

SFAC

Alternative Programming Considerations

Topics

1. 5th Grade Moving to Middle School
2. Creating PreK-K Center

1.

Moving 5th grade to Middle Schools

Middle Schools for 5th-8th Grade Students

Positives – 5th-8th Grade Middle School

- Frees up space in elementary schools
- Transition creates achievement drop regardless of grade level
 - Momentum of 6-8th grade after 5th grade drop could possibly help prepare students to be successful in high school

Concerns – 5th-8th Grade Middle School

- Create further overcrowding in middle schools
- The Nebraska State Standards are addressed in K-5, 6-8, 9-12 grade levels
 - Textbooks and curriculum materials are primarily available in K-5, 6-8, 9-12 bundles by vendors
- LPS grading scale is different between K-5 and 6-12.

Concerns – 5th-8th Grade Middle School

- Pre-service teacher training programs at universities would need to be adjusted
 - Instructional strategies used in elementary schools and middle schools
- Teacher certification
- District professional learning would need to be reconfigured
- Scheduling adjustment (specials, ACES)
- Building configuration

Concerns - 5th-8th Grade Middle School

- Social emotional needs
 - Relationship with peers
 - Relationship with families
 - Relationship with teachers / school
- Grade transition in LPS history
 - 6th grade moving to middle schools
 - 9th grade moving to high schools
 - About 13 years to fully implement - standardized

Questions – 5th-8th Grade Middle School

- To what extent are 5th graders at a level of maturity to be in the same building with 8th graders?
- Are we moving the overcrowding issues from elementary buildings to middle school buildings?

2.

PreK-K Centers

Only PreK and Kindergarteners in the Building

Positives – PreK & Kindergarten Centers

- Creates 1st-5th Grade Schools
 - Smaller population in elementary buildings
- Depending on the structure and size of those centers, more students may be served in PreK programs

Concerns – PreK & Kindergarten Centers

- Creates another transition in students' educational career between Kindergarten and 1st grade years
- PreK and Kindergarten program schedules are different
 - Size of the classroom, toilets, playground, documentations

Concerns – PreK & Kindergarten Centers

- PreK and Kindergarten program focus is different
- Regulations for PreK programs are different from Kindergarten program
- More drop offs for families

■ Questions – PreK & Kindergarten Centers

- Would the combination of PreK-Kindergarten dilute the rigor of our current kindergarten programming?
- Would the impact on transition justify the creation of PreK-K centers?

Questions?
