

**Milwaukee County Short-Term Secure Placement Program:
A Proposal for Providing the Education Component by the Wauwatosa School District**

(DRAFT - SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Proposal

General Background

The Wauwatosa School has a long history and serves a unique role in educating students who reside in out of home placement in one of four facilities located in Wauwatosa, serving students who are hospitalized (2 facilities – medical and psychiatric), residing in temporary shelter, residing in a residential treatment program, or residing in the juvenile detention center while awaiting a disposition from the court. The district began serving the Milwaukee County Children’s Home School (now known as Plank Road School) around 1971; the River Hills School at the Milwaukee County Child and Adolescent Treatment Center in 1977; Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin in 1989; and the Milwaukee County Juvenile Detention Center School in 1995.

All schools offer an educational program, consistent with Department of Public Instruction requirements and beyond, during the school year (188 days) and a six-week summer session.

Detention Center School Standard Programming:The school at the detention center offers classes in reading and English, mathematics, social studies, science, physical education/health and art. All students receive instruction in English/reading and mathematics. Classes are staffed with two teachers per class, allowing students to receive the individualized assistance they need. Students attend class five periods per day. Because students come to class based on their assigned living unit, classes contain students with a wide range of age and academic levels, thus differentiation of instruction is a necessary skill for teachers in this facility to possess and use on a daily basis. Grades are given for work completed in this facility, and academic credit is issued when students attend school for at least 45 days and successfully complete assigned work for the course. When students are enrolled in the facility’s school for an extended period of time, school staff may work with the student’s home school to obtain assignments, allowing students to move forward in the course in which s/he was enrolled prior to admission to the facility.

General Program Description

Credit Recovery - Results of 2011-12 Virtual Pilot Program

At the start of the 2011-12 school year, the Wauwatosa School District piloted virtual courses for a few students who were credit deficient. We enrolled students from both Detention Center School and Plank Road School.

At the time of this narrative, 15 **Plank Road School** students have completed individual courses with a majority number receiving passing grades and earning high school credits.

Students returning to their community schools were in a better position to graduate due to earning credits from standard Wauwatosa programming and credits earned from taking credit recovery virtual courses.

Due to the very short duration of time that the average student spends at **Detention Center School**, 7-10 days, we were not able to run the pilot successfully at that location.

Summary of Request For Detention Center School for Students in the Proposed Short-Term Secure Placement Program

2012 - 13 Virtual Courses Offered

The Wauwatosa School District would like to make the greatest use of our students' 180-day court disposition by engaging this population with virtual course programming. In addition to having a Wauwatosa Teacher assist them in class, we will also have content teachers available, online 24 hours per day, five days per week. Our desire is to replicate the success we have achieved with our virtual programming at Plank Road Schools.

Each student picked for virtual programming would have:

1. At least a 6th grade reading level.
2. Probable length of stay of 180 days.
3. Enrolled in one virtual course (which in itself will be accelerated) with the goal of completing two course per semester in addition to attending either afternoon or morning classes within the regular Detention Center School curriculum.

Need Within the Community

The enrollment at the Detention Center School includes a larger population of students with disabilities than typical in the general school population. While most school districts report a population of students with disabilities of about 11- 15% of the school enrollment, at the detention center and Plank Road School, on any given day, anywhere from 35 – 60% of the students enrolled have IEPs. Of the students with IEPs, a recent review indicates the majority of them are for severe emotional/behavioral disabilities (EBD) or other health impairment (OHI). Of those whose disability is described as OHI, the majority include attention deficit disorder (ADD). It is, therefore, not surprising that many of our students have been unsuccessful in their previous school environments; with a fair number not attending at all. For some students, virtual programming can be positive, preferable alternative to conventional courses because the students find the experience less distracting. For many, socializing at school has not been productive.

Best educational practice and common sense would suggest that with such a wide, diverse range of struggling learners, we need to offer a variety of differentiated educational opportunities. We believe that virtual programming is a very logical, viable option.

Implementation Agreement

Milwaukee County will:

- Determine and agree upon student admission criteria in consultation with Detention Center School.
- Select student candidates that fulfill said criteria.
- Provide location (West 3) and Juvenile Correction Staffing.

Wauwatosa School District will:

- Review student transcript to determine best course selection for credit recovery.
- Schedule students with a goal of combining virtual course(s) with three or four standard classes.
- Assign one teacher to the virtual school.
- Provide connectivity and computers for student usage while here.
- Provide follow-up services via virtual courses until student exits the program and/or is reassigned to a new district.

Evaluation

1. Reports of student status and credits earned will be reported to the Administrator of Delinquency and Court Services Division and to the Superintendent of Milwaukee County Secure Juvenile Detention Center at the end of each semester.
2. In addition, the aforementioned administrators will also receive weekly student progress reports which would list current student grade and percentage of course completion.