

# Worcester Public Schools Alternative Programs

Annie Azarloza, Chief Academic Support Officer  
Thomas Toney, Administrative Director of Positive Youth Development  
Shannon Conley, EdD Director of Alternative Education

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**From Here, Anywhere....**

*Together*



**WORCESTER**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Strategic Plan

## Superintendent's Goals

Ensure district-wide system for recruitment, hiring, and retention of a highly talented, culturally and linguistically competent workforce.

Strengthen maintenance protocols and implement school safety recommendations to guarantee the continual modernization of all WPS facilities, cultivating an environment that is both secure and supportive for learning.

Collaboratively lead school teams in identifying and using multiple sources of evidence to assess, respond, and improve outcomes in all schools with an intentional focus on historically underserved youth.

Participation in New Superintendent Induction Program (NSIP) year 2 will have been completed with all required projects submitted

## School Growth Plans

Vision of a Learner

Grade 3 Reading Level

Student Engagement

# Expected Outcomes

## School Committee Members will receive:

- An overview of the Rennie Center Report
- An update on WPS Alternative Programs



# Overview of Alternative Programs





- **Alternative Programs**
  - Gerald Creamer Center (GCC)
  - Challenge and Reach (C&R)
- **Public Day Schools**
  - Academic Center for Transition
  - Worcester Alternative School
- **Referral Supports**
  - Turn It Around
  - Safety Center
  - Assessment and Stabilization Programs



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## **Massachusetts Alternative Education Definition**

Alternative Education is an initiative within a public school district, charter school, or educational collaborative established to serve at-risk students whose needs are not being met in the traditional school setting.

# Rennie Center Findings







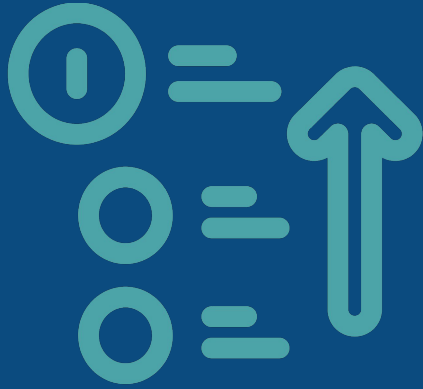
## Strengths

- Welcoming school cultures
- Passionate, committed staff
- Strong relationships among stakeholders
- Culture of inclusion
- Intimate learning environments offer an increased opportunity for student engagement
- Openness and willingness to change



## Challenges

- Lack of common mission
- Ensure least restrictive environment for special education students
- Inconsistent referral process
- Lack of continuum of care at the middle school level
- Negative program stigma



## Recommendations and Priorities

- Develop a vision and mission
- Ensure equitable accessibility
- Create clear program and goals with consistent benchmarks for entrance and exits
- Provide high-quality programming

# Student Data



# Alternative Programs Enrollment

Year	Gerald Creamer Center	Challenge and Reach*
2015-2016	320	119
2016-2017	297	104
2017-2018	278	108
2018-2019	312	113
2019-2020	291	94
2020-2021	244	71
2021-2022	249	103
2022-2023	258	152*
2023-2024	404	75

# Previous State

## Gerald Creamer Center

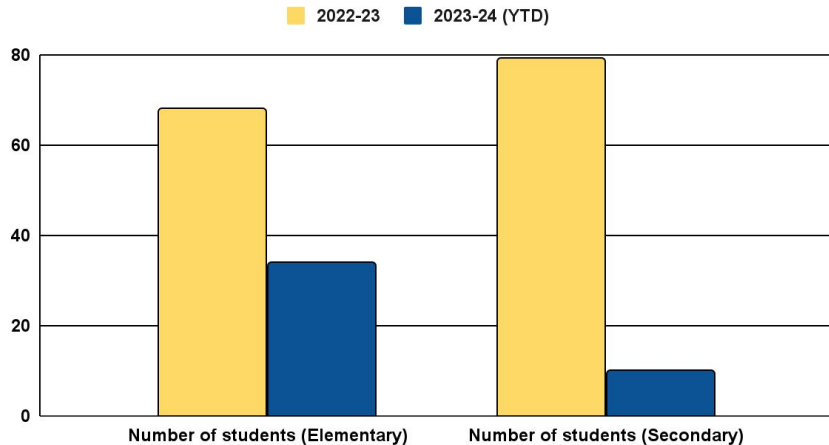
- Seats per high school
- 10 credits
- Day and Evening
- Returnee Program

## Challenge and Reach

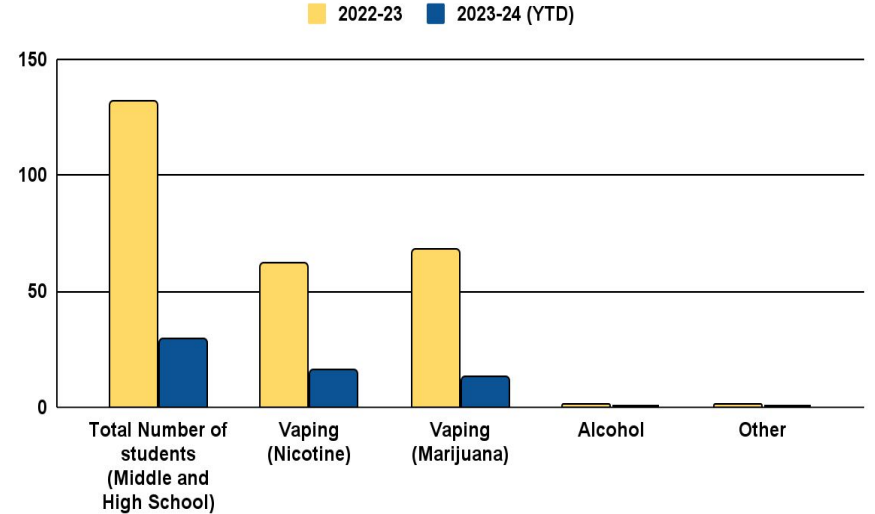
- Seats per secondary school
- Semester based
- Assessment and Stabilization Program

# Referral Supports

## Safety Center

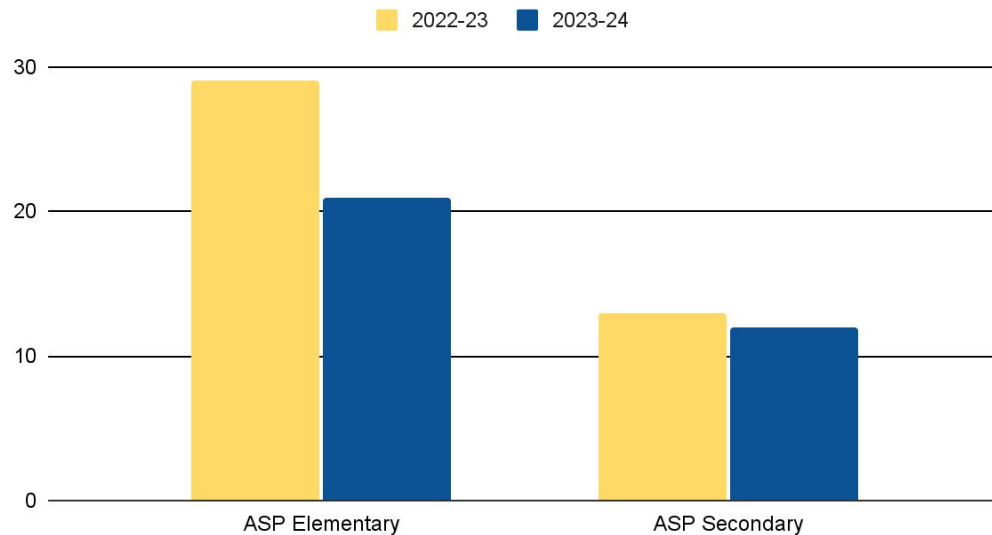


## Turn It Around



# Referral Supports

## Assessment and Stabilization





# Next Steps



# Moving Forward



**Alternative Guidebook**



**Equity in a Least Restrictive Environment**



**Partnerships**



**Vision of a Learner**

# Voices from the field



Thank You