

Hampton City Schools

GRANTEE: Hampton City Schools

LOCATION OF GRANT ACTIVITIES: Hampton, Virginia

AMOUNT: \$999,973

VALUE OF MATCH AND OTHER LEVERAGED RESOURCES: \$2,006,709.46

POPULATION SERVED: Youth ages 14-17 that have been involved in the juvenile justice system

KEY PARTNERSHIPS: Hampton City Schools, Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board and the Hampton Court Services Unit, Juvenile Court Judges, Juvenile Court Services Personnel, Commonwealth Attorneys, Community Services Board Leadership, and Social Services Agents

KEY STRATEGIES: Two years ago a work team from Hampton City Schools began to collaborate with Juvenile Court Judges, the District Attorney, Community Services Board Leadership, and Social Service Agencies to design a program to serve students out of school on long-term suspension or court charges. The City of Hampton was already involved in a Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, and had received a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation for collaborative efforts to reduce the incarceration of youth. The working group from these various agencies recommended a model program for these highly at-risk youth, and the School Board and City Council approved their proposal and included funding for a new alternative school in the 2007-2008 budget. This new alternative school is slated to open this fall, and will feature credit-bearing classes for a standard diploma; GED preparation for students whose age and credit status preclude them from attaining a standard diploma; remedial reading and math for both groups; instruction based on each student's functional level in each subject; high expectations for each youth; an interdisciplinary approach to serving youth; a student-teacher ratio of 15 to 1; and an emphasis on personal responsibility of students.

While Hampton Public Schools is excited about this new model, the current funding level does not support the full realization of the working team's vision. This Department of Labor grant would be used to initiate the full program envisioned by the working team. Enhancements provided by the DOL grant will include:

- A shared leadership model in which two administrators—a principal and a clinical director—are co-chairs in operating the school;
- Curriculum that links academic and vocational skills training;
- A Career Center;
- Supervised work experience for students operated by two vocational counselors;
- A Curriculum aimed at behavioral improvement;
- An art therapy and visual arts program;
- A school social worker to work with students and parents;
- Public transportation subsidies for students;
- Lunch for all students;

- A 52-day Summer Session to sustain improved behavior and engagement in school.

PROPOSED OUTCOMES: The initiative will serve 240 students. An estimated 79-81% of these students will be on community court charges, returning from a juvenile detention or correctional facility, on probation, or have been previously detained or put on probation through the juvenile justice system. Specific outcomes include improved attitude toward school as measured by attitudinal surveys (pre and post), the creation of individual learning plans based on a current assessment of skills, the development of career and/or academic plans for achieving post-secondary education and/or training to attain entry level employment, the assessment of student behavioral issues, the development of appropriate intervention plans, and the delivery of regular counseling sessions.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dr. Cynthia Cooper
1 Franklin Street
Hampton, VA 23669
757-727-1327
ccooper@sbo.hampton.k12.va.us