

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

March 26th 2024

SUBJECT:

Students of Aiken Re-engaged (SOAR) Proposal for School Year 2024-2025

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Purpose: to combine resources of multiple programs into four main components to align services more efficiently and effectively for students who may otherwise not be engaged in their education in Aiken County Public School District and who may drop out, be expelled, or otherwise attend school elsewhere.

Goals

1. Provide a means for students to learn **self-correcting behaviors** to replace behaviors that could lead to failure, drop out, expulsion, or long-term consequences.
2. Provide a means of **earning an education** and being a productive citizen in ways other than attending the traditional school setting for students who have specialized educational needs.
3. Provide education to students who **cannot function in the traditional school setting** due to poor behavior choices or who should not be in the traditional school setting due to **violent behaviors** that create an unsafe environment.
4. Provide a means for students who are behind to **catch up** by completing a rigorous course of study outside of and in addition to the traditional school day.
5. Provide an opportunity for non-traditional students to earn their diploma in an **evening setting**.

Structure: S.O.A.R. will utilize the FTEs currently allocated for the 2023-2024 school year for Aiken Innovate, ACVA, and The Center for Innovative Learning to restructure its efforts, serving students across multiple areas. Some additional allocations will be needed to provide appropriate behavioral. Additional allocations would include: 1.0 200 day Assistant Principal for the alternative school, 1.0 School Counselor to be shared between Aiken Innovate and evening program, and 1.0 BCBA/Behavior Modification Specialist for the alternative school. Extra Duty pay will be used to assist with the evening support program.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

The plan for SOAR, including the addition of 1.0 School Counselor FTE, 1.0 Assistant Principal FTE, 1.0 BCBA/Behavior Specialist FTE and projected evening program support hours totals up to approximately \$300,000 annually.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The administration asks that the board approve the plan for SOAR as outlined above for implementation in the 2024 – 2025 school year up to the full plan proposed.

PREPARED BY:

Bert Postell, Assistant Superintendent for High Schools