



Douglas Public Schools

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School Committee Agenda Item Summary

Date: April 6, 2022
Prepared By: Tara Sobaleski, Director of Special Education & Student Support Services &
Cortney Keegan, School Business and Operations Manager
Reviewed By: Paul Vieira, Superintendent *PV*
Subject: **Additional DHS 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher**

Background

Douglas High School's special education population is currently supported by one special educator per grade level, two FLE programs, and one Stars and Stripes program. The Stars & Stripes Program services students with severe disabilities. The age difference between the youngest and oldest student in the program is more than eight years. Age span waivers are required for programs serving students with more than a 48 month age difference. Over 72 month age differences require that the district provides information as to what steps will be taken to avoid the necessity for a request for approval of this waiver for subsequent years.

At this time, our post-graduate students are not accessing the community as part of their programming. The FY23 Special Education proposed budget includes transportation for increased consistent access to the community. Next year, we will have six post-graduate (18-22 year old) students served by the Stripes program and four high school students (9th-12th grade) served by the Stars program.

Discussion/Analysis

The Stars and Stripes programs collectively have enough students to maintain two separate cohorts. If student needs and annulment remain consistent, the trend will continue with the following numbers in each cohort:

FY23: 4 STARS, 6 Stripes
FY24: 3 STARS, 6 Stripes
FY25: 3 STARS, 5 Stripes

Three students constitute a cohort. High school students require continued classroom instruction and time on learning, while post-graduate students require access to pre-vocational and adaptive daily living (ADL) skills instruction. While some instruction, including ADL instruction, is appropriate for both cohorts, the post-graduate students require time off-campus to meet the requirements for their appropriate post-secondary transition plans.

Financial Impact

We anticipate approximately \$50,000 for this position. We anticipate the funding source to be the general fund.

Recommendation

If the School Committee is in agreement, the following motion is recommended for approval:

MOVE to approve the addition of a 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at Douglas High School. Funding for this position is anticipated to be the general fund.

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