

McNaugher Education Center: A Relocation

RATIONALE

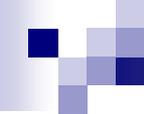
- PPS, Program for Students with Exceptionalities, aspires to provide exemplary services and best practices for ALL students with disabilities.
- Both The Council of the Great City Schools, and the PA State Performance Plan indicated that for the past three years PPS (12.7%) was three times greater than the state target (4.3%) for students served in out-of-district settings.
- PSE work in 2010-2011 will focus on action planning to reverse this trend.

REDUCING RELIANCE ON OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENTS

- During the 2009-2010 school year, PPS has taken steps to reduce its placement of students in approved private schools, especially among students requiring emotional support.
- PSE returned 24 PPS high school students, and placed them at Westinghouse High School with supports and services provided by a combination of contracted services (Holy Family Institute) and district services.
- Also, an additional 13 students were returned and placed into the McNaugher Program.

Total Number of PPS Students in need of more restrictive emotional support services:

- 116 -- current population at McNaugher.
- 38 -- on wait list for McNaugher.
- 36 -- students currently at Holy Family/Westinghouse site .
- 290 -- students are placed at various approved private schools throughout the city.
- 70-80 -- students are referred annually for placement in approved private schools.



What is needed: Facility Consideration

- A larger facility to accommodate growing numbers of ES students is necessary beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.
- A minimum of 25-30 classrooms.
- Classrooms configured in close proximity to enable staff to support one another in crisis situations.
- Classroom configurations that facilitate clusters (3-5, 6-8, and 9-12) for instructional purposes.

Looking to the Future: The Process

- Several facilities were investigated for use that potentially meet the size and building specifications, these include:
 - Columbus
 - Knoxville
 - Co-existence in a high school
(Westinghouse or Oliver).
- Discussions regarding movement of the program have taken place with PSE administration, McNaugher administration, Facilities, Budget and Finance and The Right to Education Local Task Force.
- Based on programmatic and facility needs, and due to it's size and configuration, it is the recommendation of PSE that Knoxville be considered as the site for intense emotional support services with a therapeutic component.