District Managed Alternative Education Contract Schools
What is a District Managed Contract School?

“A district school, managed by the School District of Philadelphia (SDP), but run by an outside provider according to a direct contract with the District to provide educational services. These schools exist to support Anchor Goal 1 – 100% of students will graduate ready for college and career.”

- The staff of contract schools are employees of the provider organization.
- Students enrolled in a contract school are District students with the same rights and responsibilities as all other District students.
- Schools are governed through an accountability matrix defined in the contract.
- The first contract school opened during the 2001-2002 school year serving students on EH-21 disciplinary transfer (Camelot Academy @ Daniel Boone School).
- Today, there are 14 schools operating, serving 3,000 students, representing an increase of 500 seats over the next two years.
Accelerated programs serve students who are:
• Overage and off-track to graduation,
• Have dropped out of school, or
• Are not succeeding in a traditional school setting.

Alternative Education Dual Enrollment programs serve students who have dropped out of High School and seek to re-engage in a college setting.
• Students earn credits that count towards both an Associate’s degree and High School Diploma
• Students are dually enrolled in the college and the school district.

Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY) Transition programs only serve students who have committed serious violations of the Code of Student Conduct.
• Students enroll in an AEDY program, through disciplinary transfer, after a determination is made through a due process hearing conducted by the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.
Benefits of District Managed Contract Schools

• Innovative models that can serve a distinct student population;

• Strong ‘second chance’ opportunities with intensive socio-emotional supports for students where learning takes place in small and nurturing environments;

• College/career options with an accelerated curriculum;

• Create a powerful pathway for serving Philadelphia Opportunity Youth while maximizing resources;

• Ability to immediately terminate contracts and adjust accountability measures to support innovation and learning.
Accountability for District Managed Contract Schools

Schools are evaluated at multiple points throughout the school year on their academic, climate and financial performance.

Examples of best practices include:

- Annual operational and academic reports
- Production of the 1st Alternative Education Progress Report
- Financial Reviews during evaluation and negotiations
- Formal/Informal School Walkthroughs
- Monthly PD Network Meetings
RFP – 520 Alternative Education Providers

The School District of Philadelphia’s Opportunity Network released RFP-520 in January 2017 to procure Alternative Education programs that will improve the School District’s capacity to ensure success for all students and directly support the attainment of the School District’s Action Plan v3.0, Anchor Goal 1: 100% of students will graduate, ready for college and a career. This is the third RFP for Alternative Education programs with the first school opening in 2008.

Reviewers represented:
• The School District of Philadelphia
• Department of Human Services
• School Reform Commission
• Mayor’s Office of Education
• Office of Adult Education
• National League of Cities

Emphasis has been squarely placed on:
• Reinforcing accountability for student outcomes across all programs,
• Providing high quality instruction and improving academic rigor,
• Using data meaningfully,
• Relating to families and communities,
• Maintaining a positive school environment and,
• Preparing students for successful college and career transitions.
Process for District Managed Contract Schools

1. Competitive Bid Process: Request for Proposals or Qualifications
2. SRC Approval
3. Negotiate Contract Terms
4. Contract Execution

Failure to meet accountability standards or any terms as defined in the contract could result in notice of a default and can lead to contract termination.
Recommended Contract Providers

Accelerated High Schools/Continuation Schools:

Dual Enrollment:

Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY):
Opportunity Network: A Look Ahead...

Additional improvements/investments in the Opportunity Network include:

- Additional instructional support for schools
- Re-design of District website to improve transparency
- Release of the 1st Alternative Education Progress Report
- Revision of Contract terms to strengthen accountability
- Increased levels of accountability and monitoring
- Participation in the District Wide Survey