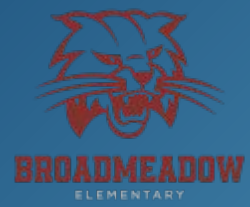




# Bulldog's R.I.S.E.

“Responsive Individualized Student Education ”



# Purpose This Evening-The 5Ws

Why does RCS need an alternative program?

What will the alternative program look like?

Who will be able to attend the alternative program?

When will this happen?

Where will this program be?

# Why does RCS need an alternative program?

- Increases in disruptive behaviors following COVID
- Districtwide, 39% students in 2nd - 8th grade self-reported that they are under some risk or high risk for mental, social, emotional, or behavioral concerns.
- Discipline disproportionality-RCS is in the top 20% of school districts in Illinois with racial disproportionality in Out-of-School suspensions.
- No RCS students have been able to access the regional safe school program, it is full.
- Students who are most disruptive are disproportionately not making adequate academic progress in the typical school setting.

# Why does RCS need an alternative program?

We know that the pandemic, socioeconomic distress, cultural and other factors have created an opportunity gap for some of our most under-resourced students. This gap, which importantly includes academic performance, will not be overcome within a traditional school setting, but rather a setting where students are better supported individually and responded to holistically.

Why? Because it is time to try something different!

# What will the alternative program look like?

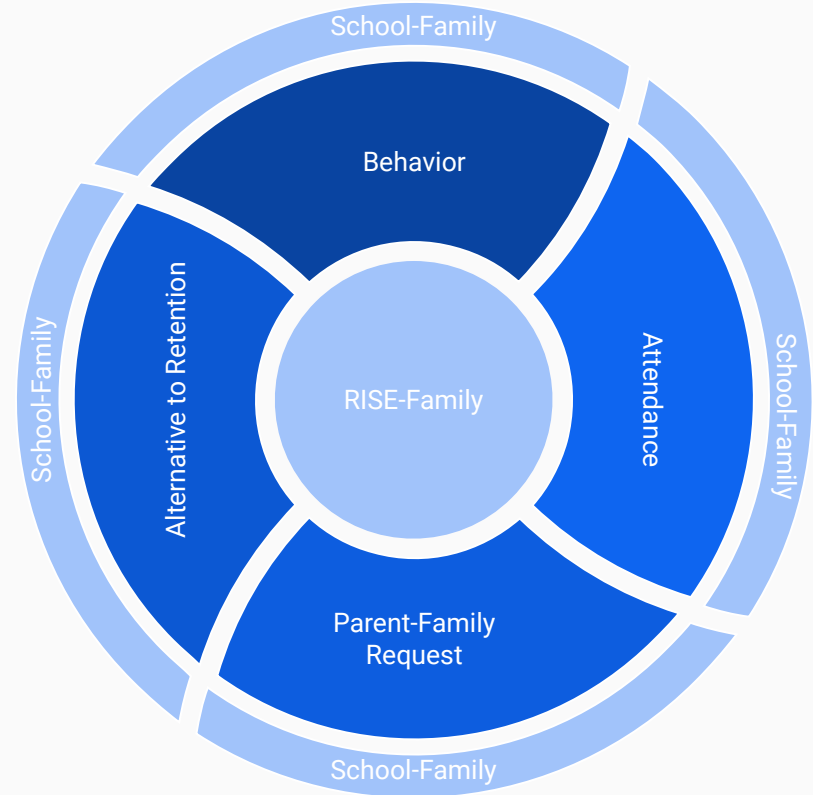
- Students in grades 5-8.
- Staff to Student ratio of 1 to 5.
- Short-term 30-40 students. Long-term 60 students.
- Increased Social Work and Therapeutic Supports.
- Focus on including the family in the process.
- Classes that teach academic skills but with real-world, hands-on applications.
- Flexible class choices based on student and staff interests and needs.

# What will the alternative program look like?

- Shorter school day (ability to eliminate transition times, and lunch becomes a working lunch)
- Programming customized for each student. Most full-time, some remote, some hybrid.
- All students offered transportation.
- Restorative discipline, avoid exclusionary discipline.
- The program will include K-4 CARE staff and students.

# Who will be able to participate in the alternative program?

- All students may be considered.
- Four pathways for consideration:
  - Behavior
  - Attendance
  - Alternative to Retention
  - Parent-Family Request
- All pathways must involve the family and school in the decision making process.
- No changes to CARE process.



# Who will be able to participate in the alternative program?

- Behavior and/or Attendance.
  - Once all reasonable school based behavioral and/or attendance interventions have been exhausted and documented a student may transfer into the RISE.
  
- Parent-Family Request
  - The parent-family may request consideration for enrollment into RISE by submitting a written request to the building principal.
  - Families of students in grade 6-8 may request consideration of a full-time remote learning program pursuant to *Board Policy 6:185 Remote Educational Program*.

Regardless of which pathway is being considered, all pathways must involve the family and school in the decision making process.



## How many students?

- To start, we anticipate staffing to accommodate 30-40 students.
- The initial pool of students would be determined at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

## When will this happen?

- 2023-2024 school year.
- Will follow the regular school district calendar.
- The school day start and end times are not finalized, but an example schedule is 9:20-2:30.

## Where will this program be?

- The final location has not been determined.
  - Considering current school district facilities.
  - Considering third-party facilities.
- Prefer a location that is just for RISE.
  - Why is it important for RISE to have its own location?
- Any location chosen must be within RCS.

## Why not do this for all kids?

- Most children can be successful in a traditional school setting and do not need specialized programming.
- There is a significant additional cost to running a school this way.
  - More staff are needed to lower the staff-to-student ratio.
  - Investment in additional mental health services.
  - Transportation.
- Lack of available staffing state-wide.
  - Even if we had the money to do this type of program for all students, state-wide, there are not enough people to fill the positions we would need.



Questions?

DISTRICT #137

**RANTOUL**  
CITY SCHOOLS