

DCSS Success Center facts

2022-2023 School Year

DCSS Success Center

2300 Shoals School Road
Douglasville, GA 30135
770-651-6475

School website: dcva.dcssga.org

Principal Dr. Andre Touchard

Overview

The Success Center facilitates three non-traditional school programs for the students of Douglas County

- Performance Learning Center (PLC)
- Newcomer Center
- Advantage Academy

Message from the Principal

As the servant leader of the DCSS Success Center, I have been afforded the great opportunity to provide leadership in a non-traditional, rigorous learning environment that incorporates a caring philosophy and high expectations for all students. Our goal is to understand what each student needs to succeed and help them chart a path to graduation.

While Douglas County provides the traditional high school experience in its five high schools, it also provides paths to graduation for students who prefer a non-traditional setting. Here at the Success Center, we understand that not everyone thrives in the traditional classroom setting, we embrace our students' differences and we take pride in our diverse population. One of the most essential benefits is our small

learning environment. Our students have a wonderful opportunity to receive targeted academic support in a nurturing and supportive environment. I am grateful to be a part of a team that believes that "Success Is the Only Option."

Overall, educating our students is a team effort. We welcome our parents and community members to our school family.

— DR. ANDRE TOUCHARD, PRINCIPAL



The Success Center facility is made up of 17 classrooms across three programs, a career center, cafeteria, and front office.

Number of teachers: 17
Student Capacity Range: 300-400
PLC: 100
Advantage Academy MS: 90
Advantage Academy HS: 90-100
Newcomer Center: 30

Numbers for enrollment and staffing current as of September, 2022

Success is our only option!

Mission

The mission of the DCSS Success Center is to provide a non-traditional environment that empowers students to successfully learn and graduate, prepared for college or career.

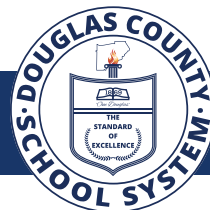
Vision

The vision of the DCSS Success Center is to be a model program nationwide for non-traditional learners.



Together, we shape the future.

dcssga.org



Beliefs

We believe in respecting all forms of diversity that each student offers to the school environment.

We believe in recognizing students for their scholastic achievement in fun and motivating ways.

We believe in flexibility in facilitating standard requirements so that every student reaches graduation.

We believe in all students striving for excellence in learning so that they are empowered to experience future success in society.

We believe in practicing actions that build relationships with students that make the difference every day.

Programs at the Success Center

Performance Learning Center (PLC)

PLC is the premier program at the Success Center. It operates on a full-day schedule for high school students to learn at their own pace in a business-like environment with classroom teachers and an online curriculum. This blended, computer-based learning model has proven to be successful for students who seek to accelerate earning high school credits and students who need to catch up on credits.

PLC includes an intense academic component anchored by an online instructional system and project-based learning. Students are challenged to develop marketable skills in preparation for college and/or the workplace. PLC also utilizes service learning, job shadowing, youth apprentice internships, mentoring, and dual enrollment with technical colleges. Highly-trained faculty and staff help students achieve their social and academic goals.

Students who meet one or more of the following criteria may be referred to PLC by teachers or counselors:

- seek to graduate early;
- need flexible academic programming to overcome personal obstacles;
- are at risk of dropping out of school;
- may be behind in credits;
- are experiencing a discrepancy between ability and achievement.

One function of PLC is to work along with Communities in Schools, Inc., to implement one of many dropout prevention strategies created by the organization – the oldest non-profit dedicated to this purpose.



Newcomer Center

The Newcomer Center offers middle and high school students who are new to the United States and the English language the opportunity to develop English language skills through rigorous courses in a nurturing environment.

Who is a Newcomer Student?

A recent immigrant to the United States;

A student with less than one year in the United States;

A student who indicates a language other than English on the Home Language Survey.

Newcomer students are transitioned into Douglas County middle and high schools through a partnership with intensive language development at the Newcomer Center and the middle or high school ESOL program. The academic language of middle and high school content courses is extremely rigorous; thus the Newcomer Center provides opportunities to develop English language skills in a nurturing environment. Utilizing intensive curriculum and research-based English language learning methodologies and strategies, the center offers four courses which focus on communication skills and prerequisite content in science, math, social studies, and language arts.

The ESOL teacher at each school facilitates the referral process for students to attend the Newcomer Center. For more information, visit:

https://dcva.dcssga.org/newcomers/referral_procedures

Additional Information

- The program is a half-day in length, with students returning to their home schools daily to participate in classes with English-speaking peers.
- Transportation to and from the center and the base school is provided.
- High school students earn four elective credits for the intensive English language courses provided by the Newcomer Center.
- Newcomer Center was founded in 2014 and became part of the Success Center in 2019.

Newcomer Center Goals

- Accelerate development of students' English language and literacy skills
- Increase promotion and graduation rates
- Enhance self-image and formulate academic goals
- Integrate students into social climate of school
- Provide supplementary instruction in core content areas
- Equip with academic and study habits which lead to success
- Build a strong school/family relationship

Advantage Academy

Advantage Academy is an alternative program serving middle and high school students who have been removed from the traditional school setting due to disciplinary infractions. The instructional program is a blended model of online and traditional learning scheduled in two half-day sessions (morning/ afternoon). Students are assigned to one session each semester, and transition back to their home-based schools as assigned time is completed and goals are met. Transportation must be provided by the parent/guardian.



Performance Learning Center students visit Georgia Tech.



Jerry Whitaker of C.W. Matthews Contracting Company shares information with students about careers in construction.



The BOOST Grant funded Girls' Wellness Day

Enrollment

Enrollment is rebounding quickly after the 2021 dip due to the pandemic. Each year Success Center graduates more students in their cohort year and increases the number of early grads.

Total Center Enrollment

2019: 532

2020: 482

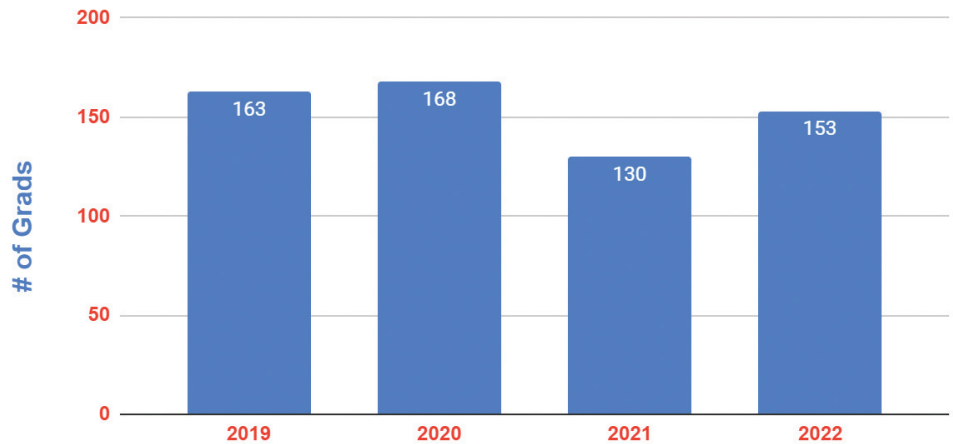
2021: 250

2022: 487 to date (mid September)

Since its opening in 2018,
the Success Center has
graduated over

600 students
averaging more than 150
graduates per year.

4 Year Graduation Numbers



Highlights & Activities

Virtual college and career visits and information sessions were held recently with the following metro area business partners and post-secondary institutions across the southeast:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| - Pratt Industries | - University of West Georgia | - Universal Technical Institute |
| - Full Sail University | - Texas Tech | - GA Student Finance |
| - Atlanta Electrical Associates | - Culinary Institute of America | - Columbus State University |

Newcomer Center students visit Medieval Times on a recent field trip.



Information contained in this document reflects the most recent data available as of September, 2022.