

# **APPROVAL OF THE LEARNING CENTER RELOCATION**

## **BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE:**

The Learning Center (TLC) is a specially designed program serving kids in grades 8 – 12 who do not thrive in a traditional school setting. The school offers a different pace, smaller classroom setting and a more hands-on, nurturing approach to instruction for students at risk of dropping out of school. Recently achieving the Kentucky Department of Education’s rating of ‘Alternative School of Distinction’ - one of only ten such schools recognized statewide, TLC students are empowered to challenge systemic norms which have kids disengaged and begin to define creative ways of teaching/learning, see broader connections and relevance to standards-based responsibilities, design innovative products and become self-directed throughout the entire learning process. Through a staff developed system, Life Support, and collaborations with outside agencies and services, TLC produces well rounded, life ready learners. Data-based decision making and team planning drive individualized programming for students, which includes academics and community projects full of genuine responsibility for others in need. Staff respond in unique ways by using their individual skill sets to support students with mental health challenges. The Learning Center serves a growing population of students with mental health needs, with over 65% of students identified as currently receiving outside mental health supports and many others in the referral process with community agencies such as Bluegrass, Impact Plus, TLC is serving students with minimal counseling supports. The program has allowed 180 students to obtain high school diplomas who otherwise were not on track to do so. TLC has reached a dropout rate lower than 1% and only 3 students in the program history have dropped out. When comparing data of students who were not admitted to the TLC program because of space limitations, the non-admitted peer group has seen dropout rates as high as 40%. Current building limitations have kept enrollment below that of the district need and a new location will enable continued programming and growth.

Since its start in 2009, TLC has been located in the former Linlee Elementary school a transitional facility that has not had a major renovation in the last 30 years. The 2016 – 2017 redistricting plan calls for the closing of Booker T. Washington Intermediate School located at 475 Price Road, a building designed to accommodate 250 students and majorly renovated in 2001. A relocation of The Learning Center to a permanent learning center at 475 Price Road will provide a better environment for students as the facility is more conducive to teaching, learning and social interaction. The Price Road facility has newer mechanical systems and equipment, is handicap accessible, affords more flexibility and provides room for the TLC program to reach more students in need.

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Funding Source</u></b>	<b><u>Measurable Impact and Expected Timeline</u></b>
Approval of the relocation of The Learning Center to 475 Price Road.	N/A	General Fund	The program will move during the summer of 2016 before the start of the 2016 – 2017 school year.

**STAFF CONTACT:** Myron Thompson, Jack Hayes

**REFERENCE:** 01.11 (General Powers and Duties of the Board)

**RECOMMENDATION:** A motion is in order to:

“approve the relocation of The Learning Center from 2420 Spurr Road, Lexington, KY 40511 to 475 Price Road, Lexington, Kentucky 40508.”

On a motion by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, the Board approved the relocation of The Learning Center from 2420 Spurr Road to 475 Price Road.

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John Price, Chair

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Emmanuel Caulk, Superintendent