



Date: 12/14/2020

Subject: Updates on Community HOPE Centers

From: HOPE Partners

To: County Commissioners

HOPE (Harnessing our Partnerships for Education) Learning Centers were designed by community partners to serve as safe, welcoming and supportive communities for young people K-12 to access while completing their online learning.

Our goals are to provide students:

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 (Art, coding, restorative circles, STEM, leadership, etc),
4. Recreation/physical activity

With a sustaining investment from the County Commission and City Council, HOPE Centers were able to open in September. Through the partnership we were able to offer enrollment free of cost to students who meet any of the following criteria until January 15th:

1. Are experiencing houselessness 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 Durham Housing Authority [Housing](#)

To date, the partners have served 310 students across our sites. Collectively we employ 41 community members. The YMCA serves students from 17 schools, Student U from 24 and Kate's Korner 23. The impact our work has extends beyond the student's ability to learn, into the community through the jobs we have created and the support the centers provide that has enabled some families to return to work.

As we look to the second semester, the partners desire to continue to work with our students but cannot do so without an investment from the County. The DPS Board of Education voted in November to remain in Plan C for the remainder of the year, but allow Pre-K-5th grade families who



opt-in an opportunity to receive in person instruction twice a week if/when Durham's positivity rate is below 4% for at least two weeks. In the same vote, the Board permitted high needs middle and high school students the opportunity to be on campus once a week. On December 10th, the School Board voted to extend their commitment to their Learning Centers to January 29th. ***The Board of Education will meet on January 7th to revisit their reopening plans.***

Based on what we know today, the partners believe that the learning centers will need to operate in the same manner for middle and high school through the spring. In addition to this, though the option to opt-in to in person instruction is available for Pre K-5th grade students, the positivity rate standard combined with only 2 days of instructions will mean that elementary school students will also need support in the spring.

Below is a cost breakdown for the second semester.

			<i>At current enrollment</i>	
	<i>Serves students in grades:</i>	<i>Total number students currently enrolled</i>	<i>Third Quarter (Jan 19 - March 26)</i>	<i>Fourth Quarter (April 5 - June 4)</i>
<i>Student U</i>	<i>6th - 12th grade</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>\$220,000</i>	<i>\$176,000</i>
<i>YMCA</i>	<i>K - 5th grade</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>\$232,000</i>	<i>\$208,800</i>
<i>Kate's Korner</i>	<i>K - 5th grade</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>\$160,000</i>	<i>\$144,000</i>
<i>DPS Foundation fiscal agent admin fee</i>			<i>\$3,000</i>	
		<i>Total cost per quarter</i>	<i>\$615,000</i>	<i>\$528,800</i>
		<i>Total cost spring semester</i>	<i>\$1,143,800</i>	

At this time, the partners request a commitment of \$615,000 from the County Commissioners to keep learning centers open through 3rd quarter. The Partners will be making a request to the DPS Foundation for additional funding to support Learning Centers in the spring. We make this request now in order to give our families and staff certainty that they will have a place to learn and work through at least the 3rd quarter. Current allocated funding will be used by early January. Families and staff need to know soon whether they will continue to have the support of learning centers in January.



County funding to support learning centers is based on enrollment. Should elementary school students be able to return to school during 3rd quarter, a reduced amount of funding will be provided to the partners to align with the number of days/student served and the remaining balance will be allocated for the 4th quarter and/or to support middle school/high school Learning Centers.