

ROCKBRIDGE Q & A February 16, 2011

1) Why is Rockbridge Academy interested in leasing space from the district?

Difficult financial times have reduced the Alternative Education Grant money coming from the Department of Education and received by Rockbridge. Fixed costs have continued to rise in the current space at OSU Harding campus resulting in the need for the Rockbridge Board of Trustees to develop a long lasting sustainable plan to be able to serve an underserved student group. Worthington students directly benefit from sustaining this service that has excellent results to get students back on track. Finally, Worthington is centrally located for all the existing partners to easily continue their involvement.

2) How did the Worthington administration determine Phoenix Middle School as the best site for Rockbridge Academy?

The reasoning behind this recommendation was twofold:

- 1) The Worthington Board of Education made it clear that for Phoenix MS to continue to locate at the Perry Campus, the building had to be cost effective especially as related to the physical plant. The district looked for a possible partner(s) to share space.*
- 2) The district administration studied five possible locations for Rockbridge so it would not lose this very cost effective student drop out program. Visits and analysis of Worthington Kilbourne HS, Kilbourne MS, Sutter Park Pre-School, the Worthington Education Center and Phoenix MS were completed. Ultimately, locating Rockbridge at the East end of the Perry campus was the best solution for both school programs.*

3) Where on campus would you locate Rockbridge Academy?

The plan is to create a separate space for Rockbridge at the east end of the Perry campus using rooms 125 and 126. Students would enter through the east door and have a separate functioning space reserved just for their school program. Our initial planning and investigation includes the possibility of locating a small restroom in the space that would be used just for Rockbridge students and staff. Dedicated phone and computer access would be supplied by Rockbridge as well as all equipment.

4) What is supervision like for Rockbridge students?

The program is designed for students to be engaged in on-line learning while they are on site from 9AM until 12:30 PM. Most students work on line while at home as well so they can bring in questions and concerns for staff to help. The student – staff ratio is 6-1 so students can get the assistance they need while generating work to submit. Students from five school districts (24 max.) arrive by school bus, private car, dropped off by parents or

for some they will drive themselves. They will enter the building from the east entrance into their program space and are always under staff supervision.

5) How do students qualify to attend Rockbridge?

Only participating districts can utilize the services provided by Rockbridge. Students are referred after the school has exhausted student interventions (75% of Rockbridge students are those with significant credit and social/emotional deficits). Other students can be referred as an alternative to expulsion (25%). All students are screened by school officials, the Rockbridge teacher director and the Rockbridge Board of Trustees before placement occurs. All students must be accompanied by a parent to the Intake Meeting where curriculum is outlined and the Code of Conduct is discussed and agreed to by the family. Zero tolerance of misbehavior is adhered to by the Rockbridge Academy staff. Rockbridge is viewed by the Board of Trustees as a privilege, not a right.

6) Will Rockbridge use any Phoenix resources?

Rockbridge Academy has its own governance through a Board of Trustees that provides oversight to revenue and expenses. The program operates by generating revenue from districts purchasing “seats” and paying out expenses for staff, rent, phones etc. It would not use any Phoenix resources.