



**WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**

PACKET

MARCH 7, 2022

07:00 PM

WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA*

(AGENDA SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW)

PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

7:00 p.m., Staples High School, Cafeteria B (Room 301)

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (15 MINUTES)

MINUTES

February 7 and 28, 2022

Attachment: [Meeting February 7 2022 Staples High School.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Meeting February 28 2022 Staples High School.pdf](#)

DISCUSSION

A. Effective School Solutions

Mr. Michael Rizzo

Ms. Allison Whitman

Mr. Jared DeLancey

Ms. Cheryl Planten

Attachment: [Westport MP.pdf](#)

B. Board of Education Communication

Ms. Lee Goldstein

DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. Award of Bid 022-006-BOE CES Relocatable Classrooms

Mr. Elio Longo

Attachment: [Memo to T. Scarice - RFP 022-006-BOE.pdf](#)

ADJOURNMENT

*A 2/3 vote is required to go to executive session, to add a topic to the agenda of a regular meeting, or to start a new topic after 10:30 p. m.

The meeting can also be viewed on Cablevision on channel 78; Frontier channel 6021 and by video stream @www.westportps.org

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WELCOME USING THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

- Comment on non-agenda topics will occur during the first 15 minutes except when staff or guest presentations are scheduled.
- Board will not engage in dialogue on non-agenda items.
- Public may speak as agenda topics come up for discussion or information.
- Speakers on non-agenda items are limited to 2 minutes each, except by prior arrangement with chair.
- Speakers on agenda items are limited to 3 minutes each, except by prior arrangement with chair.
- Speakers must give name and address, and use microphone.
- Per Board policy, speakers must be town residents or employees
- Responses to questions may be deferred if answers not immediately available.
- Public comment is normally not invited for topics listed for action after having been publicly discussed at one or more meetings.

General Attachments

[- BOE Meeting Memo March 7 2022.pdf](#)



WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THOMAS SCARICE
Superintendent of Schools

110 Myrtle Avenue
Westport, Connecticut 06880
Telephone: (203) 341-1025
Fax: (203) 341-1029
tscarice@westportps.org

To: Westport Board of Education Members
From: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools
Re: March 7, 2022 Board of Education Meeting
Date: March 3, 2022

Provided below for Board consideration is an overview of the meeting agenda items for March 7, 2022. The meeting will be held in-person.

Discussion

1. Effective School Solutions

As the Board is aware, the district has adopted the Effective Schools Solutions (ESS) program for Staples High School this year. This program is intended to serve students with acute social and emotional needs with an intent on keeping them in their home school and in their core classrooms as much as possible. In addition, this program works to avoid and contain costs as students remain in their home schools and avoid outplacements. Representatives from ESS, in tandem with Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, Mike Rizzo, will present the progress of the program so far this year, midway through the first year of implementation. A slide deck has been included in the meeting packet.

2. Board of Education Communication

The Board will discuss various approaches to improving Board/Community communication. Board Chair, [Lee Goldstein](#), will lead the discussion about ways that the Board can augment communication about Board of Education work and progress to the community.

Discussion/Action

1. Award of Bid 022-006-BOE CES Relocatable Classrooms

Bids for the CES modular classroom closed on Thursday February 24. Chief Financial Officer, Elio Longo, presented information to the Board at the February 28 meeting. Please see Elio's memo from the February 28 meeting for the recommendation. The Board is being asked to take action to approve and award this project based on the bids. With this bid, the district is positioned to have this project come within budget and on time for the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

Proposed Modifications to the 2021-2022 School Calendar as a Result of January 3 PD Day

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the reduction of student school days from 182 to 181 for the 2021-2022 school year.

MOTION: Lee Goldstein

SECOND: Christina Torres

RESULT: Passed

VOTE: 5-0-1 (Liz Heyer Abstained & Neil Phillips Absent)

ADJOURNMENT: Dorie Hordon moved to adjourn at 10:35pm; seconded by Christina Torres and passed unanimously. Passed 6-0 (Neil Phillips absent)

Respectfully submitted,
Neil Phillips, Secretary
(Minutes written by Lisa Marriott)

Be it further resolved, that pursuant to the proposed new policy, Policy Concerning Health and Safety Protocols Related to COVID-19, the Board hereby authorizes and directs the administration of the Westport Public Schools to develop health and safety protocols related to COVID-19 consistent with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and requirements, and to consider current guidance in the development of such protocols.

**MOTION: Lee Goldstein
SECOND: Robert Harrington
RESULT: Passed unanimously
VOTE: 7-0**

DISCUSSION

Award of Bid 022-006-BOE CES Relocatable Classrooms

Five-Year Capital Forecast

Discussion of 2023-2024 School Calendar

ADJOURNMENT: Christina Torres moved to adjourn at 10:01 p.m.; seconded by Liz Heyer and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Neil Phillips, Secretary
(Minutes written by Lisa Marriott)



Westport School District

First Half of the Year Review 2021-2022



BOE Presentation

March 7, 2022



Effective School Solutions

Executive Summary



- The ESS program in Westport School District is making a critical impact on mental health outcomes for the district, while also creating a cost savings for district financial health
- Utilization of services has been high, with **[781]** Tier 3 total therapeutic interactions and **[86%]** of enrolled students engaging with services weekly
- Students in the ESS program have shown significant improvement, with **(75%)** of students showing increased grades, **(92%)** showing decreasing or consistent in school discipline, and **(92%)** of students showing improved or consistent attendance this year; we're excited about the progress and expect to see this continue
- In addition, the program has been successful in bringing **4** student back from out of district placement status and has prevented an estimated **3** additional out of district placements, **creating a cost savings this year for the district of \$280K**
- We appreciate the strong partnership and the willingness to address the mental health epidemic our young people are facing. We look forward to the continued growth and ongoing partnership with you. Thank you!

The Mental Health Crisis Facing Our Young People

Mental Health outcomes have been degrading for students for over a decade



- 1 in 5 students struggle with a mental health disorder
- The population of students with significant mental health disorders has increased by 76% since 2011

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased sources of trauma



- Studies show that quarantine significantly increased rates of anxiety and depression among children
- For 11-21 year-olds, rates of suicidal ideation increased 45-60% vs. The prior year in the early days of the pandemic

The latest research indicates that students are having significant social-emotional challenges upon return to school

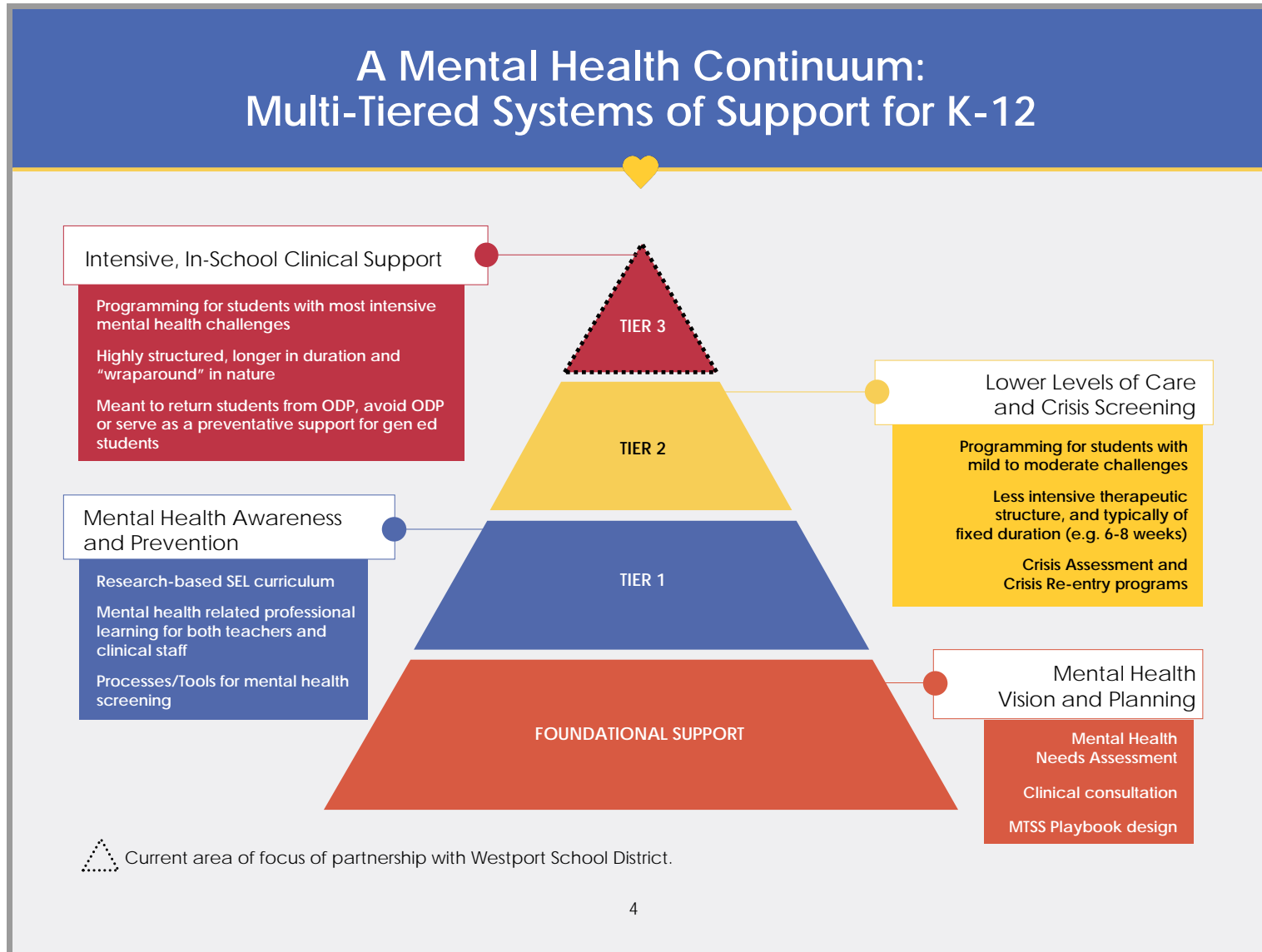


- Challenges in re-integrating into the social structures of school
- Challenges in re-setting sleep patterns
- Anxiety and stress of making up for lost academic progress

Sources: National Alliance on Mental Illness, JAMA Network, 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, National Vital Statistics Report, Harvard University, National Law Review, American Association of Pediatrics

“Clearly, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on children’s holistic well being are numerous and go beyond the risk of acquiring a severe acute respiratory infection. All this has repercussions for children, which is not addressed, are likely to be longstanding and could have even worse outcomes in the future.”
– *Journal of Childhood, Education, and Society*

A Mental Health Continuum: Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for K-12



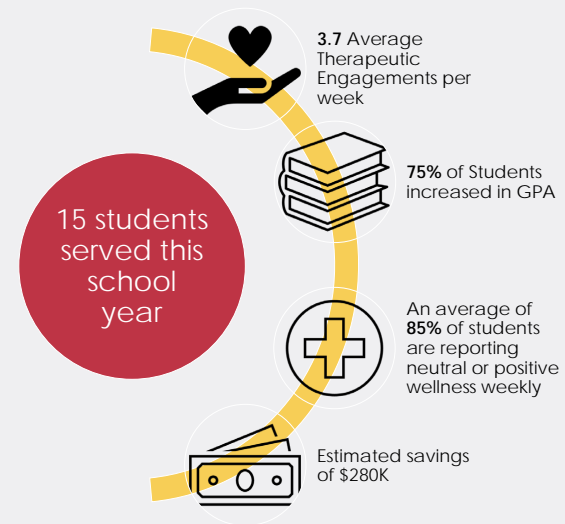
District Wide Snapshot 2021 – 2022 School Year



Service Delivery



Clinical Snapshot

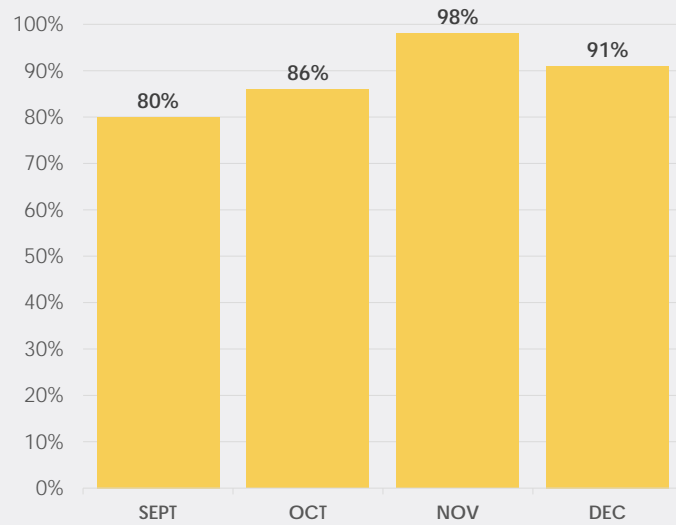


*Service Delivery includes data through 2/12/22

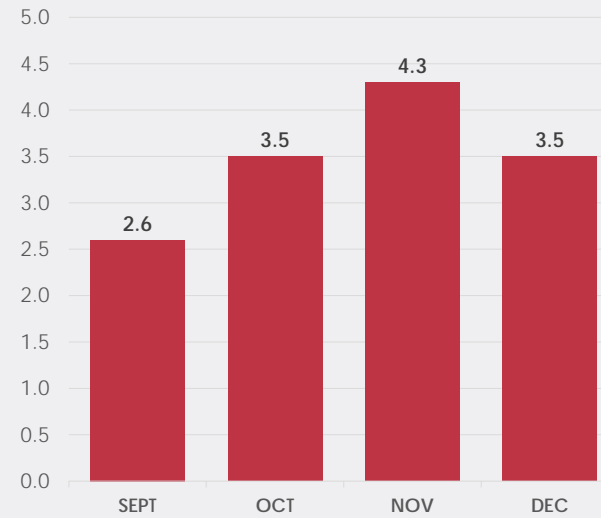
Engagement with Therapeutic Services




% of students engaged with services weekly
(at least one service per week during time period)




Interactions per student per week



Measuring and Quantifying Therapeutic Progress



Each week, students rate their current mental wellness and clinicians rate the students progress towards reaching their therapeutic goals.

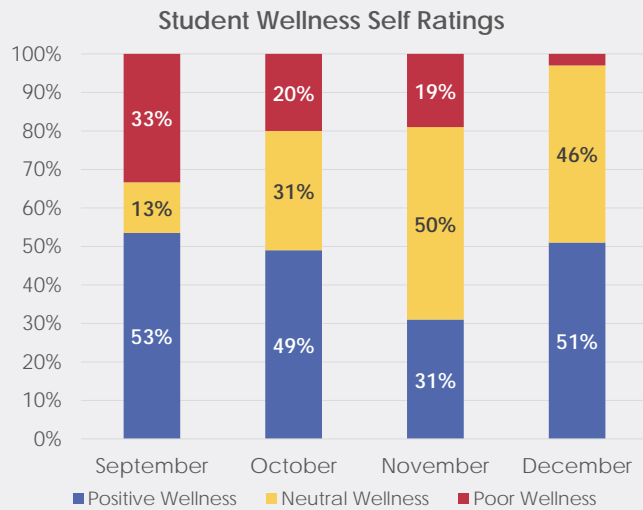
Student and clinical wellness scores are evaluated individually and as a group to measure efficacy of treatments

Wellness Scales

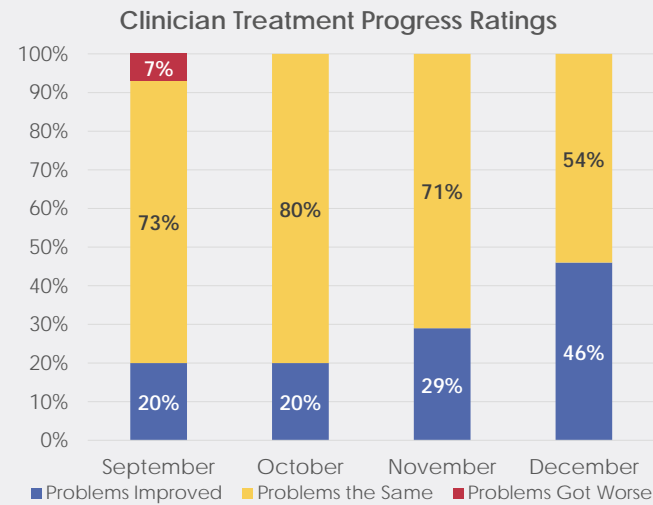
<u>Student Self Rating Category</u>	
Positive Wellness	1=Excelling/Doing Great
	2=Thriving/Doing OK
Neutral Wellness	3=Surviving/Getting Irritated
Poor Wellness	4=Struggling/Angry
	5=In Crisis/Unable to Remain Calm

<u>Clinician Therapeutic Progress Rating</u>	
Problems Improved	1=Goal Achieved
	2=Problems Achieved
Problems the Same	3=Problems Improved
	4=Problems the Same
Problems Worse	5=Problems Worse

District Wide Therapeutic Progress



% of student wellness scores showing positive wellness: 85%



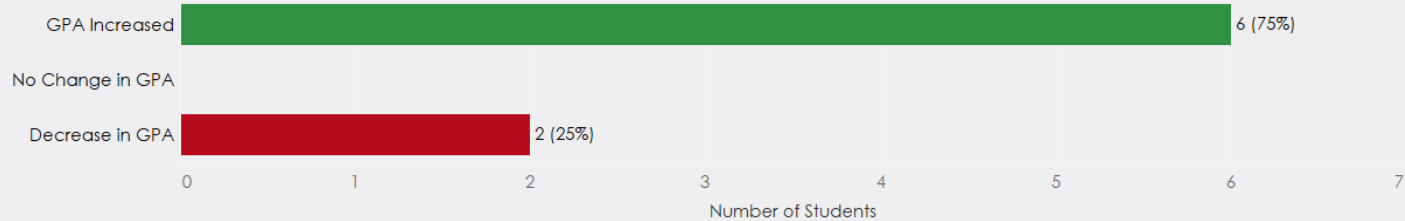
% of clinical progress scores showing positive therapeutic progress 99%

Student Academic Progress Indicators



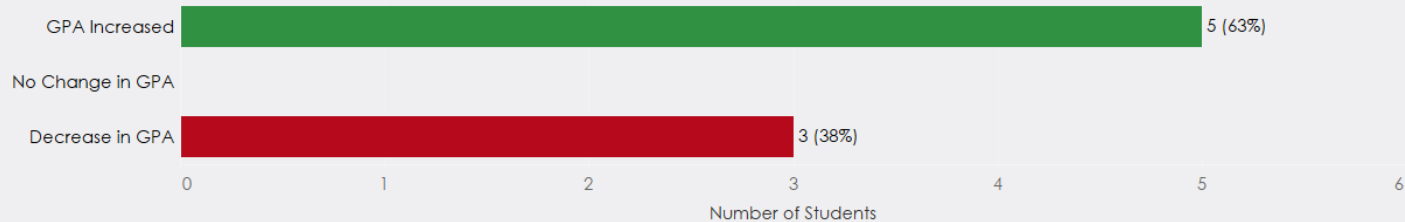
Tier 3 students have their performance measured when first admitted and at the end of each marking period to measure growth

MP 1 GPA



75% of students increased in GPA compared to baselines

MP 2 GPA



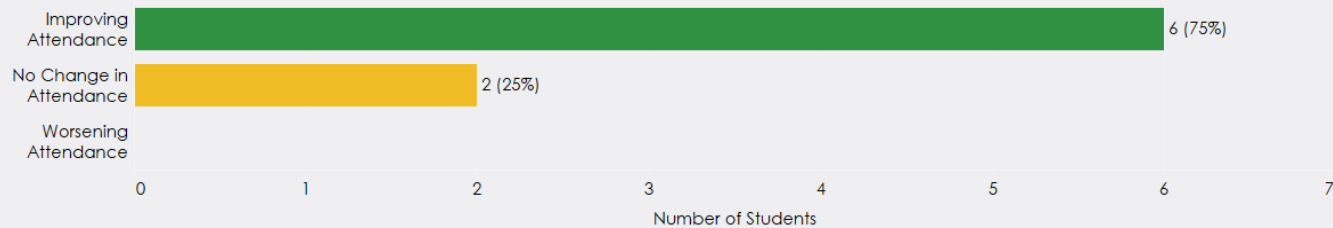
63% of students increased in GPA compared to baselines

Student Academic Progress Indicators



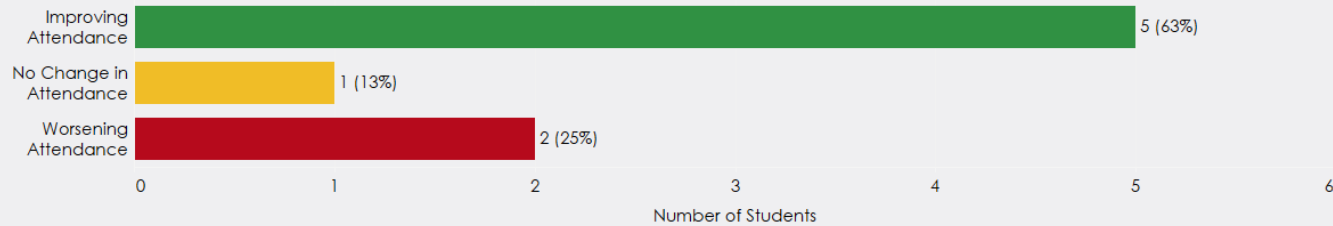
Tier 3 students have their performance measured when first admitted and at the end of each marking period to measure growth

MP 1 Attendance

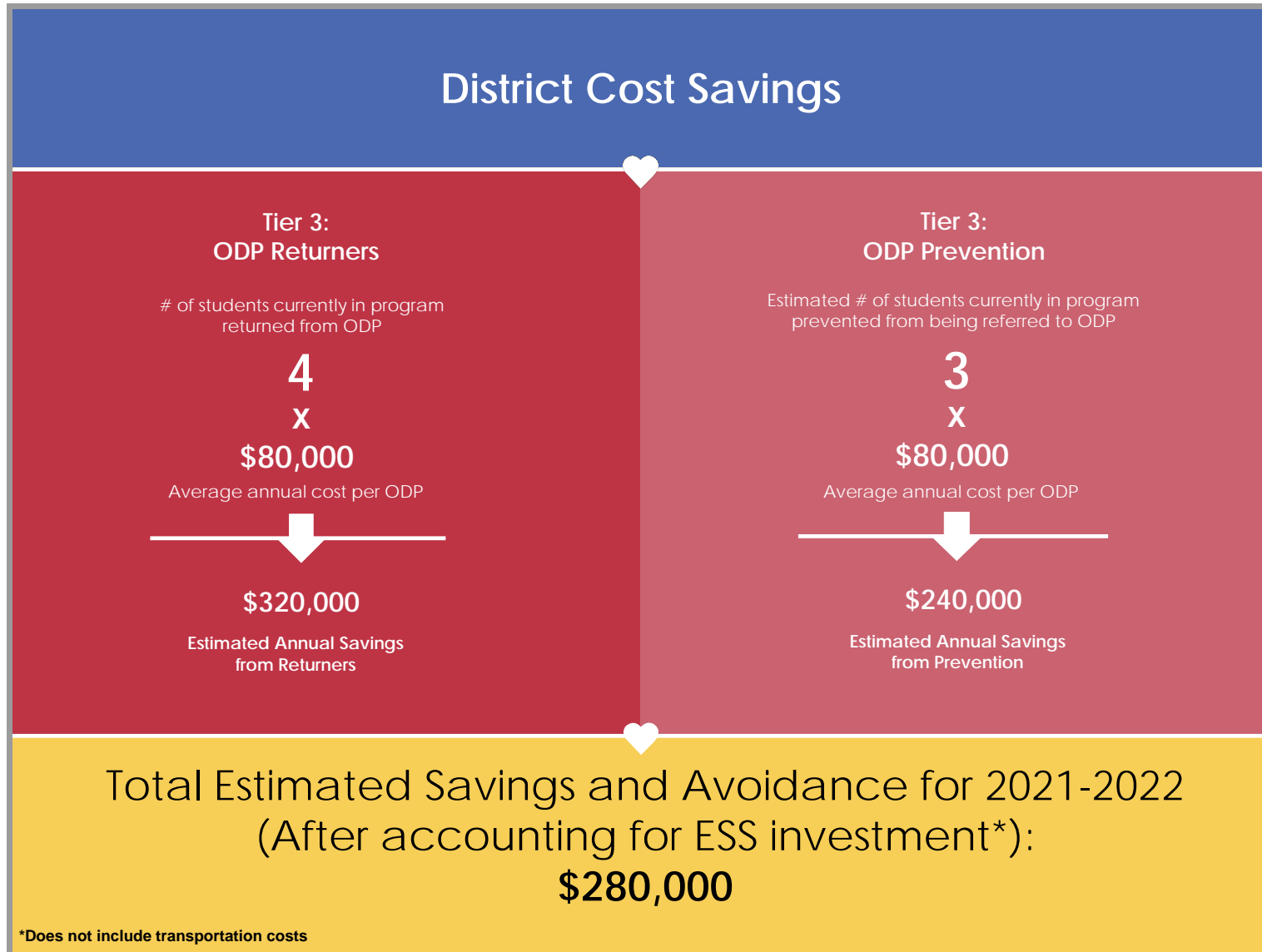


75% of students decreased in absences compared to baseline

MP 2 Attendance



63% of students decreased in absences compared to baseline



Staff Time Savings – School District MP 1 | 2021 – 2022



ESS provides comprehensive support and availability for enrolled students throughout the school day.

The data below represents the total number of urgent non-scheduled sessions provided to ESS students during the designated time period.

Urgent Sessions with Students

115



Estimated Staff Hours Saved

58

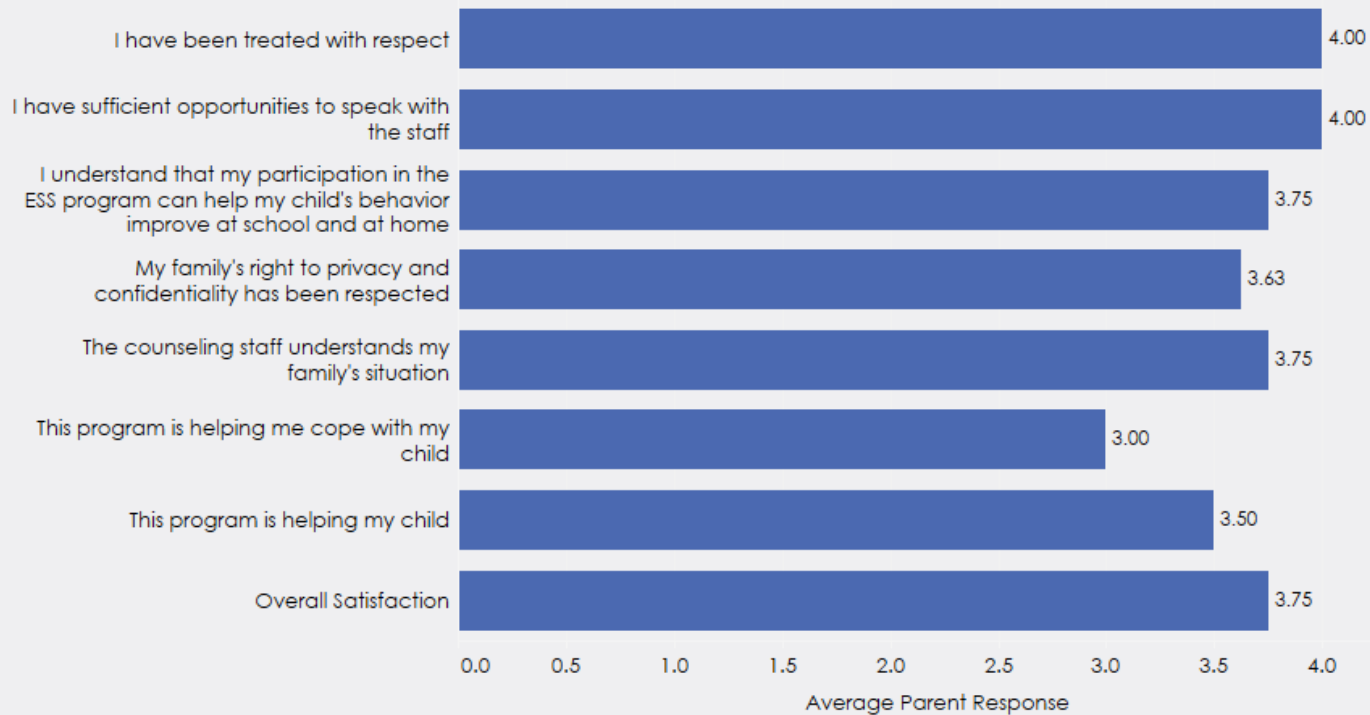


Parent Survey Results

n=8



Parent Survey Ratings (4=Strongly Agree, 3=Agree, 2=Disagree, 1=Strongly Disagree)



What our parents are saying...

"I am so pleased to see the dramatic, positive turn in my 10th grader's demeanor compared to 9th grade. My student is a more positive person, earning better grades, and contributing some to school community. My child even created a joke in Spanish and earned a laugh from his language teacher; wow! ESS adds the emotional structure and support that helps my child better manage frustrations and mental well-being with compassion, kindness and reality. In the first 90 days of school, no significant issues. And now in February, my child contributed some self-care ideas to help others in ESS group which signifies more than caring, my child means to help others and is finding a voice to lead."

"Thank you for all you have done for my child"

"ESS is a life saver. We are so grateful Staples High School implemented this program during the most challenging of times. During and after the pandemic, my child was angry, unhappy and overall engaging in very risky behavior. ESS has made all the difference in keeping my child home and not sending to a therapeutic boarding school. My child loves this program and looks forward to the individual and group therapy sessions. Our child is happy and loves going to school now. Forever grateful for this program. All schools should have this opportunity."

"Love this program! My child loves the therapist, Maribel and loves the group. Amazing Amazing program!"

"I have a child who's in 10th grade. the ESS program is an extremely beneficial and supportive program. It is crucial in the success of my child coming back to Staples from out of district. This program provides 1:1 meetings as well as a group setting with credentialed professionals. The program is an added advocacy component that provides so much support for my child in school to be successful. It is somewhat Unfortunate that not all students are able to benefit from such an amazing program."



Thank You

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E-mail address: elongo@westportps.org

ELIO LONGO, MBA
Chief Financial Officer

INTEROFFICE MEMO

To: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools
Date: February 25, 2022
Re: RFP 022-006-BOE CES Relocatable Classrooms

Tom –

On Friday, February 25, 2022, the Business Office conducted a bid recording and a bid opening of RFP 022-006-BOE Coleytown Elementary School Relocatable Classrooms. The following information summarizes our progress to-date and the required next steps:

CES Relocatable Classrooms (modular)
Bid #: 22-006-BOE
Bid closing date: Friday, February 24, 2022, 3:00 PM
Number of bids received: 2
Number of bids qualified: 1
Qualified Bidder: Aries Building Systems, LLC
Disqualified Bidder: BOXX Modular (bid was not signed by an authorized agent; intentionally submitted without signature; bid incomplete)

A review of the Aries Building Systems, LLC bid took place on Friday, February 25, 2022. The bid proposal was reviewed by Elio Longo (CFO), Ted Hunyadi (Dir. of Facilities & Security) and Phil Cerrone (Cerrone Architects LLC). The bid conforms to the bid specifications.

Aries Building Systems bid proposal in summary:
Refurbished unit (previously located at Fairfield Public Schools)
Year Constructed: 2016
Year Refurbished: 2022
Number of calendar days following Award of Contract for Completion of Work: 90 days

Base Bid
48 month term: \$2,847/month; \$1,650/month lease extension (beyond month 48).
48 month total lease payment: \$136,656
One additional year (months 49-60) under lease extension: \$19,800
Tear down and removal at the end of the lease term: \$12,000
Total 48 month lease term: \$136,656 + \$12,000 = \$148,656

Total 60 month lease term (extension): $\$136,656 + \$19,800 + \$12,000 = \$168,456$

60 month term: $\$2,523/\text{month}$; $\$1,497/\text{month}$ lease extension (beyond month 60)

60 month total lease payment: $\$151,380$

Tear down and removal at the end of the lease term: $\$12,000$

Total 60 month lease term: $\$151,380 + \$12,000 = \$163,380$

Alternate Pricing Option #1 (48 month lease with delivery and installation paid in advance)

One time delivery and installation: $\$43,137$

Term 48 months: $\$1,647/\text{month}$

Lease extension beyond 48 months: $\$1,650/\text{month}$

48 month total lease payment: $\$79,056$

One additional year (months 49-60) under lease extension: $\$19,800$

Tear down and removal at the end of the lease term: $\$12,000$

Total 48 month: $\$43,137 + \$79,056 + \$12,000 = \$134,193$

Total 60 month (under extension): $\$43,137 + \$79,056 + \$19,800 + \$12,000 = \$153,993$

Alternate Pricing Option #2 (60 month lease with delivery and installation paid in advance)

One time delivery and installation: $\$43,137$

Term 60 months: $\$1,497/\text{month}$

Lease extension beyond 60 months: $\$1,497/\text{month}$

60 month total lease payment: $\$89,820$

Tear down and removal at the end of the lease term: $\$12,000$

Total 60 month: $\$43,137 + \$89,820 + \$12,000 = \$144,957$

Base 48 month bid with removal: $\$148,656$

Alt. Bid #1 48 month with removal: $\$134,193$

Base 48 month + 1 year extension with removal: $\$168,646$

Alt. Bid #1 48 month + 1 year extension with removal: $\$153,993$

Base 60 month bid with removal: $\$163,380$

Alt. Bid #2 60 month with removal: $\$144,957$

Next steps:

RFP 022-010-BOE CES Canopy (closing date 03/11/22)

An application for waiver of fire sprinkler system for a modular unit has been filed with Connecticut's State Fire Marshal (in process).

Review requirements and file separate applications with Westport P&Z (as a school we need a special permit and a site plan approval) and ZBA (request variance from regulation for exceeding allowable grounds coverage by approximately 1%). Notice to the public (surrounding neighbors). Pending; beginning on March 1, 2022.

Request funding approval of BOF & RTM contingent on the approvals of all state and local agencies/boards/authorities as required.

Respectfully,

Elio