

April 7, 2015- Regular Board Meeting

Title

3. RENEWAL OF THE CATAPULT ACADEMY CONTRACT

Recommendation

That the Duval County School Board renew the contact for Catapult Academy for one year with an option to renew for one additional year.

That the Duval County School Board authorize the Board Chairman, and in the event of her absence, the Vice Chairman and Superintendent to execute the agreement contingent upon approval as to legal form and sufficiency by the Office of Legal Services. That authority be delegated to the Superintendent or his designee to renew the Agreement for the subsequent annual period provided the terms and conditions are essentially the same for the additional period.

Description

Catapult Academy currently services 684 students who have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out in Duval County Public Schools. Catapult Learning bought the assets of the previous provider in January of 2014 and have substantially upgraded the facilities, the program delivery, and results in a short period of time. Catapult Academy is a strategy noted in the district's Dropout Prevention Plan for providing an alternative education setting for students who struggle with the traditional school environment or who have already become disengaged with the school system. Catapult Academy also operates in Hillsborough and Marion County in Florida and three districts in Georgia.

Gap Analysis

Duval County Public Schools, with an increased graduation rate, has roughly 2,000 cohort seniors (not including students who dropout earlier in their grade school years) that do not graduate with a diploma. While the district has done a notable job in increasing the graduation rate and decreasing the number and percent of students dropping out, there are students who do not thrive in a traditional environment and thrive in an alternative setting.

Previous Outcomes

It is important to note that Catapult Learning took over the assets of Drop Back In (Alternatives Unlimited, Inc.) in January of 2014. This data represents the increases in collaboration with the district and increased monitoring and academic services provided to their students since taking over.

School Number/Name	Graduation Rate					Percent Change 1213 to 1314
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	

0501	Catapult*	5.39	1.71	3.34	2.65	6.00	126%
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School Number/Name		Average Credits Earned					Percent Increase 1213 to 1314
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
0501	Catapult*	2.33	2.23	1.67	1.24	2.31	86%

School Number/Name		Percent 6+ Earned Credits					Percent Increase 1213 to 1314
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
0501	Catapult*	11.00	10.11	3.97	1.98	7.92	300%

* Catapult Academy began operation of the schools (data presented) in January of 2014 - previous data is not attributed to Catapult, however, the increase in 2014 is attributed to the changes implemented under new management

Source: Genesis Data Warehouse, 9/15/2014

Expected Outcomes

Catapult Academy will be expected to increase their:

- Four year graduation rate by 25% per year for the next two years
- Average credits earned per student by a minimum of 10% per year
- Percent of students earning six (6) or more credits annually by 10% per year

Strategic Plan Goal

Develop the Whole Child

Financial Impact

Last year (2013/2014) \$675,408 of the State's funds have been passed through the district and paid to Catapult Academy (represented January 2014 – June 2014). For this year (2014-2015), \$1.74 million has been passed through thus far. The district's annual pass-through of funds depends on student enrollment each year, with the district retaining 10% for the school districts' administrative fees for providing certain central services.

My Contact

Mr. Andrew Post, Assistant Superintendent, Accountability and Assessment - 390-2976

Dr. Pamela Davis, Executive Director, Alternative Schools – 390-2976

Attachment: [First Amendment Amended and Restated Duval Agreement-2013-2016 Catapult Academy.pdf](#)