

# TEMPORARY REGIONALIZATION SCHOOL STUDY COMMITTEE

## ANSONIA & DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Elementary and Middle School Education Plans

A detailed educational plan is a critical component of the regionalization plan submitted to the state of Connecticut. This plan should include an idea of what courses will be offered to students in a future regional district. In partnership with District Management Group (DMGroup), the Temporary Regionalization School Study Committee (TRSSC) in Ansonia and Derby is tasked with developing this educational plan.

DMGroup and the TRSSC hope to build a plan around the philosophy and direction of Ansonia and Derby Public Schools. This includes a high school program of study (found in separate document) and plans for elementary and middle school instruction. This plan was developed through data collected from Ansonia and Derby Public Schools, along with focus groups and interviews with district leaders, staff, students, and community members in both communities. It includes two questions for discussion prior to finalization of the educational plan.

Fiscally, implementing this plan costs no additional dollars for the regional district, as long as the average class size across Ansonia and Derby schools remains stable. There is also no savings in the form of staff for the regional school district. Larger schools allow a school to be closer to their target class size, which may help expand curricula or offerings at schools.

*Please note that while this document outlines an educational plan, a lot can change between now and the implementation of a plan. Changes and adjustments can and should be made over time. **No information in this document is binding to any future school or district***

#### **Educational Plans:**

Across Ansonia and Derby Elementary and Middle Schools, there is a focus on increasing academic rigor, supporting students with challenging behaviors, and providing enrichment opportunities for students. Existing efforts towards these things should be continued in a regional school district.

In focus groups and interviews, staff, students, and community members from both cities found current implementation of curriculum inconsistent within their district, and shared a desire for a rigorous, aligned curriculum implemented with fidelity across schools. Administrators highlighted the priority to standardize and align the curriculum within their respective districts over the coming years. At the PK-8 grades, the regional school district will choose and align on a curriculum, then implement with fidelity across the buildings.

If the regional district is only 6-12 or 9-12, the elementary grades must still align on their curricula to ensure that students entering the regional school district have shared learning prior to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This coordination requires time and effort from leadership across both districts and from staff to update materials and lesson plans.

In a new regional district, Ansonia and Derby will integrate their two existing curricula, selected by a team of teachers and administrators.

At the middle school, students take similar courses across Ansonia and Derby. A full list of courses is on the following page. While 6<sup>th</sup> grade is not currently at Ansonia Middle School, in a regional school district 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be at the shared middle school.

Courses currently offered at each middle school:

Ansonia Middle School:

7<sup>th</sup> grade:

- Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Science
- Math

8<sup>th</sup> grade:

- Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Science
- Math
- Algebra
- Advanced Studies in Language Arts

Available to all students:

- Unified Arts
- Business
- Tech Trep
- Physical Education
- Health
- Art
- Resource
- Numeracy
- Investigative Science
- Current Events
- Reading Intervention
- Writing Intervention

Derby Middle School:

**Note: Information is still being gathered.**

6<sup>th</sup> grade:

7<sup>th</sup> grade:

8<sup>th</sup> grade:

Available to all students:

In a regional school district, students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades will have access to a similar list of courses. At the time of a merger, school leaders and teachers will evaluate if additional voice and choice should be integrated into middle school course offerings.