
BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Information/Discussion _____

Future Action _____

Action X

Item: Request for two new community site classrooms and 6 additional positions for 2024-2025;
Empower U-North and Empower U-Central

Submitted by:

Heather Sneider



Date: June 13, 2024

Kirsten Myers



Recommended by: Dave Rodgers



Board Meeting Date: June 17, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

Additional Community Site Classroom (1) at Empower U-North:

- 1 Special Education Teacher
- 2 Instructional Support Specialists

Additional Community Site Classroom (1) at Empower U-Central:

- 1 Special Education Teacher
- 2 Instructional Support Specialists

Rationale:

- **Empower U** is divided into three regions: North, Central, and South
 - Empower U North – 8 classrooms currently
 - Empower U Central – 13 classrooms currently
 - Empower U South – 11 classrooms currently
- Empower U has level 3 levels of programming based on the students' level of need/abilities and independence.
 - We have seen an increase in the number of students with complex behavioral and communication needs. We have needed to add lower ratio level 3 classrooms at all 3 locations.

- Over the last 4 years at Empower U
 - 2021-2022 – 217 young adults
 - 2022-2023 – 295 young adults
 - 2023-2024 – 315 young adults
 - 2024-2025 – 354 young adults projected
 - We anticipate around 60 referrals
- Given the increase in numbers and complex needs two new classrooms are needed at Empower U North and Central
- Transition programs and services involve employability, adult daily living, and community participation. Our Transition programs focus on all 3 areas of transition. We have a growing number of students who have the employability skills and only need adult daily living and community living coordination and services.
- We continue to see an increase in students in our transition program at Empower U. Of the 354 students anticipated next school year, we predict over 20 students could benefit from Transition Programming in the community vs. Transition Programming in the building.

Position	Location	FTE	Accounting Code
Teacher – RR (1)	Empower U-North	1.0	21-1-122-1240-194-0000-21240-2930-2125
ISS – RR (2)	Empower U-North	2.0	21-1-122-1630-193-0000-21240-2930-2125
Teacher – RR (1)	Empower U-Central	1.0	21-1-122-1240-194-0000-21250-2931-2125
ISS – RR (2)	Empower U-Central	2.0	21-1-122-1630-193-0000-21250-2931-2125