

DC SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT

FY24



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	LETTER FROM THE ED	1
	STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS	2
	PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS	4
	MEMBERS	10
	BOARD OF DIRECTORS	11
GRANTS & AWARDS		12
FINANCIALS		13
THANK YOU SPONSORS!		14
CONTACT US		15

LETTER FROM THE ED

This year the Co-op's leadership team embarked on charting a course forward for our next five years in the form of a strategic plan. Unlike previous strategic plans, we decided to do this plan ourselves. With deep roots in the community and an equally deep commitment to the students and educators we serve, the Co-op's leadership team wanted to be in every conversation with stakeholders.

One of the themes that surfaced throughout the process was the necessity for creating conditions under which LEAs can focus on the prioritization of access of students with disabilities, not only to the services described in their IEPs, but, perhaps more importantly, to the core instruction and curriculum offered at each school. That is where the work of the Co-op lies.

The understanding of how to create those conditions must be grounded in the city's current context. Frankly, we are in a desperate place when it comes to students with disabilities. Poor outcomes and dramatic gaps between students with and without disabilities predate the pandemic, and will continue to persist without a firm focus on quality, a tightly coordinated effort, and creative solutions for overcoming structural barriers within the sector.

While the work is daunting, we remain both hopeful and optimistic! The Co-op is grateful for the strong partnerships we have cultivated across the city. We are motivated by the school leaders at every Co-op member school who show up each day with the desire to get it right for students with disabilities. We are inspired by our students who persevere despite all obstacles to keep striving toward their dreams. We work for them.

In service,



**JULIE
CAMERATA**

ED DC Special Education
Cooperative



STRATEGIC PLAN FY25-29 HIGHLIGHTS

UPDATED VISION & MISSION

Vision: Our vision is that all students with disabilities are empowered and equipped to lead meaningful and connected lives.

Mission: The DC Special Education Cooperative (Co-op) works to create equitable and excellent educational systems where students with disabilities thrive.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

High Quality Instruction

All students with disabilities have access to educators skilled in delivering instruction that leads to student growth and achievement.

Strategic Collaboration

The Co-op is the preeminent voice of special education in Washington, DC. Charter LEAs work together to provide high quality services to students with disabilities. City agencies are coordinated in accountability and support efforts. Local and national partnerships are leveraged to benefit students with disabilities attending DC charters.

Strong Systems

All LEAs have infrastructure that ensures high quality services.

Organizational Efficiency

The Co-op will maximize its small and agile team to deliver high impact services.



STRATEGIC PLAN FY25-29 HIGHLIGHTS

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Over the next five years, the Co-op will build and launch meaningful and long-lasting solutions that will accelerate the growth and achievement of students with disabilities across the city.

HIGH QUALITY INSTRUCTION

- Offer opportunities for educators build skills and knowledge
- Build a cadre of master educators
- Promote models of instructional excellence

STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

- Leverage our expertise and voice with local and national partners to amplify and support Co-op services and activities
- Partner with city agencies to improve alignment around needs and supports
- Offer a suite of shared services that drive quality and efficient allocation of resources

STRONG SYSTEMS

- Strengthen school and special education leader capacity to provide high quality services
- Develop essential resources
- Promote models of excellence

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



in SY23-24, DC3C served 641 unique students from 25 LEAs, providing support in the areas of independent living, post-secondary education, and employment. We exceeded our targets across all activities.

- * This year's Next Steps Fair welcomed 351 students from across DC. They learned about career, college, and community resources from 53 exhibitors.
- * Our work-based learning activities blossomed this year. We visited four local colleges/universities and toured seven job sites. We launched our job shadowing activity, allowing students to get a closer look at the world of work. Over the course of the year, five partners hosted 47 students! We'd like to thank: AppleTree PCS, Dudley Beauty College, Quality Trust, the Department of Education, and the Department of Transportation for their support.



% of students who were able to identify a career of interest and pathway to it

98%



students

641



LEAs

25

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

DEMONSTRATION CLASSROOMS



10
Tours



14
LEA teams visited



100%
LEA reps would recommend the tour to a colleague

THE CO-OP'S DEMONSTRATION ("DEMO") CLASSROOMS ARE REIMAGINED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SPACES FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS.

This year, we relaunched our Demo Tours, providing LEAs in search of ways to improve outcomes for students with disabilities a new way to learn about evidence-based practices. In addition to our local tours, we brought our Demos to a national audience. In March, Team Co-op presented at the Center for Learner Equity's special convening: Move Together: A Call to Action to the Charter Ecosystem for Students with Disabilities.

Closer to home, but still on the national stage, we were thrilled to have our Director of Education Innovation and Improvement and our UDL Demo Teachers from Bridges PCS along with one of their students participate in the UDL Roundtable organized by CAST and hosted at The White House. The team was excited to contribute to discussions on Universal Design for Learning and its role in creating inclusive learning environments.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ELEVATE CONFERENCE



This year's ELEVATE conference, All In: Elevating Student Voice in Schools brought together teachers, administrators, and for the first time ever, STUDENTS! from across DC. The participants gathered to learn about the Co-op's Student Voice work, which highlighted research showing that students do better personally, socially, and academically when they are encouraged to take ownership of their learning. Students who believe

% of participants reporting improved readiness to support students

100%

Attendees:

146

LEAs:

25



they have a voice in school are 7 times more likely to be academically motivated than those who do not!

We were thrilled to have student leaders from Washington Leadership Academy PCS co-present for the opening session. Participants left with a better understanding of how schools can center student voice in decision-making at the classroom, campus, and LEA level to create systems where students with disabilities thrive. Some teams even created action plans with concrete steps for elevating student voices in their schools which included goals like: *all students will have a greater understanding of what it means to have a disability.*



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

INTERVENTION DISTRICT

The Co-op's Intervention District supports students who are performing significantly below grade-level expectations in reading and math. In SY23-24 the Intervention District served 8 LEAs. Classrooms that met or came closest to meeting key markers for fidelity of implementation saw notable gains. Some highlights from SY24-25 include:

- * At Washington Latin, none of 7th grade students who took the growth measure at the beginning of the year were reading on grade level. By the end of the year, 71.3% of 7th graders who took the growth measure were reading on grade level and 28.6% of students were approaching grade level. At the beginning of the year more than half of these 7th graders tested below or far below grade level. By the end of the year, none of these students tested in the below or far below categories.
- * 70% of 9th graders at Thurgood Marshall Academy who received Math intervention and completed beginning and end of year assessments demonstrated quantile growth and 70% of students who demonstrated growth met or exceeded their expected growth targets. Also, 4 students who tested below basic at the beginning year tested as proficient by the end of the school year. An additional 4 students who tested below basic at the beginning of the year moved to basic by the end of the school year.
- * Based on the NWEA MAP Growth Assessment 73% of students who received Read 180 Instruction at Washington Leadership Academy met their expected growth targets by the end of SY23-24

We continue to support our members in closing pervasive achievement gaps that have long impacted students in DC.

8

participating schools

30

participating teachers

557

participating students



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SCHOOL BASED MEDICAID

School-based Medicaid creates the scale necessary for relatively small school districts (DC charters) to access federal dollars that they are entitled to as public schools. In its expansion phase, the Medicaid program served 31 LEAs this year. The Co-op retained 100% of its Medicaid clients in FY 24. Our Director of Medicaid Services conducted 6 Medicaid Q&A sessions during the year to increase compliance and provide program tips and training materials. When we report all outstanding settlement funding, the Co-op anticipates that the Medicaid program will have facilitated more than \$6.2M in Medicaid reimbursement for the charter sector in FY 24.

31

participating LEAs

5

new Medicaid LEAs added this year!

\$27M +

in revenue recovered for participating LEAs since the program's inception



MEMBERS

Co-op members are 57 DC charter schools that share our vision for students with disabilities. We are grateful for their commitment!

- Academy of Hope PCS (new!)
- Achievement Prep PCS
- AppleTree PCS
- BASIS DC
- Breakthrough Montessori PCS
- Bridges PCS
- Briya PCS
- Capital City PCS
- Center City PCS
- Cesar Chavez PCS
- Creative Minds International PCS
- DC Bilingual PCS
- DC International PCS
- DC Preparatory Academy PCS
- DC Scholars PCS
- DC Wildflower Montessori PCS
- Digital Pioneers Academy PCS
- Early Childhood Academy PCS
- E.L. Haynes PCS
- Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom PCS
- Friendship PCS
- Girls Global Academy
- Global Citizens PCS
- Goodwill Excel Center PCS
- Harmony DC 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
- LEARN D.C. PCS
- Lee Montessori PCS
- Maya Angelou PCS
- Meridian PCS
- Monument Academy PCS
- Mundo Verde PCS
- Paul PCS
- Perry Street Preparatory PCS
- Richard Wright PCS
- Rocketship PCS
- Sela PCS
- Shining Stars Montessori Academy PCS
- Social Justice School PCS
- Sojourner Truth Montessori PCS
- Statesman College Prep Academy for Boys PCS
- St. Coletta of Greater Washington PCS (new!)
- The Children's Guild PCS
- The Next Step PCS
- The SEED School of Washington, D.C. PCS
- Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS
- Two Rivers PCS
- Washington Latin PCS
- Washington Leadership Academy PCS
- Washington Yu Ying PCS
- Youthbuild PCS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Alexandra Pardo ED.D
Partner
TenSquare



Daniela Anello
Head of School
DC Bilingual PCS



Jonathan Beall
Senior Vice President
& C&I Relationship Manager
Eagle Bank



Leicester Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
Academy of Hope Adult PCS



Jack McCarthy
President & CEO
AppleTree Institute for
Education and Innovation
Co-op Board Secretary



Peter Timothy Anderson
Head of School
Washington Latin PCS



Raymond Weeden
Executive Director
Thurgood Marshall PCS
Co-op Board Chair



Shelley Jacobson Hughes
Director of Finance
NewSchools
Co-op Board Treasurer

Our dedicated board is working to ensure that the Co-op is a strong organization able to support DC's charter sector. This year, we were thrilled to have two new directors join, Jonathan Beall and Leicester Johnson.

GRANTS & AWARDS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our generous funders. Your support has been instrumental in making our work a reality. With your contributions, we've been able to advance our mission and impact countless lives. Thank you for your unwavering commitment and belief in our cause. Your partnership and dedication inspire us to continue striving for excellence. Together, we are making a difference!

THE MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN CAFRITZ FOUNDATION

We are so grateful to the Cafritz Foundation, a long-standing funder of the Co-op's work. With the Cafritz operating grant, the Co-op is able to provide ongoing

strategic thought partnership, training, and direct instruction to school leaders, teachers, and students at 58 charter schools in Washington, DC, influencing the outcomes for approximately 5,800 students with disabilities (SWDs) citywide.



Ceres support enabled the Co-op to develop and launch a new work based learning experience (WBLE) for students. This year 47 high schoolers participated in the Co-op's job shadowing WBLE. Our DC3C job shadowing experiences allow students to accompany a professional

during their workday, observing their tasks, responsibilities, and interactions. Students from 11 different LEA campuses completed a job shadowing experience. In total, participating students logged 178.25 hours of job shadowing experiences at 7 different partner organizations. Overall, 97% of surveyed student participants reported that the job shadowing experience better prepared them for a future career. In addition, 98% of surveyed students reported that the job shadowing experience helped them identify a new career path that they were previously unaware of.

GRANTS & AWARDS



Gamba Family

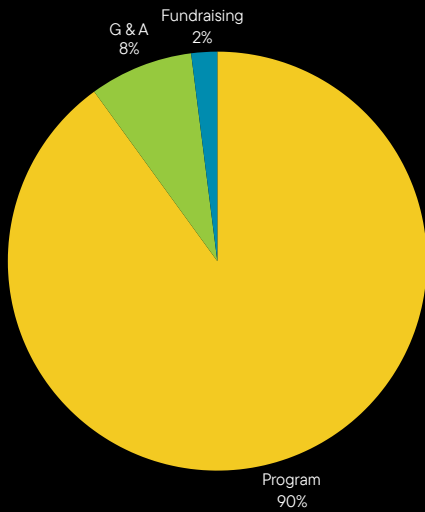
Funding from the Gamba Family supported the Co-op's Demonstration Classrooms. The Foundation's partnership allowed the Co-op to allocate staff time to coordinating Demo tours and compensate Demo teachers for their exceptional work in creating model classrooms for students with disabilities. We were also able to launch subsidized supports for schools interested in bringing our Multi Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Demo practices to their buildings using the Co-op's MTSS needs assessment. In the coming year, this targeted support will help these schools understand their data and translate their assessments into actionable improvements for students with disabilities.



The Co-op won a two-year OSSE SOAR grant in 2023. This project, “Centering Student Voice to Improve Educational Outcomes for Students with Disabilities” is a 2-year project designed to enhance partner LEAs’ capacity to effectively meet the academic and social-emotional needs of students with disabilities and build on the work of our “All In” Summit, a convening held in early 2023 to deepen LEAs’ understanding of how to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. This year’s work centered the voices of students with disabilities in order to improve instructional practices at three partner LEAs. By providing teachers with actionable feedback from students with disabilities, using a “coach the coaches” model, and creating meaningful professional development, our project is delivering both improved academic and social-emotional outcomes.

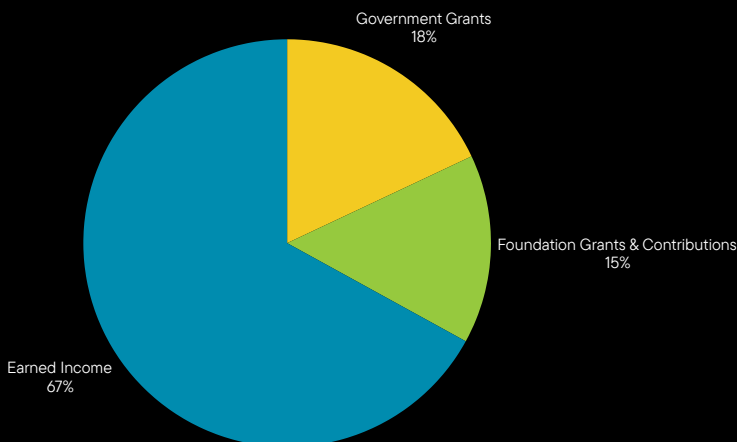
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

* FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



Program	\$1.8M
G&A	\$161K
Fundraising	\$46K

* REVENUE



Foundation Grants & Contributions	15%
Government Grants	18%
Earned Income	67%

Thank you for supporting the Co-op!



THIS YEAR'S ELEVATE CONFERENCE WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR SPONSORS.



Cole Pediatric Therapy



Houghton
Mifflin
Harcourt



tripod

CONTACT US



Phone/
202.656.2667

Email/
info@specialcoop.org

Website/
www.specialcoop.org

Socials/
[@specialcoop](https://www.instagram.com/specialcoop)