468 students participated in Co-op programming

51 member LEAs served

69 community partners and volunteers engaged

$4M recovered in Medicaid reimbursements for schools

79 professional development sessions delivered

403 teacher and school leader engagements with Co-op programming
ELEVATE, the Co-op's core program, enables charter schools to “elevate” their practices and provide high quality and compliant special education services for students with disabilities with the ultimate goal of improving academic outcomes.

School Based Medicaid is one of the Co-op's oldest initiatives. This program has created the scale necessary for relatively small school districts (DC charters) to access federal dollars that they are entitled to as public schools.
DC3C’s goal is for high school students with disabilities to be better prepared for careers, college, and community. During FY20, the Co-op’s DC3C program served more than 300 students across 24 charter schools.

In November 2019, over 200 students from across the city attended the Co-op’s DC3C Next Steps Fair. This day-long event allowed students to participate in career awareness activities. Students engaged with guest speakers from various careers as well as vendors representing the myriad career training programs offered here in the District.

In the Spring of 2020, DC3C successfully shifted its student-facing programming online in response to the global pandemic. The Career Prep Program for students ages 14-16 piloted a new curriculum (Oneder) and students learned to navigate issues with technology, connectivity, and improve computer literacy. Program staff were surprised to learn that many students did not have familiarity with platforms (i.e. Zoom) that schools were employing during distance learning. This experience was beneficial for both staff and students as DC3C moves more programming online in SY20-21.

Feedback from students is extremely important to DC3C. Results from surveys show that students are overwhelmingly satisfied with programming and that it is having a positive impact on their lives. 90.8% of students who completed a DC3C program feedback form indicated that the program helped them connect to a post secondary (career) goal. Most DC3C events would not have been possible without the support of community partners and volunteers. In FY20, the Co-op engaged 69 volunteers/community partners in DC3C programming.
In the Spring of 2020, the Co-op partnered with a researcher at the George Washington University to conduct a validity study of the ELEVATE Special Education Needs Assessment tool. The study provided a detailed interpretation of the pattern and structure matrix, resulting in a full explanation of the nature in which the 37 sub-indicators on the ELEVATE Needs Assessment are aligned to the 6 components of the Co-op's ELEVATE Special Education Framework. Four of the 6 components demonstrated “strong” evidence, 1 demonstrated “moderate” evidence and 1 “low evidence” for the construct validity of the ELEVATE Needs Assessment. While these results are overwhelmingly positive, the Co-op plans to use the research findings to improve the tool over the coming year.

The goal of the ELEVATE program is to support DC Charter schools to improve their capacity to serve students with disabilities. In FY20 the Co-op made great strides in the further development of the ELEVATE program.
Another milestone for the ELEVATE program was achieved in the late Spring. After 2 years of effort, the Co-op successfully launched 2 “demonstration classrooms” (demo classrooms) with a third in development at member schools. The Co-op’s demo classrooms are an in-house professional development model. These classrooms give teachers access to high-quality models where they can observe instructional practices in real-time with an opportunity to debrief what they saw and discuss how they can incorporate the practices into their own classrooms. 129 students participated in the classrooms, receiving the benefit of evidence-based instructional strategies. This Spring, the Co-op along with school leaders and staff at each of the demos, welcomed representatives from 24 charter schools to participate in a virtual tour and dialogue about the demo practice and its benefits for students, especially those with disabilities. In the coming years the Co-op intends to build a network of demos across the District of Columbia, each highlighting an evidence-based practice, serving as models for schools striving to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

The UDL Demo at Bridges Public Charter School highlights Universal Design for Learning (UDL). UDL is a framework and an approach to instruction that removes barriers to learning. Made up of 3 main principles, UDL builds in flexibility for how students access information and demonstrate their knowledge. When applied in the general education classroom, UDL creates equitable access to high-quality instruction for all learners.

The Co-teaching Demo at Inspired Teaching Demonstration Public Charter School showcases co-teaching which is the practice of having more than one teacher provide instruction in the classroom. Research shows that co-teaching is a highly effective method for improving outcomes for students with disabilities because it creates access to the general education curriculum in an environment with same-age, non-disabled peers.

Learn more about the Co-op’s Demo Classrooms
The Co-op's COVID Response

When schools were forced to move online in March, the Co-op sprang into action. The weeks and months that followed saw dramatic increases in engagement, collaboration, and unity as special education leaders from across the city grappled with how this new normal would impact their students.

- Recruited presenters and co-hosted two webinars with the Public Charter School Board (PCSB) centering Distance Learning and Special Education
- Hosted a session unpacking OSSE guidance for special education leaders featuring Attorney Lauren Baum
- Presented on the Education Board Partners session on Special Education

- Convened local advocacy groups (AJE, DC Quality Trust, DCASE), agency reps (DC Ombudsman), and SchoolTalk to discuss the needs of parents
- Established a FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) working group which went on to develop guidance and tools for LEAs
- Launched a shared drive for schools that curated resources, policy, and tools
- Launched a distance learning resource page on the website
- Recruited presenters and co-hosted two webinars with the Public Charter School Board (PCSB) centering Distance Learning and Special Education

- Presented the Co-op's FAPE and Recovery guidance and tools to school leaders at the Deputy Mayor of Education's weekly webinar
- Recruited presenters and co-hosted two webinars with the Public Charter School Board (PCSB) centering Distance Learning and Special Education

- Participated in OSSE's Recovery Planning for Transportation working group
- Secured a grant giving 17 LEAs access to an online platform that facilitates IEP information sharing and planning
The Co-op’s Medicaid program’s goal is for DC Charters to maximize utilization of public dollars in support of their special education programs.

This year, the Co-op was able to conduct targeted client-recruitment outreach to 3 additional charter schools and create a Medicaid calendar of events with tips and training materials around key dates. The Co-op’s Medicaid program facilitated $4M in Medicaid reimbursement for the charter sector in FY20. Additionally, the Co-op is pleased to report that it has retained 100% of its clients in FY20.
Achievement Preparatory Academy PCS
AppleTree Early Learning PCS
BASIS DC PCS
Breakthrough Montessori PCS
Bridges PCS
Briya PCS
Capital City PCS
Carlos Rosario International PCS
Center City PCS
Cesar Chavez PCS for Public Policy
Creative Minds International PCS
DC Bilingual PCS
DC Prep PCS
DC Scholars PCS
District of Columbia International School PCS
Digital Pioneers Academy PCS
E.L. Haynes PCS
Eagle Academy PCS
Early Childhood Academy PCS
Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom PCS
Friendship PCS
Goodwill Excel Center PCS
Hope Community PCS
IDEA PCS
Ingenuity Prep PCS
Inspired Teaching Demonstration PCS
Kingsman Academy PCS
KIPP DC PCS
Latin American Montessori Bilingual PCS
LAYC Career Academy PCS
Lee Montessori PCS Maya Angelou PCS
Maya Angelou PCS
Meridian PCS
Monument Academy PCS
Mundo Verde Bilingual PCS
Paul PCS
Perry Street Preparatory PCS
Richard Wright PCS for Journalism & Media Arts
Rocketship DC PCS
SEED PCS
Sela PCS
Statesman Academy PCS
The Children's Guild DC PCS
The Next Step/El Proximo Paso PCS
Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS
Two Rivers PCS
Washington Latin PCS
Washington Leadership PCS
Washington Yu Ying PCS
YouthBuild PCS
Raymond Weeden (Board Chair)
Executive Director, Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS

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Jack McCarthy
President & CEO, AppleTree Institute for Education and Innovation

Richard Pohlman
Principal and Founder, RP Consulting Group, LLC

Peter Anderson
Head of School, Washington Latin Public Charter School
The Co-op continues to maintain a strong financial position ensuring that our resources go toward providing high quality programs and services that meet the needs of students, parents, general and special educators, school leaders, and the charter school community-at-large.
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