

Multipurpose Project for 1699 Moor High Road Location

The Education Association of East Oktibbeha County Schools (EAEOCS) is a nonprofit organization established by alumni of the former Moor High School in 2002. The organization is membership based and consists of former high school alumni, and citizens of the community. The primary objectives are providing educational services, community involvement in education, campus improvement projects, and acknowledgement and recognition of alumni heritage.

Since consolidation EAEOCS continued its efforts in community involvement through advocacy to develop programs that would be beneficial to the citizens of its area. The SOCSO gave EAEOCS the opportunity to present a proposal for reopening of the former EOCHS location as a multipurpose center by partnering with other organizations of the county. The research was completed where facts for operations are available and the requirements for occupancy explored.

We, therefore, request the Oktibbeha County Board of Supervisors, to review the enclosed package, and ask that it serves, as an official application as a partner with you in developing the property located at 1699 Moor High Road, as a multipurpose educational and community center.

The areas of interest in the development of the community center are follows:

- (1) Develop a cultural/educational center with emphases on preserving the history and legacies of Oktibbeha County schools and their alumni groups and other citizens who impacted education
- (2) Provide Education Support Systems for teachers, along with remediation and enrichment programs
- (3) Provide Community Health Education and Fitness Programs
- (4) Partnering with Public and Private Organizations to provide services to individuals and families

The Multipurpose Facility, community center will be a subsidiary of the EAEOCS organizational structure under the community involvement link. It will operate under the leadership of a Program Coordinator and Property Manager. The *plan* calls for a partnership with the SOCSO which would allow the community to be actively involved in education for all students in Oktibbeha County. EAEOCS will be wholly supported by the alumni, commitment of community churches, private, and public funds for operations. EAEOCS is committed to overseeing the property and developing a multiplicity of programs that will benefit the community, educationally, in health, fitness, and economics.

Cultural Center of Education and History

An abundance of history is currently housed at unknown locations by the new SOCSO and some items possessed by private citizens, whose schools were dissolved due to consolidation. With availability on the property, various sections of the property will be dedicated to displaying the legacy of former High Schools from the later part of the nineteenth century. Sharing the facility with abolished schools is desirable and would enhance the cultural significance in the community, the recognition of achievement, and preservation of institutions' legacies of Afro American history in the community. Presently, forty-two years of history is in need of a permanent home for the former B.L. Moor High legacy with records of 38 graduation classes, hundreds of trophies, and other historical artifacts. There are memorabilia of NFL Hall of Famer Jerry Rice who is a graduate of the Oktibbeha School System whereby, we desire to display his achievement and preserve his accomplishment. Other institutions of Oktibbeha County Schools such as Alexander High, Henderson High, Otis Wicks, and Maben High School artifacts are without a permanent residence and are deserving of an official location to honor their academia in Oktibbeha County.

Educational Support Systems for Teachers for all grade levels countywide

A major component of the multipurpose project is to provide support systems to teachers of the SOCSO for the purpose of improving student performance through community involvement in education.

The teacher support team will intervene on behavior issues through collaboration and partnering with Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated Schools District. The approach to accomplish the objectives will be a team approach with community churches and organizations that have a curriculum centered on educational programs, events or activities that will reinforce classroom teaching and address behavior issues identified as affecting learning, teaching time, safety, and classroom management. The organization proposes to confer with behavior specialist, and community counseling, only as independent referral agents for behavior needs.

An educational committee will be formed to develop, train, and implement events and programs for students. The proposed teacher support team, which consists of alumni and citizens of Oktibbeha County, will convene at the facility. This will be the method of intervention with students to refocus and redirect behaviors which are specific to behavior issues identified.

Character development will be taught and practiced within community churches weekly. Monthly, the education committee will host youth events, for various grade levels at the facility, thus, bringing the community together at the center with additional lessons, work shops, and classroom activities, or group discussions, and enrichment.

There will be a director of Character Education who will communicate to all the youth departments of the various churches in the Oktibbeha County Ministerial Alliance. The Director of Character Education will report to EAEOCS Program Coordinator, and EPC will communicate with school district on recommended studies and activities to address behavioral problems or enrich on a regular bases. Other churches in the entire county, also, will be included in helping enhance educational success for all students.

The educators will design a program centered on real life and world like context. A selected character building model will be designed according to grade levels: high school, middle school, and elementary. Subjects of focus and redirection will be trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, honesty, courage, diligence, integrity.

Community Health Education and Fitness Programs

Obesity is identified as a major health issue in our communities, particularly in the State of Mississippi. According to the University of Mississippi Newsletter, *Mississippi has the highest rate of childhood obesity in the nation. Nearly half of Mississippi children are overweight or obese. Children as young as eight years old are being treated for Type II diabetes and high cholesterol.* The proposed facility will provide classes and seminars on nutrition, an exercise room for fitness health, and development of various recreational programs to enhance physical health among youth and adults. These programs will be coordinated by the program director of the proposed center, with the churches, local organizations, and volunteer leaders from the community 100% involved.

Numerous alumni health care professionals such as doctors, nurses, physical therapists, etc. will host health fair events periodically. Incorporated with the projects will be educational material from various health organizations, such as the Heart Association, Diabetes, Kidney Foundation, etc. Various screening will also be conducted from the facility to create preventive awareness. The facility will seek funding for feeding programs for youth seasonally and for the senior citizen population.

Alumni coaches, athletes, and other organization members, will coordinate health and fitness events and activities. The proposed Fitness Center on the property will be equipped with a mirrored exercise studio, exercise equipment, and locker rooms. It will be staffed by trained fitness professionals who are there to conduct fitness assessments, consultations, equipment orientations, and provide a safe, effective, and enjoyable workout environment. Through the Movement Program, the fitness center will provide a wide range of aerobic classes including step, body sculpting, and kickboxing. The fitness center also offers a variety of Wellness Programs in order to help the community residents make a positive lifestyle change. The fitness center represents EAEOCS's commitment to excellence toward increasing the quality and quantity of life through health, fitness and wellness programs.

This project will be funded by a membership fee by residents in the community monthly bases. The times of operation will be determined based on member's needs and convenience.

Various sports leagues will be developed for youth at various ages in basketball, football leagues, baseball, and softball. Alumni coaches will incorporate life skills such as team work, leadership, discipline in the activities according to the prescribed model.

Educational Services in Remediation and Enrichments to individuals and Families.

The East Oktibbeha Educational and Enrichment Center plans to offer educational and enrichment programs to students enrolled in high school who may need extra help and to members of the community who want to enter or reenter the job market or to reenter school. The center will offer enrichment classes in English, reading, and math. English classes will include grammar development, letter writing, filling out forms, writing resumes, writing paragraphs, and writing essays.

Reading enrichment will be offered for those who simply want to improve their reading skills and for those who are interested in improving their skills for employment or for attending post-secondary education programs.

Math enrichment will be offered for consumer math, for business math, and preparation for college algebra.

ACT test preparation will be offered as well. Test preparation for whatever sort of state testing is being required of current or former graduates will be offered.

Teachers and tutors will include current and former secondary teachers, college teachers, and outstanding trained college or university students.

Other enrichment classes will include hand sewing, quilting, crocheting, art, creative writing, and music. Volunteers from the community and teachers or former teachers will guide the classes. A professional musician/music teacher will offer music lessons in guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, singing, and will be available all day once a month. Activities in such areas deepen and enrich people's enjoyment of their lives and can even offer ways to make extra cash for items that people make such as afghans, caps, quilts, art pieces. Crocheting lessons were offered at the former high school in teaching students to read informational material, read directions, write expository essays and manage attitudes and to carry out service projects of supplying winter caps to those in need. Several teachers were involved and students greatly enjoyed the project. The enrichment classes will be offered for anger management and character development for struggling high school students and will be offered to the community members for growth and enjoyment.

Families and Individual Services through Public and Private Organizations

EAEOCS plans to partner with private and public agencies to establish community programs and utilization of the facility: Examples

Oktibbeha County Sheriff Department Training Grounds

Volunteer Fire Fighter Association of District 5

NAACP Junior Organizations

Traveling Team Organizations

Knitting Clubs

4-H Clubs

Girl & Boy Scouts

Early Childhood Community Education

EAEOCS is seeking to occupy/develop the facility with an early childhood program for the community through federal and state funding under the Institute Community Service (Head start)

The Child Development service area provides a comprehensive education program for 3-and 4 year old children. Activities that allow each child to develop intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally are carried out in a culturally-sensitive environment. Emphasis is placed on:

Language development and literacy skills in listening and communication, phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, print and book knowledge, and written expression.

Mathematical skills

Science skills

Creative arts skills

Scientific skills

Social/emotional development

Approaches to learning

- Physical health and development

Community Health and Nutrition Programs

EAEOCS will seek funding to provide health and nutrition feeding programs for youth and the senior population. In addition a recreation program will be implemented.

Planned Partnering Agencies

The Starkville Oktibbeha County Consolidated School District
Oktibbeha County Board of Supervisors
Community Counseling for Oktibbeha County
Mississippi State University Department of Educational Psychology
(School Psychologist)
Institute of Community Services (Head start)
Oktibbeha County Ministerial Alliance
Local Churches of Oktibbeha County
Building Strong Families