



Update on Placement of John Marshall Programs

Highlights – January 14, 2008

Background

- Seattle Public Schools is committed to providing a comprehensive continuum of services for students who need an academic safety net. These students have significant, and often complex, needs for support to be successful in life, and great care is being taken to make sure that their specific needs are met. The district is evaluating prevention, intervention and safety net programs to determine how we can better serve these students. Our goal is to ensure that every student succeeds and graduates from high school ready for college and work.
- On July 26, 2006 the Seattle School Board voted to close 6 schools, including John Marshall¹. Closure of the John Marshall building was delayed for one year so that the district could carefully consider the best way to serve the students attending programs located at that building.
- A comprehensive evaluation of Academic Safety Net Programs was initiated. The purpose was to provide current information so that decisions on where to serve current John Marshall students could be based on student needs and academic best practice. The review, conducted by the National Dropout Prevention Center at Clemson University (NDPC), included John Marshall, Middle College, Interagency and South Lake Alternative High School.
- A task force, led by a high school principal and staffed by principals, school and district-based staff, and community members, considered the NDPC report, with a focus on planning for placement of programs currently at John Marshall. The recommendations made by the task force were reviewed and analyzed by a multi-disciplinary group of district staff. The Superintendent has approved the final recommendations, which are included below.
- The Academic Safety Net review is one of multiple reviews initiated by the Superintendent and the Chief Academic Officer. These include the Accelerated Progress Program (APP), bilingual programs, special education programs and curriculum, as well as several operational functions. The goal is to review what is working and what needs to be improved.

¹ Schools closed were E.C. Hughes, Rainier View, Viewlands, Fairmount Park, Martin Luther King, and John Marshall.

Program Changes and Implementation Steps

- Decisions regarding the programs currently located at John Marshall took into account the full range of student needs, national best practices, space and suitability for co-location with other programs, student safety, and findings of the Review of Special Education Programs published in October 2007.
- Four programs will relocate:
 - Graduation Reality and Dual-Role Skills (GRADS) program will relocate to South Lake Alternative High School;
 - Evening School will relocate to Franklin High School;
 - The Interim Alternative Education Setting (IAES) and Re-entry programs will relocate to the Wilson-Pacific building.
- Two programs will dissolve, and students will be served within other existing programs and schools.
 - Alternative High School students will be served in existing programs; students will receive first priority in enrollment for 2008-2009.
 - Behavior Intervention Program – Students will be supported with services at existing middle and high schools.
- High School Director Michael Tolley is responsible for implementation of these changes, and he is working closely with all high school principals to make a smooth transition for students and staff, including an emphasis on providing additional prevention and intervention supports.
- Administrators and staff at John Marshall, supported by central office staff, will provide support to each student to make the transition to new locations. This will include assistance with enrollment and priority for open enrollment for students in the Alternative High School.
- The Human Resources department will work with impacted staff. Staff associated with the GRADS, Interim Alternative Education Setting (IAES), and Re-entry programs are assumed to move with the program. Staff associated with the programs that are dissolving (Behavior Intervention Program, Alternative High School) are involuntarily displaced and will get priority during the district hiring process. Evening School staffing will proceed via the normal process for this program.
- Facilities staff will support schools to ensure that any facilities changes/adjustments are in place. This includes completion of the South Lake Alternative High School for fall 2008, which will include a customized space for teen parents, and any space or facilities adjustments needed at other schools.

Next Steps – Academic Safety Net

A team of principals will continue to evaluate the full continuum of safety net services and programs, using the NDPC report as a guide. The goal is to ensure that strong academics are in place, and that there is a clear pathway for students based on individual needs. As important, the team will consider whether additional, or different, prevention and intervention services are needed. Our goal is have a series of strategic interventions in place and easily accessible, so that students continue to stay on track for graduation and success in life. This work will be led by Michael Tolley, High School Instructional Director.

For more information

The Final Recommendation for Programs located in the John Marshall building, which includes further background, detailed rationale, and next steps for students, will be available on the district's Web site on Monday, January 14, along with a copy of this highlights summary.

Program Placement details

The matrix on the following page includes an overview of each program, current enrollment, and additional clarification about each program. A detailed review of rationale and other background information is contained in the report, "Final Recommendations for the Programs located in the John Marshall building," available on the Seattle Public Schools Web site.

Summary of the Recommendations – Programs Currently at John Marshall School

Program	Enrollment	Final Recommendation
Graduation Reality and Dual-Role Skills (GRADS) – a program for teen parents and for students interested in earning CTE credit in early childhood	3 students as of January 7, 2008	Relocate the program to South Lake High School.
Evening School – a program for high school students who need credit retrieval or advancement	198 students as of January 7, 2008	Relocate the program to Franklin High School.
Alternative High School – an academic alternative to a comprehensive high school	12 students as of January 7, 2008 (1 student is a senior)	This program should be dissolved and students should be assisted in enrolling at other existing programs for 2008-09. The District will assign these students prior to processing applications for 2008-09.
Behavior Intervention Program (BIP) – a Special Education program	19 students as of January 7, 2008 (including at least 5 students whose homeroom is listed as BIP but who are actually in the re-entry or alternative programs)	This program should be dissolved and students should be supported with services at existing middle and high schools. Students' Individual Education Program (IEP) teams will meet to review the IEPs for these students. Resident students will then be assigned to the schools closest to where they live that have programs that can meet the needs identified and capacity for additional students. Any non-resident students will need to follow the non-resident application process.
Interim Alternative Education Setting (IAES) – a Special Education program for students who commit a specific disciplinary infraction as a manifestation of their disability	1 student as of January 7, 2008	IAES should be relocated to the Wilson-Pacific building.
Re-entry – a program designed for students who have been long-term suspended or expelled due to exceptional misconduct, as defined by the District's disciplinary policies.	7 students in the middle school program, 22 in the high school program as of January 7, 2008.	The north end middle and high school re-entry programs should be located at Wilson-Pacific. The South programs are located at the Center for Career Alternatives (a contracted program for middle school students) and at South Lake High School for the high school portion.