

## Education Options Review Status Report

### What are Education Options?

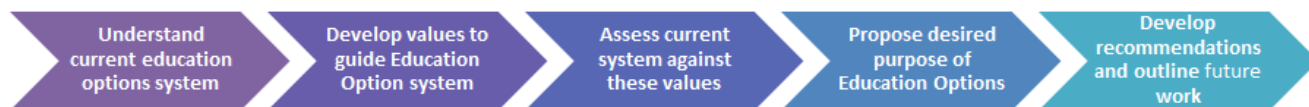
Education options are schools and programs that include in-district alternatives (Alliance High School, ACCESS, MLC), thematic focus options (for example, Benson Tech HS or Sunnyside Environmental K-8), and dual language immersion programs.

### What is the Education Options Review?

A committee of principals and central office staff was formed to review the district’s portfolio of education options. The initial charge of the review was to:

- Establish an ongoing process for reviewing educational options including measures of success
- Define the desired purpose and goals of education options
- Develop recommendations to align the education options system policy and procedures with the Racial Educational Equity Policy

### Work to Date



Thus far, the committee work has been to:

1. **Understand current education options system.** The committee conducted site visits, reviewed enrollment, achievement and lottery data, and key documents including the Education Options Policy and individual school Plans of Operation.
2. **Develop values to guide the Education Options system.** From analyzing these data, the committee created guiding values.
3. **Assess the current system against these values** and identify concerns and opportunities in the current system.
4. Based on this assessment, **propose a desired purpose of the Education Options system** aligned to the Racial Educational Equity Policy.
5. **Develop recommendations and prioritize future work.**

What the Education Options Review Initial Report IS	What it IS NOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Status on current Ed Options programs</b>, including identification of systemic trends that should help guide future location and access decisions</li> <li>● <b>Values to guide future planning</b> for creation, modification, or possible closure of specific education option schools/programs</li> <li>● <b>Identification of the specific role</b> that education options would serve in the PPS system</li> <li>● <b>Framework for longer term process</b></li> <li>● <b>Prioritization of first round of detailed education options evaluations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Alliance, MLC, ACCESS</li> <li>○ Dual Language programs recommended for expansion and/or change due to co-location challenges</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Not an evaluation of specific ed options programs.</b> It is a recommendation that evaluations be done, and prioritizes specific schools/programs for this year.</li> <li>● <b>No recommendations for specific program moves or changes</b> at this time.</li> </ul>

### Proposed Purpose of Education Options System

To align the portfolio of education options to district priorities, we propose that each option should fulfill one or more of these purposes:

- **Personalized, Strategic Supports.** Individualized, flexible, and strategic supports not offered in neighborhood/comprehensive schools; programs that meet alternative statute to serve specific populations of students that PPS did not serve well.
- **Specific Curricular Focus.** Themes/curricular foci selected based on districtwide interest and demonstrated effectiveness at closing opportunity gaps, serving specific populations depending on the research aim of the program. Financial/logistical constraints may prevent these programs from being replicated districtwide.
- **Incubating Practices.** Program/curriculum is different than what is offered in neighborhood schools; practices could be replicated. Ongoing consistent evaluation determines effectiveness and whether it could be replicated. Typically the population served is representative of the district or at least the surrounding neighborhoods.

### Recommendations and Priorities

Recommendations were prioritized based on level of service to historically underserved students and enrollment balancing urgency.

Recommendation	Priority
1. Provide an explicit forum where Alliance HS facility needs can be addressed and align facilities and programs to graduation requirements.	Extremely High
2. Review dual language immersion co-location as a strategy and apply equity framework in deciding where, when and how to expand.	High
3. Develop strategy for centrally supporting and managing education options, including identifying an Executive Sponsor.	High
4. Continue efforts to clarify admission criteria for alternative options (ACCESS, MLC, and Alliance)	High
5. Define the target population(s) served by each education option and evaluate schools/programs on their ability to attract, serve, and retain this population, beginning with options that fall under the Alternative Education Statute (Alliance, MLC, ACCESS) and Dual Language programs recommended for expansion and/or change due to co-location challenges. Review remainder as resources allow.	High
6. Communicate more effectively to families/students the full array of education options available	High
7. Ensure there is equity in accessing thematic focus options and limit expansion until such time.	Medium
8. Continue to work toward greater cohesion and consistency in programming across neighborhood schools and allow education options greater flexibility to diverge from the neighborhood program model	Medium
9. Conduct evaluations of all other options not addressed in Recommendation 5	Low
10. Develop strategy to potentially scale promising practices developed at options to neighborhood schools	Low
11. Update education options policy	Low

### Immediate Next Steps

- Communicate findings and recommendations to key stakeholders including school administrators, PAPSA, teachers, PAT, families, schools, the PPS Board, and DBRAC (District-wide Boundary Review Advisory Committee).
- Assign department or committee responsible for implementation of recommendations
- Re-charter Education Options Review Committee, including naming an administrator and Executive Sponsor and revisiting membership based on next phase of work/priorities.
- Define timeline for first round of evaluations (see Recommendation 6) by [DATE] and communicate timeline to schools and families. Stay informed by visiting [URL] and your school's website.