A stylized graphic of a human figure in white and light gray, set against a dark blue background. The figure has a large circular head and two large, rounded arms. A bright blue light source is positioned at the center of the figure's chest, creating a lens flare effect that radiates outwards.

SPECIAL EDUCATION K-8 FACILITY

BOARD RETREAT

Douglas County School District

DCSD SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM



- 3 Tiered Delivery Model
 - Universal
 - Targeted
 - Intensive
- Global Program Expectations
 - Least Restrictive Environment



CENTER-BASED SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Neighborhood Elementary School Programs
 - 7 SED
 - 1 Autism
 - 0 Dual Diagnosis (DD) – Results in increased out of district expenditures
- Neighborhood Middle School Programs
 - 3 SED
- Neighborhood High School Program
 - Plum Creek Academy



PLUM CREEK ACADEMY



- Affords students specialized programming and skill specific instruction.
- Provides a non-categorical approach aligned with key characteristics.
- Expects students to transition out of the program





Recommendation

Identify a K-8 Special Education School Site to Expand on the Plum Creek High School Model


K-8 CENTER BASED PROGRAM SCHOOL

- Establishes a home for an elementary and middle school non-categorical model to serve SED, Autism, TBI, ADHD, and other disability categories as needed.
- Establishes a Plum Creek Academy modeled K-8
 - Provides a K-12 articulation vertically coordinated
 - Provides horizontal alignment with learning of same aged peers.



K-8 SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL

Programmatic Advantages:

- 
- Limits the need for parallel systems to serve students in boxes (SED or Autism).
 - Results in greater efficiency/utilization of existing staff associated with the current system.
 - Provides increased capacity to respond to growth/demand
 - Results in improved fidelity of implementation serving more students over time and returning them to a less restrictive environment much more quickly.
 - Addresses the gap in DD programming at the elementary level



K-8 SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL

Budgetary and Resource Advantages:

- Allows repurposing of 11 classrooms at the local elementary school to address student growth and future early childhood space needs.
- Offers opportunity to provide space for Highlands Ranch Bridge program and/or child-find decreasing demand and cost associated with leased space
- Provides revenue generation associated with facility rental for meetings, conferences, etc.
- Improves budgetary impact associated with transporting students out of district as in district capabilities to meet those needs are increased.
- Offers an opportunity to share resources with eDCSD and/or Eagle Academy

