

TEMPORARY REGIONALIZATION SCHOOL STUDY COMMITTEE

ANSONIA & DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Elementary 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), a plan for the middle school (found in separate document) and a plan for the elementary schools. 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.

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***

Elementary School Educational Plans:

Across Ansonia and Derby elementary 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-5 grades, the regional school district will choose and align on a curriculum, then implement with fidelity across the buildings. This will be selected and built out by a team of teachers and administrators.

Students at the elementary level will have access to all of their core and specials classes in a similar manner to the existing offerings at Derby and Ansonia elementary schools, and will have strong social-emotional supports from staff throughout the school.

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 6th grade. This coordination requires time and effort from leadership across both districts and from staff to update materials and lesson plans.