

# **District Leadership Solutions Cross Walk with Summit Hill Feasibility Study Request for Proposal**

District Leadership Solutions has proposed completing the required ISBE Feasibility Study in phases out of respect for the Summit Hill School District resources of time, money, and effort. Should the initial findings of Phase 1 indicate that the district restructuring holds promise, DLS will submit a second proposal for the remaining work.

Following includes the rationale for doing the Student Enrollment Study, as well as a cross-walk between Phase 1 Proposal and the ISBE Feasibility Study:

## **Phase 1A – Student Enrollment Study**

Understanding the growth or decline of student enrollment over the next five to ten years will shed substantial light on the following issues that are included in the Request for Proposals:

1. Facility usage...ensuring that the current facilities will be used efficiently and effectively and if it makes sense to add facilities to accommodate 9-12 students.
2. Staffing...determining the largest expense for any school district is personnel costs. Having a forecast on what the future holds for staffing needs is paramount to understanding future budget costs.
3. Curriculum offerings...looking at the number of students who will be in attendance will shed light on how best to staff and what courses can be offered especially in the grades 9-12.

4. State aid... Understanding the growth/decline of student enrollment and the new state aid formula, is even more critical to understanding the future of state aid to come to the District.

5. Facility planning...getting a look into the future of what facilities are needed to accommodate the number of students that will be attending the District in the next decade.

6. Facility planning for study...utilizing items one through five above, the study will have a much clearer and accurate picture of what life will be like for Summit Hill students in the future and what taxpayers should expect to support those students.

The proposed student enrollment model includes logging actual birth rates over the last ten years and plotting that against the number of students who actually show up at the school room door. From this ratio, a cohort survival ratio is developed for the District and this can accurately predict the number of students going forward that can be expected to attend starting in kindergarten. Statistical models are then developed and shared with the District which yield a high, low, medium, and snapshot perspective. Each of these models are explained and the District can choose which model they believe most accurately predicts what will happen. Once this model is developed it is easy for the District to keep the predictions up to date.

Specifically, the Enrollment Study will address the requested:

- Past enrollment trends
- Current enrollment
- 5-year enrollment projections

### *Timeline 1A*

Student enrollment study will be completed by September 30, 2019 and provided to the District 161 Board of Education or other venues as requested.

### *Cost 1A*

The fee for the Enrollment Study is \$9,250 plus, expenses.  
(Please note: DLS does not enhance any affiliate fees for our benefit.)

## **Phase 1B – Overall Tax Impact**

This phase of the study will address:

1. Debt
  - Current short- and long-term debt of districts
  - Combined short- and long-term debt amount
  - Estimated debt needed after reorganization
2. Comparison of Financial Profile of each District
3. Tax Rates – Estimated effect on each District
4. Five-Year Financial Projections as provided by Forecast 5
5. Fund Balances

### *Timeline 1B*

With the cooperation of District Bond Counsel and Financial Advisors, the financial impact study can be completed by September of 2019 and provided to both school districts.

### *Cost 1B*

\$10,000, plus expenses

## **Phase 1C – Tax Impact Including High School Experience**

- Baseline costs to provide a high school curriculum and extra-curricular activities based on the current D210 offerings and the result of student enrollment study

### *Timeline 1C*

- Data from the enrollment study will need to be completed prior to the completion of 1C
- Information to both Boards of Education by November 1, 2019

### *Cost 1C*

\$10,000, plus expenses

## **Phase 1D – Tax Impact on District 161 including the purchase of Lincoln-Way North High School**

- Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) projection

### *Timeline 1D*

This impact study will be presented concurrently with Phase 1C.

### *Cost 1D*

\$2,000, plus expenses

DLS developed its proposal with the intent to not cause unnecessary costs to the Summit Hill School District; therefore, did not include the following areas of the Feasibility Study until the initial work indicated a positive outcome:

1. Transportation – Until the enrollment and facilities are determined, transportation cannot be addressed
2. Health Life Safety – Until facilities are determined, Health Life Safety cannot be addressed
3. Class Size and District Overall Staffing – Following the first phase of the study, class size and staffing can be developed.

DLS proposes to complete the enrollment and financial assessments initially. If the conclusion of those two studies indicates that the proposed new district structure is feasible, then we would submit a second proposal for the remainder of the required study in an effort to save the Summit Hill Board of Education the cost of doing a study on a project that is not feasible.

We stand ready to provide the needed supports needed to complete this project.

District Leadership Solutions, LLC

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