

# **The Children's Center (TCC) and The Special Children's School (TSCS) Recommendation**

*Board of Education Meeting*

*Tuesday, May 26, 2026*

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# Overview

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- Follow-ups after 5.12.26 B & G
- Consideration Factors and Policy 6135
- TSCS and TCC Options Survey Data Summary
- CFEC Communication and WS/FCS response
- Superintendent's Recommendation

# B & G Meeting Follow-ups

- **B & G Committee Follow-ups**
  - Committee requested feedback on the proposed option from staff and families
- **Communication with Schools**
  - Family Communication Letter Update-5/13/26
  - Middle Fork Staff Meeting and Communication Follow up-5/19
  - TCC and TSCS Staff update meetings- 5/19 and 5/20
  - Family Communication Letter Update-5/20/26
- Survey Released from 5/13/26 and Closed on 5/20/26

# Consideration Factors and Policy 6135

# Multiple Factors for Consideration:

- **Declining Enrollment:** Total student population has decreased by 26% since 2023. (TSCS and TCC)
- **Operational Costs:** Current facility overhead is disproportionate to the student population served.
- **Policy 6135 Compliance:** Addressing under-utilization (III.A) and excessive per-pupil costs (III.B).
- **Funding Changes:** Responding to urgent DCDEE licensure and funding changes effective July 2026

# Operating Costs

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Category	Annual Amount
Annual Facility Lease	\$355,238.00
Annual Utilities	\$90,500.00
Maintenance (Avg. Estimate)	\$15,000–\$45,000 annual
<i>Responsible for all preventative maintenance and day-to-day repairs. Expense varies; based on needs each year. Excludes large capital items</i>	
Custodial Services Staff	\$93,943.20
Food Service Staff	\$154,667.00
Administrative Support Staff	\$740,000.00
<b>Total (Calculated)</b>	<b>\$1,479,348.20</b>

# Policy 6135 Summary

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Under N.C.G.S. 115C-72, the Board of Education may consolidate or close schools when it determines that doing so best serves the educational interests of Forsyth County students.

- **Mandatory Procedures:**

- **Superintendent's Study:** Requires a thorough evaluation of enrollment trends, costs, and facility conditions.
- **Public Hearing:** A mandatory forum for the public to provide input before any final decision.

- **Guidelines for Determination:**

- Underutilization of site
- Excessive operational costs – includes staffing, utilities, and maintenance

- **Criteria for Determination**

- An evaluation of a building's age, condition, capacity, operating costs, instructional suitability, and alternative uses
- An evaluation of the school's site, location, student population, and support

# July 2026 Developmental Day Funding Shifts

- **Licensure Restriction:** Effective July 1, 2026, Developmental Day Center (DDC) licenses will no longer be issued for students over age 6.
- **Loss of Revenue:** Funding reimbursements for school-age students (ages 7-12) will cease.
- **Mandated Shift:** School-age students must move to an LEA-based instructional model (non-DDC) to remain in compliance.
- **PK Eligibility:** Only Pre-K programs will remain eligible for DDC funding reimbursements moving forward

# Developmental Day & 1:1 Nursing Support at TSCS and TCC

- Of the 154 students (*May enrollment*) at TCSC and TCC approved for Developmental Day funding reimbursement, 104 are considered higher needs .
- The Children's Center (TCC) serves 70 of students with highest needs.
- There are 4 (1:1) nurses at both schools. There is 1 assigned nurse per school.
- Across all schools in WS/FCs there are 20 1:1 nurses

School Facility	Developmental Day Program	Highest Support Needs	Active 1:1 Nursing Assignments
The Children's Center (TCC)	83 Students (36 PK + 47SA)	70 Students (23PK + 47 SA)	1 Student
The Special Children's School (TSCS)	71 students (60 PK +11 SA)	34 Students (23 PK +11 SA)	3 Students
<b>Total District Support</b>	<b>154 Students</b>	<b>104 Students</b>	<b>4 Students</b>

# B & G Recommended: Hybrid Model Option

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The Committee recommended a **Hybrid of Options 1 and 4** for full Board consideration:

- **TSCS:** Relocate to **Middle Fork** as a Pre-K Center in 2027-28 (under a new name).
- **TCC:** Remain at the current CFEC facility under a new long-term lease agreement.
- **Integration:** TSCS K-5 students would relocate to the TCC site in 2027-28.



# TSCS and TCC Options Survey Results

# TSCS and TCC Options Survey Components

- **Demographic Details** — role and school affiliation
- **Feedback on Recommendations** — option to comment on TSCS & TCC
- **Support Rating** — 1 (Not Supportive) to 5 (Very Supportive)
- **Importance Ratings** — school identity, travel time, specialized equipment, staffing continuity
- **Additional Input** — space to suggest options or variations



# Survey Highlights: Demographics

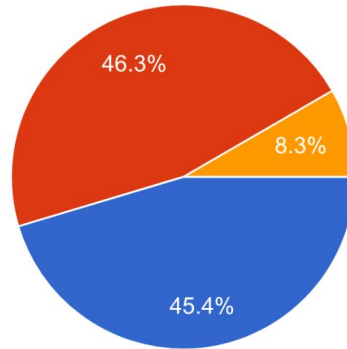
112

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS  
(108 English)  
(4 Spanish)

*pulled on 5.21.26*

Which best describes your role?

108 responses

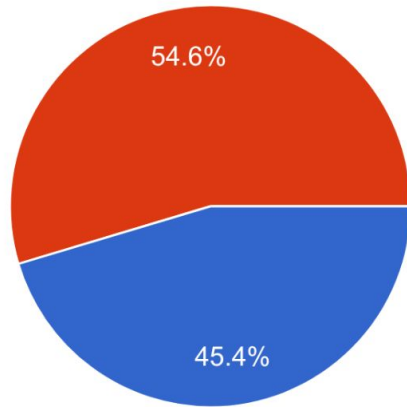


- Family Member/Guardian
- Staff Member
- Community Member

# Survey Highlights: School Affiliation

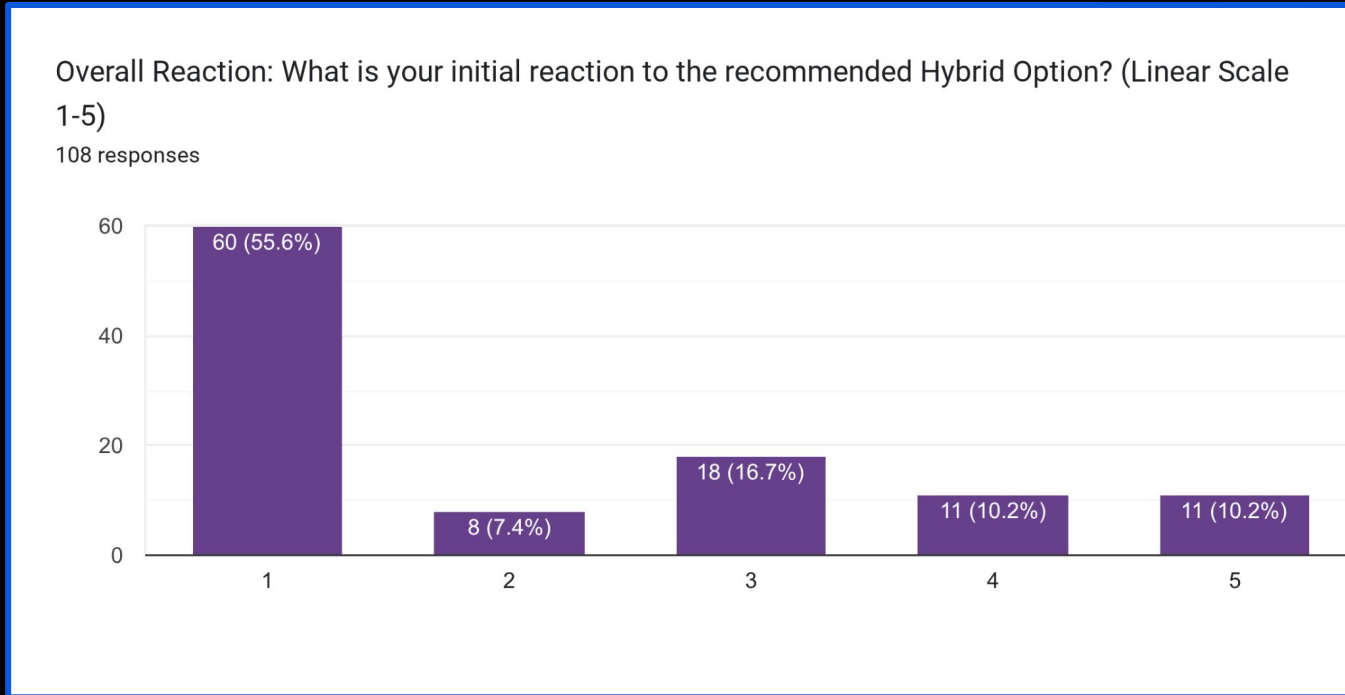
Which school are you currently affiliated with?

108 responses



- The Children's Center (TCC)
- The Special Children's School (TSCS)

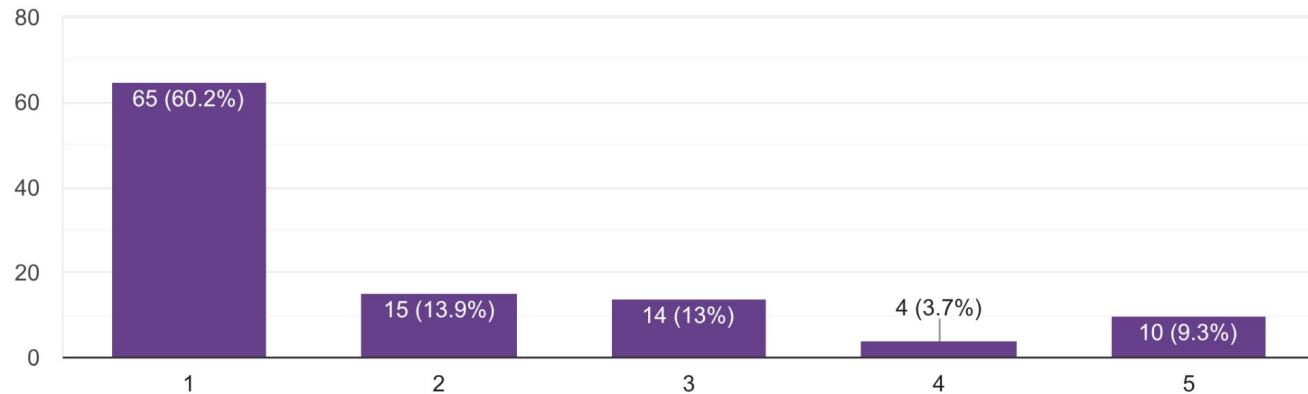
# Survey Highlights: Overall Favorability Rating on Option



# Survey Highlights: TSCS Option to Move PK to Middlefork

TSCS Recommendation Reaction: What is your initial reaction to relocate The Special Children's School (TSCS) to Middlefork? (Linear Scale 1-5)

108 responses



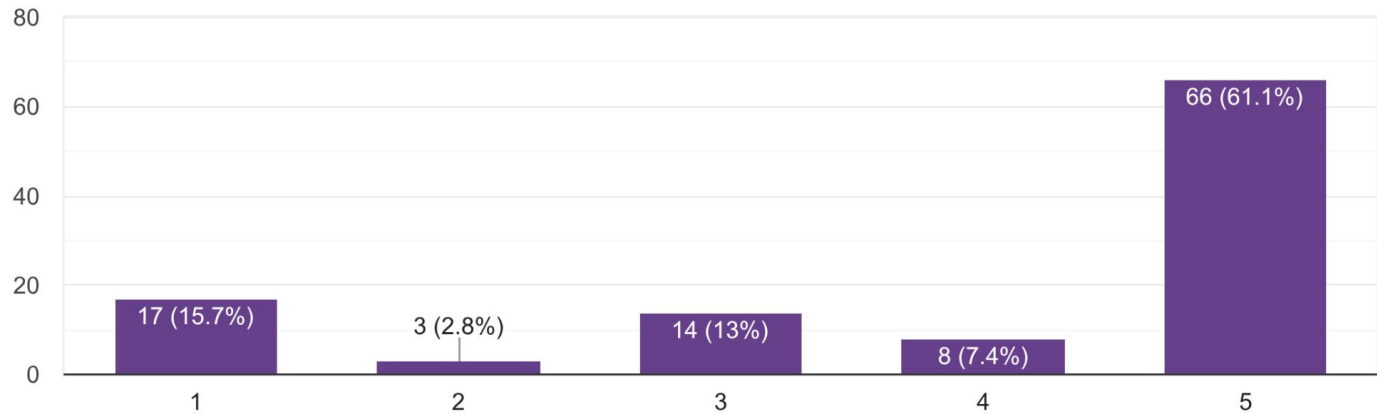
# Survey Highlights: TSCS Option to Move PK to Middlefork (cont.)

- **Distance & transportation hardship**  
*“Middle Fork is on the complete opposite side of town... long bus rides are not a good...”*
- **Loss of specialized environment**  
*“TSCS is not a typical EC classroom... students have wheelchairs, standers, gait trainers, hi-low beds, and need room for EMS.”*
- **Fear of splitting staff and students**  
*“We all won’t be able to go and stay together.”*
- **Middle Fork already staffed / not enough space**  
*“Middle Fork is already staffed. Where does our staff go?”*
- **Concern about general-education exposure**  
*“General education kids shouldn’t see EMS coming almost each day... seizures, G-tube feedings, students passing out.”*
- **Loss of community and culture**  
*“TSCS changed my life... this environment cannot be replicated.”*

# Survey Highlights: TCC Option to Remain in CFEC Facility

TCC Recommendation Reaction: What is your initial reaction The Children's Center (TCC) remaining at the current CFEC facility under a new lease ? (Linear Scale 1-5)

108 responses



# Survey Highlights: TCC Option to Remain in CFEC Facility *(cont.)*

- **Building already fully adapted for medically fragile students**  
*“This building has everything we need.”*
- *“A simple virus can result in hospitalization or death.”*
- **Full-time nurse and emergency access**  
*“Seldom does a week go by that we don’t have an ambulance onsite.”*
- **Continuity from CFEC infant/toddler → Pre-K → K-5**  
*“The natural transition is essential. Dont move PK from TCC”*
- **Specialized hallways, playgrounds, therapy rooms**  
*“One playground you can actually put a wheelchair on.”*
- **Strong family–staff relationships**  
*“This is home. You can’t replicate this.”*

# Survey Highlights: Factors of Importance

When asked to rank transition priorities, the following four areas were universally flagged as **Very Important** across almost all submissions:

1. **Staffing Continuity:** Keeping current teachers and TAs who understand the students' complex medical and behavioral needs.
2. **Access to Specialized Equipment:** Hi-low changing tables, ceiling lifts, wide hallways, and specialized emergency exits.
3. **Maintaining School Identity:** Keeping the intact culture, leadership, and community of the schools rather than dissolving them into general education buildings.
4. **Minimizing Student Travel Time:** Ensuring fragile or medically compromised children do not have to endure lengthy bus rides across the county.

# CFEC Communication with WS/FCS

# CFEC OPERATING AGREEMENT: 2026-2027 PROPOSAL

## CFEC Communication to WS/FCS Staff

### Operational Modifications

- **Space Utilization:** CFEC proposes utilizing up to 4,000 sq ft of vacant space at The Special Children's School.
- **Financial Reduction:** WS/FCS to receive a \$10.75 per sq ft reduction under the existing agreement.
- **Timeline:** Target finalization of the addendum by June 9, 2026 for BOE Consideration/approval.
  - Staff is working with CFEC Leadership to clarify a few areas.
- **Strategic Outlook:** Expectation of a new 3-year agreement starting July 1, 2027.

Notice of Understanding due by June 30, 2026



# WS/FCS Follow-up to CFEC

## **2026–2027 Lease Addendum (Short-Term)**

- Formally acknowledged CFEC's proposal to reduce square footage at The Special Children's School (TSCS) by ~4,000 sq. ft. of vacant space.
- Projected to yield an approximate lease cost savings for WS/FCS of \$10.75/sq. ft. (totaling roughly \$40,000).
- Targeting mutual finalization of this addendum by **May 31, 2026**.

## **Next Steps & Collaborative Planning**

- **No final decisions have been made**; all models are subject to full Board evaluation.
- WS/FCS staff will partner with CFEC leadership to discuss a long-term Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- MOU will address occupancy beyond June 2027 and parameters for leased space.

# **Summary Sentiments: Think Tank, Staff, and Families & Superintendent's Recommendation**

# TSCS: Survey Summary & Feedback

## If TSCS Must Move, Ward Elementary Is the Preferred Site

Reasons:

- Enough space for **all** TSCS classrooms
- Keeps Pre-K and K-5 together
- More central than Middle Fork
- Avoids displacing Middle Fork staff
- One-time renovation cost vs. ongoing lease
- Provides families and district with additional locations for transportation access and options close to residence

*“Ward has room for everyone to go together so we are not separated.”*

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# Comparison: Ward vs. Middle Fork

Factor	Middle Fork Proposal	Ward Elementary Alternative
<b>Geographic Zone</b>	Opposite side of county	West zone ( <i>closer to current footprint</i> )
<b>Transportation</b>	Longer commutes for medically fragile students	Optimized for existing transportation routes
<b>Space Capacity</b>	6 classrooms available; currently fully staffed	9 available classrooms identified
<b>Program Integrity</b>	Risk of splitting Pre-K/School-age	Ability to keep all grades together

# TCC: Survey & Summary feedback

## **If TCC is remaining in place, Keep all PK-5 students together**

Reasons:

- PK at TCC allows for keeping all students together as a school
  - Additional site allows WS/FCS to maximize reimbursement for PK students in current licensed location
  - Provides option for most significantly medically fragile PK and school age students
  - Keeps continuity from CFEC Infant/Toddler program for students to remain until 5th grade
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# Superintendent Alternate Recommendation for Board Consideration:

- **TSCS for BOE Consideration:**  
Relocate to **Ward Elementary** as a PK-5 Site in 2027-28 (under a new name).
- **Rationale:** This model preserves the school's culture, keeps specialized staff together supporting students and provides a more centralized location with great accessibility



**The Special Children's School**



# Superintendent Programming Continuation Recommendation:

- **TCC:** Remain at the current CFEC facility under a new long-term lease agreement for PK -5 students
  - *Does not require BOE vote due to programming based decision*
- **Rationale:** This model preserves continuity for families and students PK -5 and limits transition for students that begin with CFEC in infant/toddler program

**The Children's Center**



# Additional Questions?

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