

**Review of LCAP Draft with Advisory Committees
April 16, 2015**

Question: Will the resources outlined in the LCAP be available at the residential Court School sites?

The LCAP is designed to address the needs of the entire Alternative Education Program, comprised of the Community School Program and the Court School Program, with a focus on serving the unique needs of three specific sub groups (Foster Youth, English Learners, and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students). However, some of the resources may be specific to students in either the Court or Community School program while others apply to both the Community School and Court School programs. For example, students in the Court School program will not need bus passes to assist them in attending school.

Question: Can we increase the Transition Counselor team by hiring a full-time Court School counselor?

Yes. The Alternative Education program is in the process of hiring a Title I Transition Counselor that will be dedicated to serving students in the Court School setting.

Question: Can social workers be hired and located at all Community School sites?

We have not made final decisions on how to best enhance the social services available at Community School sites. Social workers are one possible type of resource that may be considered by the Alternative Education Program. The program works in close partnership with the Department of Human Services, the Kern County Network for Children, Project 180 partners and other social service providers to meet the social service needs of our students.

Question: Is there a plan in place to make additional safety improvements (e.g. add more fencing) on Community School campuses?

KCSOS is committed to operating schools in which students and staff members feel safe. While there are no immediate plans to add additional fencing to sites in the 2015-16 school year, safety improvement efforts will include providing active shooter training for all Community School staff and the addition of 2 Campus Supervisor positions.

Question: How will the concerns that have surfaced as a result of the implementation of the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) agreement be addressed?

KCSOS has fully implemented the OCR settlement agreement and we continue to look for ways to enhance services to special education students within the Alternative Education Program. Additional resources to support the implementation and address concerns include professional development in the area of PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports). Proposed additions to services include a Behaviorist Program Specialist and an Instructional Program Specialist to directly support Special Education students and staff.

Question: Is it possible to search students' cars?

Alternative Education staff follows the lead of law enforcement when a situation requires possible search of private property. Law enforcement is notified when information becomes available that may threaten the safety of other students. In addition, students are searched and required to enter through metal detectors at all sites prior to being allowed in school.

Question: Can Probation Officers be assigned to the Community School campuses?

Our partnership with the Kern County Probation Department is longstanding and strong. Current fiscal reductions and constraints challenge the Probation Department's ability to increase staff. That said, we meet regularly with the Probation Department to determine ways we can enhance our partnership for students.

Question: How can we go about offering Physical Education classes at the residential Court School sites so students can receive credits?

In order for an educational agency to award credits for a given class, the instruction must be supervised by a certificated teacher. Because many of the court schools conduct their physical activity under the supervision of Probation Officers outside of school hours, KCSOS is unable to award Physical Education credits. For those students needing Physical Education credits to graduate, teachers may assign P.E. through Independent Study.

Question: Can we provide additional career/vocational training in Community School?

The program has a long history of providing career / vocational training to students. We are constantly engaged in talks with potential partners and businesses to increase such opportunities for students and we will bring those opportunities to our sites as feasible. We believe strongly in the importance of providing career and vocational opportunities for students who may not be able to or desire to attend college once they graduate.

Question: Can we increase the post-secondary preparation opportunities for students in Court School?

The implementation of Odysseyware will expand the options that students have in regards to a-g approved courses and Career Technical Education courses. Students will have access to these resources during the school day and after school as well in a lab environment under the supervision of school staff.

Question: Will more paraprofessionals be hired for the Independent Study instructional setting to restore the teacher to paraprofessional ratio to 4:1?

KCSOS is committed to staffing each Court and Community School classroom with 1 certificated teacher and 1 paraprofessional. The use of paraprofessionals in the Independent Study setting needs to be further evaluated and developed before resources can be allocated to that end. KCSOS is committed to looking into the feasibility of paraprofessionals in the Independent Study setting.

Question: Can we hold additional graduation ceremonies for Court School students?

Currently there is a spring graduation ceremony available to all Alternative Education students. In addition, Bridges Career Development Academy probation staff hosts a winter graduation ceremony for students who complete graduation requirements while enrolled at Bridges. We are open to evaluating the feasibility of additional graduations given staffing and fiscal constraints; however we do not anticipate adding additional graduations this year.