

The background of the slide features a collage of children's handprints in various colors (black, white, red) arranged in a circular pattern. Below the handprints, there are several cutouts of penguins, some of which are wearing blue and white striped shirts. The overall theme is a 'Penguin Plunge' event.

Stafford Public Schools 2018-2019

Presentation to Implement Stafford Learning Center

Serving students K-5

March 26, 2018

Presented by: Jolene Piscetello, Director of Pupil Services

"Penguin Plunge"

Stafford Public Schools, Board Approved 18-19 Budget

Stafford High School

What is it.....

The Stafford Learning Center is a program that will serve students in grades K-5 that currently attend Staffordville, West Stafford, or Stafford Elementary Schools. Students would be serviced at West Stafford School (Grades K-1) and Stafford Elementary School (Grades 2-5). In addition, students that are currently attending clinical day treatment (outplacement) schools would be considered for return to the district and attend the program.

The program would provide students that require a highly specialized teaching methodology, instruction aimed at developing the student's emotional, behavioral, and social functioning. Services would be specific to developing a student's ability to independently self regulate, maintain safe and appropriate classroom behavior, and build positive connections with adults and peers.

Rationale

All three elementary schools have seen an increase in students that have social, emotional and behavioral needs. This program would allow for those needs to be addressed in district.

When students are dysregulated and display unsafe behavior in the general school setting it puts staff and students at risk, disrupts the learning environment and could potentially alienate the student from their peers.

Stafford Public Schools currently has 9 students in grades K-5 outplaced in clinical day treatment schools. These placements average approximately \$77,106.00 per student for tuition and \$12,368.00 per student for transportation.

Keeping students in district would allow students and parents to continue to feel connected to Stafford. Students that feel connected to an adult or to peers are more likely to be successful in school.

Stafford Learning Center, K - 5

Staffing Requirements and Cost / Benefit Analysis

- **2 Certified Special Education Teachers**
- **1 Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) (New position)**
- **4-6 Paraprofessionals (Potential to fill 3 positions by restructuring current staff)**
- **5 hours per week School Social Worker (Can be covered by current staff)**
- **Varied hours of need for Occupational Therapist (OT), Physical Therapist (PT), Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) - dependent on student IEP related services (Utilize current staff)**

Stafford Learning Center, K - 5

Staffing Requirements and Cost / Benefit Analysis

2 Certified Staff Members	\$119,476.00 (salary and benefits)
1 BCBA	\$84,000 (salary and benefits)
3 Paraprofessionals	\$79,246.74 (salary and benefits)
Program Supplies	\$2,000 (approximation)

The goal is to return up to 4 students from outplacement for the start of the 2018-2019 school year. The district would realize savings that should offset additional staffing costs. Average cost per student is \$77,106.00 (tuition) and \$12,368.00 (transportation). Additionally, there may be a reduction in fees that are paid to consultants.

A few details...

The Learning Center would have entry and exit criteria for the students.

All staff would complete appropriate de-escalation and physical restraint trainings.

Staff would be provided ongoing professional development.

Parents would be encouraged to participate in monthly parent education sessions.

A few regular education teachers would be asked to partner with The Learning Center to provide feedback regarding curriculum and serve as a liaison between the program and the regular education classrooms.