

Brookwood Academy

Targeting: "At Risk" and "Special Needs" Student Populations

5 YEAR SUMMARY ASSUMPTIONS

Revised October 20, 2013

While **Brookwood Academy's** history, as delineated below, remains the same as in previous 5 Year Summaries, there are some significant changes and/or additions to the Financial Forecast and Summary sections of this document. These are detailed in the appropriate sections.

BCLC/Brookwood Academy **A Brief History**

Brookwood Academy is an outgrowth of the *Brookwood Community Learning Center (BCLC)* which began operation in January of 2004 as an alternative educational service center serving 24 students in grades 6-12 in a reduced day program. *BCLC's* mission was to serve students who otherwise would have been served through at home instruction, home schooling, or not served at all due to frequent suspensions, expulsions and/or school avoidance behaviors.

As *BCLC* has given birth to **Brookwood Academy**, the school's commitment to serving "At Risk" and/or Special Needs" students with learning, social interaction and/or mental health issues that result in an adverse effect on a student's educational performance remains as strong as ever.

BCLC's core values of SAFETY, RELATIONSHIPS and EDUCATION have become **Brookwood Academy's** core values:

First, **Brookwood Academy** seeks to assist students and their families by providing a safe learning environment.

Second, **Brookwood Academy** attempts to provide each student and their family with a stable, healthy, nurturing and supportive social environment that fosters healthy relationships. **Brookwood Academy** seeks to accomplish this by providing positive adult role models in supervisory capacities who support and encourage students in their development as well rounded individuals. The ultimate goal is to cultivate students who will one day be productive adult members of society at large.

Finally, **Brookwood Academy** seeks to provide both a supportive and a challenging educational environment for each of its students in accordance with their unique abilities.

Brookwood Academy is sponsored as a Public Charter School by Reynoldsburg City School District. As a Public Charter School, **Brookwood Academy** offers:

- A tuition free education for students in grades 3-12 provided by an experienced staff of teachers, intervention specialists, a speech therapist, para-instructors, tutors and a social worker/counselor.
- A traditional classical education consisting of Art, English, Latin, Math, Music, Rhetoric/Speech, Science and Social Studies.
- Educational options which include small group instruction, individualized instruction, social skill development activities, speech therapy and transition to adulthood planning.
- A computer infused curriculum with each student provided the use of a computer thus enabling each student's education program to be highly individualized.
- A student to staff ratio of 10 to 1 or less.
- Student participation in both the Ohio Graduation Tests and Ohio Achievement Tests.
- A High School diploma for students who have earned the required credits and fulfilled the state wide testing mandates.
- Transportation provided within **Brookwood Academy's** service area. Parents can call for information regarding the availability of transportation to and from school from a prospective student's home address.
- A free/reduced breakfast and lunch for eligible students.
- Three sets of the basic school uniform which all students are required to wear from the School Closet.

5 Years Summary Assumptions: Financial Forecast

Brookwood Academy is in many ways unique in terms of a new charter school.

Income

BA's, as with all public charter schools, primary sources of income is the Foundation payment and Special Education weighted funding.

BA's current enrollment is fluctuating between 140-150 students this year in grades 3-12 which means a yearly Foundation payment (after the October adjustment) of between \$798,546.00 and \$855,585.00 (using a Foundation payment of \$5,703.90 per student per year).

BA's weighted funding is more difficult to estimate because it varies from student to student. However, based on BCLC's seven years of student enrollments and their special funding, it is not unreasonable to expect that an additional \$1,400,000.00 to \$1,600,000.00 will be generated each year. This is based on the fact that the majority of, if not all of, BA's enrollment currently are and will most likely continue to be special education students with most of these student being Cat 3s, 4s, 5s & 6s (\$9,128.50; \$12,250.09; \$16,058.83 & \$24,422.79 respectively).

Because of the larger number of special needs students, BA received last year and has begun to receive this year significant 6B monies. (\$87,000.80 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013)

BA also received last year and has begun to receive this year significant Title 1 monies. (\$61,171.16 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013) While BA at present can only spend Title 1 monies on Title 1 students, BA is in the process of applying to be a school-wide Title 1 program. It is possible that, in part due to the nature and educational needs of BA's student body, BA may be found eligible to be school-wide as early as this current school year (2013-2014). This will allow for the Title 1 monies to benefit a wider number of students and for BA to use these monies in a more diversified way in terms of the staff and/or services which they may fully or in part help to fund.

BA became part of the Free & Reduced Lunch Program last year (Fiscal Year 2012-2013). As expected the majority of BA's students continue to be eligible for this program. (\$45,900.00 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013) We expect our first reimbursements in this area for this year to occur this month (October 2013).

Because of the significant poverty of BA's student body, parity funds were and continue to be available. (\$24,058.18 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013)

Because Speech Therapy, Social Skill Building Groups, and Individual Counseling are such important aspects of any special needs program, BA has become eligible for the Medicaid Reimbursement Program. (\$0.00 were received for Fiscal Year 2012-2013) We expect to begin receiving reimbursement funds for this year shortly.

Finally, BA has enrolled in Transportation Reimbursement which should take effect in the second year of operations. Unfortunately BA was informed at our meeting with the State that the payment for this year, estimated at \$180,000.00, will not be available until April of Fiscal Year 2014-2015. This has been a major source of concern for BA as transportation is our second highest expense next to salaries. BA is continuing to look at options in this area as well as a more definitive answer from ODE concerning how much BA can expect in Transportation Reimbursement as well as why these funds are being made available so late in the next school year.

Expenses

First, BA's current student roster stands at 140-150 which is close to capacity. Recruitment costs, as a result, should continue to be minimal with the exception of identification costs concerning special education categories. Some of these costs, testing, etc., are Medicaid reimbursable and are being submitted as such.

Second, BA does not intend to "grow" per se. BA envisions a High School student body of between 130-170 students should additional space become available. Current enrollment is within these parameters.

Third, BA does not have or intend to have annual "cost of living" raises for staff. BA will, instead, operate with a series of salary ranges for various staff positions. Raises will be based on a combination of merit and time served. Evaluations for the purpose of raises will be conducted at least every five years, but more likely every two years. In addition, all positions have an upper salary limit which will not be exceeded for any staff member including administration. Staff benefits include STRS and SERS retirement programs for professional and non-professional staff, respectively, and health insurance for those desiring/needing it. This should result in a consistent as well as stable salary/benefits budget line for the next five years.

Fourth, Brookwood Presbyterian Church is, in accordance with its lease agreement with BA, providing BA classroom/office space, utilities including internet, all room furnishings and all school supplies including computers. This means that BA makes only two payments a month to Brookwood Presbyterian Church for which it receives all necessary supplies, materials and educational space: one for the recently opened Calvin Campus of Brookwood Presbyterian and one for the use of the Brookwood Presbyterian Campus proper. BA is paying an additional \$10,000.00 a month or \$120,000.00 a year for the additional space the Calvin Campus provides as well as the afore mentioned supplies and materials. In total, with the Calvin Campus open, BA is paying \$240,000.00 per year (\$120,000.00 per facility) for educational space, utilities, school supplies, equipment such as computers and internet services to Brookwood Presbyterian Church.

Finally, BA has and will continue to purchase services for students who, for a variety reasons (behavioral, legal or academic), need a separate facility. In doing so, BA acknowledges that "one size cannot fit all." BA has had and continues to maintain a good relationship with Highlands Community Learning Center and has placed a number of students there for a variety of reasons.

Summary

Brookwood Academy remains confident that it can meet the 5 Year Summary's financial requirements, in spite of the transportation hit, because BA was able to absorb the loss of projected transportation income (\$300,000.00), the loss of projected (\$30,000.00+) Medicaid Reimbursement Funds (processing our application took much longer than expected) and a reduction in the projected Title 1 and Idea monies of almost \$45,000.00 as a result of the Federal Government going into Sequestration. BA has taken these changes into account and is now budgeting accordingly.