

# **Proposal: Pathways Program Putnam County Primary School**

Create a self-contained program in our district to provide comprehensive services for students with significant learning, communication, and functional challenges whose needs extend beyond the support of a traditional resource setting.

---

## **Why This Program?**

- Students currently placed out-of-district could be served within our school.  
Provides a continuum of services beyond the resource level.
  - Strengthens our legal compliance in meeting individual student IEP needs.
  - Reduces tuition and transportation costs over time.
  - Keeps students in their home community and fosters peer inclusion.
  - 5–8 year old students will not have to be bussed over an hour one way to school in different counties to meet their individual needs.
- 

## **Staffing & Services Needed**

- 1 Special Education Teacher
  - 2 Paraprofessionals (4 students) 5th student- consider hiring an additional para
  - Full-Time Social Worker (will consider the need over time)
  - Additional Related Services (can be served using current contractual services):
    - Speech-Language Pathology
    - Occupational Therapy
    - Physical Therapy
-

## **Student & District Benefits**

- Individualized instruction for students with significant needs.
  - Social-emotional growth through in-district support.
  - Long-term cost savings by reducing out-of-district placements.
  - Accepting students from other districts will help offset the program costs
  - Stronger capacity to serve diverse learners making us more legally compliant than what we are now
- 

## **Financial Considerations**

- Investment: Teacher, paraprofessionals, expanded service providers.
  - Over time, the program becomes cost-neutral or cost-saving.
- 

## **Timeline**

- October/November- Board approval
  - December 2025 – Hire staff, designate space.
  - Winter/Spring 2026– Prepare curriculum, resources, family communication.
  - Fall [2026-2027] – Launch program.
-