

# OPPORTUNITY NETWORK OPERATIONAL WALKTHROUGH 2018-2019

Program Name: Ombudsman Northwest Accelerated Provider: Ombudsman Educational Services, Ltd.

#### OPERATIONAL WALKTHROUGH OVERVIEW

Operational Walkthroughs for all Opportunity Network contract programs focused on the systems and structures that are required to deliver high quality instruction to students. Operational Walkthroughs assessed program performance across three domains: 1) Academic & School Climate Accountability; 2) Organizational Compliance; and 3) Accommodative & Financial Compliance. Taken together, the three domains encompass key operational expectations that are based on the program's contract with The School District of Philadelphia, as well as applicable federal, state and local laws.

Operational Walkthroughs are one part of the School District's three-part approach to the formal annual evaluation of all contracted Opportunity Network programs. In addition to Operational Walkthroughs, Instructional Walkthroughs and Alternative Education Progress Reports (AEPR) provide qualitative and quantitative data for program performance that inform decisions related to contract renewal, termination, and program expansion. This report summarizes the program's performance for each of the three domains reviewed during the Operational Walkthrough. In addition, this report provides ratings for select contract requirements indicating whether the program met those requirements or standards based on evidence reviewed during the Operational Walkthrough.

A  $\checkmark$  indicates that the program met the contract requirement. A  $\stackrel{*}{\checkmark}$  indicates that the program did not meet the contract requirement. The basis for the rating is provided in the Additional Information section for each standard.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Walkthrough Date: December 14, 2018

Contract Term: FY 2018- FY 2022

**Program Type**: Accelerated (Grades 9-12)

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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#### **MISSION**

"Our mission is to provide personalized, evidence-based educational services for nontraditional learners in collaboration with families and school districts."

#### PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Scott Russell, Regional Vice President, Northeast and South Central

Julita Byrd, Regional Director, Philadelphia

#### WALKTHROUGH REVIEW TEAM

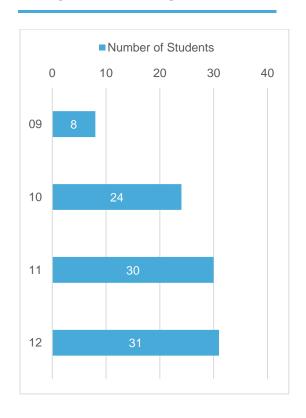
DawnLynne Kacer, Executive Director, Opportunity Network

Majeedah Scott, Director, Office of Multiple Pathways to Graduation

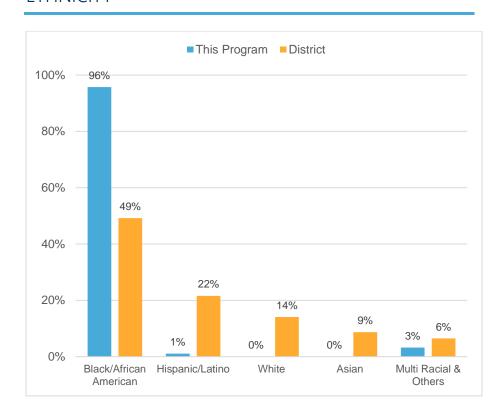
Marcus De Vose, Assistant Director, Transition Services

Elvis Mucaj, Strategy Analyst II, Opportunity Network

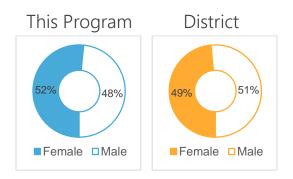
# **ENROLLMENT BY GRADE**



# **ETHNICITY**

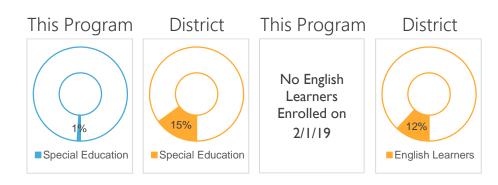


# **GENDER**



ENROLLMENT INFORMATION		
Enrollment on 2/1/19	93	
Contracted Maximum	90	

# SPECIAL EDUCATION & ENGLISH LEARNERS



The School District of Philadelphia's official demographic information is reported on October 1<sup>st</sup> of each school year. The Opportunity Network's demographic information comes from February 1, 2019, to more closely align with the student population on the date of the walkthrough.

# DOMAIN 1: ACADEMIC & SCHOOL CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY

The table below summarizes the number of standards by category that met expectations consistent with contract requirements during the 2018-2019 Operational Walkthrough. Information regarding how standards in the Academic and School Climate Accountability domain are measured can be found in the performance framework for Opportunity Network contract programs.

CATEGORY	REQUIREMENTS MET
Academic Quality (Page 4)	4 / 5
School Climate Quality (Page 5)	5 / 6
TOTAL	9 / 11

# DOMAIN 2: ORGANIZATIONAL COMPLIANCE

The table below summarizes the number of standards by category that met expectations consistent with contract requirements during the 2018-2019 Operational Walkthrough. Information regarding how standards in the Organizational Compliance domain are measured can be found in the performance framework for Opportunity Network contract programs.

CATEGORY	requirements met
Student Progress Monitoring & Reporting (Page 6)	3 / 8
Record Keeping & Communication (Page 7)	4 / 4
Personnel (Page 8)	4/7
Governance & Enrollment (Page 10)	3 / 5
TOTAL	14 / 24

# DOMAIN 3: ACCOMMODATIVE & FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE

The table below summarizes the number of standards by category that met expectations consistent with contract requirements during the 2018-2019 Operational Walkthrough. Information regarding how standards in the Accommodative & Financial Compliance domain are measured can be found in the performance framework for Opportunity Network contract programs.

CATEGORY	requirements met
Accommodative Quality (Page 11)	4/5
Financial Compliance (Page 13)	3 / 3
TOTAL	7/8

# CATEGORY I: ACADEMIC QUALITY

**STANDARD: CURRICULAR QUALITY** – Evidence of systems and structures to ensure quality curriculum and instruction offered by contractor

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
BASELINE and REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS:  Offers baseline (pre-test) and required assessments (Basic Assessment in Reading & Math, PA PSSA/Keystone Exams, P/SATs) for academic progress monitoring.	*	Program uses STAR to measure student growth in reading and mathematics. High testing participation in STAR: 82% of eligible students had pre- and post- scores in both reading and mathematics. Low testing participation for Keystone exams. Less than 80% of eligible students participated in 2017-2018 Keystone Exams (Literature 24%; Algebra 0%; Biology 11%).
BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION/CHARACTER EDUCATION:		
Educational program offered includes behavior modification/character education.	<b>V</b>	

**STANDARD: STUDENT PERFORMANCE** – Evidence of systems and structures to ensure expected student progress in the program as defined in the AEPR and consistent with contract expectations

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:  Collects and uses data to track and monitor student progress data to evaluate academic achievement and make appropriate instructional shifts and/or differentiate instruction.	<b>✓</b>	The program uses its online learning platform to monitor and track student progress daily. Students receive individualized supports based on progress monitoring.
POST-SECONDARY READINESS:  Collects and uses data to track and monitor student post-secondary readiness.	<b>✓</b>	
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE BARRIERS:  Collects and uses data to track and monitor school climate and identifies appropriate student supports to improve school climate outcomes.	<b>✓</b>	

# **CATEGORY 2: SCHOOL CLIMATE QUALITY**

**STANDARD: DISCIPLINE MANAGEMENT** – Evidence of systems, structures and contractor efforts to effectively manage student behavior and employ positive behavior intervention & supports system

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE and POSITIVE CLIMATE PRACTICES:  Employs restorative justice practices (e.g. facilitated mediation, reflective writing, peer court/advising).  Evidence of policies and practices to combat bullying including cyber bullying.	<b>√</b>	The program has aligned its policy to combat bullying with the School District's policy. Program consistently facilitates peer-led meditation with the support of an administrator.
STUDENT INCENTIVES:  Employs developmentally appropriate individual or group based incentives (e.g. admission to school events, recognition awards, tangible rewards).	<b>√</b>	Students receive weekly incentives based on academic, behavior and attendance performance during the week. The names of high performing students and students with significant improvements are posted.
TAILORED SOCIO-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS:  Develops and implements plan within 30 days of receiving student and adheres to personalized socioemotional development plans.	<b>✓</b>	

**STANDARD: ATTENDANCE & DISCIPLINE REPORTING** – Evidence of systems, structures and contractor efforts to track, monitor and report student attendance and behavior, including compliance with Safe Schools Act

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CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	ADDITIONAL NOTES
DRILLS and SAFETY REPORTING:  Conducts and reports appropriate school safety drills, designates rally and shelter-in-place locations, and	<b>✓</b>	The program has a rally point agreement in place with its nearest neighborhood high school.
reports school safety incidents as required.  CODE of CONDUCT:		
Adopts and provides to students a code of conduct aligned to School District's Code of Conduct.	<b>√</b>	
TRUANCY and DISCIPLINE REPORTING:  Accurate and timely reporting of attendance, truancy and disciplinary incidents as required by contract.  Develops Student Attendance Improvement Plans (SAIP) and communicates with parents/guardians timely to prevent chronic absenteeism.	×	SAIPs were not developed consistently or timely upon a student's 6 <sup>th</sup> unexcused absence. SAIPs that were available for review included specific and individualized support strategies.

# CATEGORY I: STUDENT PROGRESS MONITORING & REPORTING

**STANDARD: STUDENT LEVEL PLANS** – Evidence that contractor creates, maintains and effectively implements student-level plans for learning, behavior and post-secondary and communicates student progress to student and family for all students

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
PERSONALIZED LEARNING PLANS (AEDY Transition & Continuation only):  Creation (upon enrollment of student) of a Personalized Learning Plan that includes a Transition Plan for student to return to School District.	Not applicable	
PERIODIC ACADEMIC and BEHAVIOR REPORTING:  Provides timely reporting of student academic progress (on quarterly or semester basis to students, parents and/or guardians) including information for coursework attempted/completed, level of achievement and progress, behavior and attendance.	<b>✓</b>	
GRADUATION AND POST-SECONDARY PLANS:  Creation and maintenance of plan for progress towards graduation (including credits needed) and a student-specific post-secondary plan aligned to student interests.	×	The program develops graduation plans for all students that identify post-secondary goals and activities, academic improvement goals, and credits needed to graduate. Plans did not include expected graduation dates and a mapping of courses toward graduation.

**STANDARD: DIVERSE LEARNER POPULATION** – Evidence of systems, structures and contractor policies to appropriately identify, support and monitor instruction for special education students and English Learners (ELs)

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
ENROLLMENT of SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS:  Enrolls special education population no less than 15% and no greater than 20% of the program capacity.	×	There were no students with IEPs enrolled in the program at the time of the walkthrough.
BASELINE MEASURES:  Provides baseline measures for both special education and EL students against which to monitor growth.  Monitors progress toward IEP goals and communicates this progress routinely to parents/guardians.	×	No evidence of baseline measures for EL students.

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
IEP IDENTIFICATION, EVALUATION & REVIEW: Identifies, evaluates, reviews and implements IEPs timely and with fidelity, in accordance with applicable laws.	*	Only one IEP available for review for the current school year; student withdrew from the program prior to the walkthrough. The IEP reviewed required accommodations that did not align with the program's computer-based model.
ANNUAL IEP UPDATES:  Ensures IEPs are updated on an annual basis according to federal and state directives including December 1 Child Count compliance. Includes Transition Services in IEPs for students 14 years or older. Documents participation of all required IEP team members.	<b>✓</b>	1 of 1 IEP was in compliance for December 1 Child Count (100% compliance).
IEP MEETINGS:  Assumes lead role for scheduling, convening, and completion of IEP meetings as well as all special education related paperwork. Collaborates with the School District as necessary and appropriate to support students.	<b>√</b>	
EL IDENTIFICATION, EVALUATION & REVIEW: Identifies potential ELs using the Home Language Survey, evaluates students using screener, and assesses ELs annually using ACCESS exam to provide all required services for success of EL students.	*	Home language noted in English Language student's enrollment file, but no Home Language Survey was administered. Student had last taken an ACCESS test in the 16-17 SY, but no WPT or ACCESS test was administered in the 17-18 SY.

# CATEGORY 2: RECORD KEEPING & COMMUNICATION

**STANDARD: COMMUNICATIONS WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT** – Evidence that contractor timely and accurately reports information to the School District either directly or via provided systems consistent with contract requirements and written updates from the School District

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	ADDITIONAL NOTES
STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM UPLOAD:		
Provides student enrollment, attendance, behavior and coursework information to School District (via SIS) within contractually outlined period.	<b>√</b>	
ARCHIVE OF HISTORICAL RECORDS:	,	
Maintains an archive of all historical student academic and behavioral records.	<b>√</b>	

**STANDARD: COMMUNICATIONS WITH STUDENTS, PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND FAMILIES** – Evidence that contractor communicates timely and accurately with students, parents/guardians and families regarding student performance and progress in a manner accessible to all; protects student record information

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
SECURE PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION: Secures personally identifiable information, does not request or require prohibited information at time of enrollment (e.g. SSNs), and ensures that if student is 18+ years of age, student provides consent to release records.	<b>✓</b>	
ENGAGEMENT WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND FAMILIES:  Contractor ensures that it communicates with all stakeholders as appropriate to maintain levels of engagement including reporting of student academic progress, information regarding program events (e.g. back to school nights) and student expectations (e.g. orientation and handbook) in a manner that is accessible to all.	<b>✓</b>	The program regularly updates parents/guardians on student progress and offers consistent opportunities for families to engage (e.g., Parent Advisory Board, monthly phone conferences, parent surveys, parent career days, meet and greet events).

#### **CATEGORY 3: PERSONNEL**

STANDARD: BACKGROUND CHECKS, LICENSES & EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION – Evidence of contractor compliance with relevant contract, state and federal educator personnel requirements

compliance with relevant contract, state and rederal educator personnel requirements		
CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
EMPLOYEE BACKGROUND CHECKS:  Provides evidence of all relevant employee background checks and clearances. Checks and clearances are valid, timely and up to date as appropriate.	×	PA Criminal History Check: 4 of 5 employees reviewed had a valid check on file.  PA Child Abuse Clearance: 4 of 5 employees reviewed had a valid clearance on file.  FBI Background Check: 3 of 5 employees reviewed had a valid check on file.  Act 168 documentation: 2 of 3 eligible employees reviewed had documentation on file.  Note: One staff member reviewed worked for the program for approximately one month and was no longer employed at the time of the walkthrough.

# **DOMAIN 2:**ORGANIZATIONAL COMPLIANCE

OMBUDSMAN	NORTHWEST	ACCELERATED

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS:		No certified science teacher on staff.
Provides PA certificated teachers in all core instructional areas.	×	
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS (ADMINISTRATOR):	x	
Provides at least one PA certificated administrator per site.	*	
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES STAFF:		
Provides sufficiently trained and certified/licensed professional staff for student support services including special education and ELs.	<b>√</b>	

**STANDARD: PERSONNEL RATIO & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** – Evidence of contractor adherence to contractual Personnel Ratios, contractually or statutorily required trainings, and relevant staff professional development

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
PERSONNEL RATIOS:  Provides staffing to meet contractual student to teacher ratios and ensures student to support staff ratio is within contractual limits.	<b>✓</b>	
OBLIGATORY TRAININGS:  Provides all employees with Act 71, Act 126, and other obligatory PDE professional trainings and monitors timely completion and updates as required.	<b>√</b>	Act 126 training: X of Y staff reviewed completed the three-hour training.  Act 71: X of Y staff reviewed completed the training.
ENGAGEMENT IN DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONTRACTOR MEETINGS:  Ensures that teachers and administrators engage in School District professional development opportunities and monthly contractor meetings.	<b>✓</b>	

# **CATEGORY 4: GOVERNANCE & ENROLLMENT**

**STANDARD: PROGRAM GOVERNANCE** – Evidence of systems, structures and contractor activities to support compliance with contractual expectations for program governance

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:  Engages community and non-profit providers to provide a diverse and relevant range of non-academic student services and support.	×	Several efforts to engage community partners (employers, day care, police and probation officers), however, no evidence of formal relationships.
COMMUNITY ELICITATION:  Has active school or community advisory board or process by which the school community can provide input and feedback to the contractor regarding the program. Encourages parent/guardian participation in the District-wide annual survey.	<b>✓</b>	20% parents completed the 2017-2018 Districtwide Parent Survey.

**STANDARD: STUDENT ENROLLMENT** – Evidence of systems, structures and contractor practices to meet contractual and statutory requirements for student enrollment and eliminate barriers to entry

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
TIMELY ENROLLMENT:  Contractor does not create barriers to enrollment and enrolls students referred and/or who apply timely.  Enrollment and/or student files contain information as required by PDE for enrollment. Program has procedures in place to confirm eligibility of students prior to enrollment.	<b>✓</b>	
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT:  Contractor does not serve students from other LEAs without written consent of School District. Contractor confirms residency of student prior to or at time of enrollment.	*	No proof of residency documentation in student enrollment files to ensure Philadelphia residency.
RE-ENGAGEMENT CENTER REFERRALS:  Contractor has reserved 50% of seats for School District's Engagement Center (REC) and/or partners with the REC to receive referrals.	<b>✓</b>	

# CATEGORY I:ACCOMMODATIVE QUALITY

**STANDARD: FACILITIES** – Evidence of contractor compliance with established facility guidelines, contractual/statutory requirements and lease terms (if in School District-owned properties)

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
FEDERAL, STATE, & LOCAL REGULATIONS:		
Complies with all federal and state regulations regarding access to individuals with (physical or otherwise) disabilities. The program is housed in a non-sectarian facility. If in a privately-owned facility, contractor is compliant with any local requirements for facility condition including lead and water testing.	<b>✓</b>	
FACILITY MAINTENANCE:		
For privately-owned facilities, contractor maintains regular upkeep of facility including structure, student and staff related spaces as well as outside grounds. For School District-owned facilities, contactor fulfills the obligations of their lease agreement regarding maintenance and reports facility condition issues timely.	<b>√</b>	

**STANDARD: SCHOOL CALENDAR, TRANSPORTATION AND UNIFORMS** – Evidence that contractor operates a program that meets the minimum number of days of instruction as required by the contract and makes the program accessible to all eligible students

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
CALENDAR:		
Maintains an academic calendar that minimally has at least as many instructional days as that of the School District. Submits operational calendars timely and appropriately notifies the School District departments of any changes in the calendar.	<b>✓</b>	
TRANSPORTATION:  Maintains accurate student information to allow the School District to appropriately manage transportation services for students. No corrective action initiated regarding required student transpass usage reports.	×	The program submitted 0 of 7 transpass usage reports from September through March (0% compliance).

# OMBUDSMAN NORTHWEST ACCELERATED

# DOMAIN 3: ACCOMMODATIVE & FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
UNIFORMS:		
Establishes a clear dress code for students inclusive of expectations regarding school uniform. Provides uniforms to students upon request due to financial need. Does not have policies or practices that create barriers to instruction based on dress code or school uniform.	<b>✓</b>	

# DOMAIN 3: ACCOMMODATIVE & FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE

# **CATEGORY 2: FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE**

**STANDARD: PROCUREMENT OF OPERATING CERTIFICATES** – Contractor provides School District with relevant operating licenses and certificates; maintains current insurance consistent with contract requirements

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
TAX LIABILITIES:		
Provides School District with Certificate of Tax Clearance absolving any city tax liabilities.	<b>√</b>	
PROOF OF INSURANCE:		
Provides Proof of Insurance related to: (1) Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability, (2) General		
Liability Insurance, (3) Automobile Liability Insurance, (4) Professional Liability Insurance, (5) Educator Legal	<b>✓</b>	
Liability Insurance, (6) Excess/Umbrella Liability, and (7)		
Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance.		

**STANDARD: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING** – Evidence the contractor adheres to standards of financial management including with monitoring and reporting of revenues and expenses, invoicing to the School District and ability of contractor to maintain financial viability

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:		
Provides detailed information upon request regarding program annual budgets, as well as actual expenses and revenues. Upon request, provides independent third-party financial audit timely; audit does not indicate any material weakness or going concerns.	Not applicable	
MONTHLY INVOICING:  Submits monthly invoices timely with complete and accurate student-level information. Information provided can generally be validated against the School	<b>✓</b>	
District's SIS.		