Centers which include free and subsidized seats

Expenses

Budget Items	Total Cost
150 students w/ free access to YMCA site for 11 weeks	\$ 330,000
108 students w/ free access to Student U site for 11 weeks	\$ 237,600
80 students w/ free access to Kate's Corner site for 11 weeks	\$ 176,000
Subsidizing additional free seats and/or extend length of time beyond the currently funded 11 weeks for existing seats at YMCA, Student U, Kate's Corner, DPS and/or new partner administered sites (using funds from DPS Foundation) *	\$ 585,128 *
DPS Foundation administration	\$ 14,872 (split by City and County)
TOTAL	\$ 1,343,600
<i>*Subject to variability based on fundraising total</i>	

Fund Disbursement Schedule

Durham County will disburse funds to DPS Foundation on these dates:

- \$202,500 disbursed on September 28, 2020
- \$202,500 disbursed on November 2, 2020