

**Model Rubric – Top Three Models
Pros and Cons
November 1, 2018**

The model numbers correlate to the spreadsheet that outlines 22 models for consideration. After much discussion, the Model Generating Team identified models 11, 12, and 15 as the most viable. Each has pros and cons, which are captured here.

Model 11 – the good

Student value

- Elementary is still close to home – spread through 3 locations – within 10 miles
 - Potential for growth of Pre-K program – 1 fewer location making it more cost effective
- Middle school is two locations – still close, within 20 miles
 - Middle school to combine co-curricular activities, act as a single school
 - Better management of curriculum – opportunity to align curriculum much easier in two locations – potential for sharing teachers between two schools to match curriculum exactly
 - 5th grade transition year gets students a year together in new school for some before officially entering middle school in grade 6
 - Two locations vs four increased the possibility of introducing CTE courses at the middle school level
- High school single location
 - Simplify scheduling of CTE and special programs by being all together
 - Students actively participating in both college prep and CTE with ease
 - Reduce the separation of college bound and CTE students
 - Increase value of CTE programs by making them easily accessible to all
 - Increase student numbers in classrooms and all activities – students are not asking for more programs but more students in the existing programs
 - Potential for more competitive sports programs – create JV and Varsity teams
 - Build a strong high school experience by being together in a location without the younger students
 - Continue to offer the good programs we have by making it easier for all students to have access to them
 - Potential to add programs by having enough students to attend them – Running start, CTE, advance placement, foreign language, ect...
 - Easier for local business to take advantage of school to work programs by having a larger pool with a single contact
 - Clearly achieves the goal for increased class size at the upper grade level
 - Setup has the potential for a local alternative program
- All students
 - Creates a clear transition from 3 to 2 to 1 location – continually getting into larger class sizes and a “bigger” environment

Aligned curriculum goal

- High school – a single location eliminates the issue at the high school level
- Middle school – two locations easier to manage than four – much better chance of aligning all middle school students before reaching high school – the 5th grade transition year would help that jump between the 3 elementary schools and the 2 middle schools
- Elementary – 3 also easier to manage than 4 – increasing Pre-K opportunities could help the youngest students who need the most help

Efficiency (cost savings)

- Elementary school goes from 4 to 3
- Middle school goes from 4 to 2
- High school goes from 3 to 1
- From 11 total sections to 6 – 45% less

Student/Parent travel

- Middle school
 - Although this would require more travel between Colebrook and Pittsburg for shared events, bypassing Canaan and traveling Rte 145 is a shorter option. It's 10 miles from Pittsburg to Canaan and 12.7 via Rte 145
- High school
 - Central HS location means decreased travel required – Colebrook and Pittsburg would not have to travel past Canaan for anything
 - 10 miles for Pittsburg
 - 8 miles for Colebrook

Public opinion

- Achieves the goal of increasing the efficiency of the system
 - Likely decrease in cost due to the increase in efficiency
- Easier to “sell” to the public because....
 - Even though one elementary is taken away the P-4 students are still not traveling long distances
 - There is no large increase or decrease in students within any town/school – it's very balanced
 - Each town/school loses something and gains something – there are no outright winners or losers - No town loses it's school completely even though each loses some of it
 - No town is faced with a large travel distance issue
 - They will see we are working to improve without creating any major loss
 - All grades in all schools will have increase numbers which will decrease cost per student for every school/town
 - Decreases issues with what town should you live in – with a system like this all towns should receive the same schooling no matter where you live

- Does not create any significant “underutilization” of any building

Location

- It has been identified by the committee that Canaan is the best location for the CTE programs and the majority desire for a co-located academic/CTE location makes Canaan the best choice for the high school

Staffing benefits

- Easier to fill positions (less of them)
- Potential to be more competitive and retain staff
- Increased diversity – ability to offer special programs, not just the basics
- Staff training simpler – easier to organize
- Fewer staff means less administration needs

Model 11 – the bad or the issues

High school building improvement

- Although not absolutely required the feeling of the committee is there should be some building improvements at the Canaan School location. The cost of these improvements may be more than the town could bear. The cost should not be on the taxpayers of other towns who have spent significant amounts over the past few years to improve those buildings. This means there would be a need to go after some grant funding. Due to the value of the project to the entire region there should be interest from grant funders.

Staffing changes

- Since the majority of school costs is centered on staff and related costs. Increasing efficiency and class size means decreasing of staff. The transition from what we have now to that new, lower staff model will cause some anxiety.
- A well-planned transition needs to be developed.

Student/Parent travel

- At middle school level there would be some additional travel for those in the middle of the geographic area.
- At high school level there would be some additional travel for those in the southern and northern geographic areas.
- The increased travel would exist for 4 years depending on where you live
- Cost of bussing likely to increase – work would need to be done creating new bussing schedules
- At middle school level there would be some additional travel part of the time for games and other events as those events were shared between two locations

Building Utilization

- A clear plan for CA if it were to be used for SAU or Alt program should be developed in order to assist the Colebrook Board and voters with decision making
- If plan was to expand to include administration at SAU level future use of current administrative office locations would need to be figured out

Model 12 – the good

Expands on value of model 11

- Shifting more students out of Stewartstown further increases efficiency of the system
 - Likely will lower costs more than most (or any) other models
- Geographically centralizes locations of the SAU and Alt program in Stewartstown
- Simplifies bussing
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Model 12 – the bad/the issues

Same issues as #11 plus

- Elementary students are traveling further than before
- Significantly goes against the goal of leaving elementary students close to home
- Stewartstown loses a school
- May be difficult for the public to accept

Model 15 – the good

Also includes several items from #1 list above plus

- Completely leaves elementary level untouched
- A single location middle school adds value and opportunity to those students
- Colebrook could close CA and move the HS students in with the elementary without concerns of space due to the middle school students being gone

Model 15 – the bad/the issues

- Separates college bound/academic classes from CTE
- Separation of CTE program does not provide the easy access for all students and desired growth of the CTE programs
- Middle school location in a single location creates significant underutilization of other buildings
 - Stewartstown loss with no gain
 - Canaan – empty HS/MS building
 - No plan for CA building

- Takes away from the HS experience by having students grouped with elementary grades
- Creates significant travel for all middle and high school – up to 30 miles – possible even more travel for Pittsburg students traveling to Colebrook and Canaan and maybe back to Colebrook for co-curricular after school programs then back to Pittsburg again at end of day