


The Episcopal Center for Children





We have served children for 128 Years

- Founded in 1894 in Colonial Beach, Virginia as the Bell Salt Air orphans. Home by Episcopalian women from D.C. to help underprivileged children.
- Came to Anacostia but needs for housing children outpaced the facilities. Incorporated in the District in 1908 as the Episcopal Home for Children. Thanks to generous donors, came to current campus in Chevy Chase in 1930.
- In 1957, the orphanage closed and the Board undertook a study of services needed for children in the DC area.
- Helping children with emotional disabilities so severe they could not remain in neighborhood schools became the new focus and a residential treatment program opened in 1959. After a day program was added our name was updated to Episcopal Center for Children.



Enabling Success

“I went to this school when I was a child and I loved it, when I was going it was a[n] overnight program too so I stayed there Monday-Friday and left on the weekends. I had a learning disability and my teachers were great and so patient. I am an adult now and in college for my Master’s and I thank ECC for that, it all started there.”

Jene’e Jones



Individualized Education for Kids with Emotional Disabilities

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Oppositional Defiant Disorder
Mood Disorder
Trauma
Anxiety Disorder
Specific Learning Disability

"I was extremely pleased with the school's approach to education and auxiliary counseling services. It is a caring and involved community that puts the individual child at the center of all efforts. My child thrived with the structure and individualized approach to education, and is now a successful college student."
- ECC Parent



About our students

We served predominantly children from Washington, D.C.

84% of students were from D.C. public schools and public charter schools. The remaining 16% were from nearby Virginia and Maryland school districts.

Our students were primarily children of color.

88% African-American

9% Hispanic/Latino

3% White

91% of our student body qualified for free lunch under Federal government guidelines.

Our students faced many challenges in their young lives.

- 47% had multiple disabilities.
- 28% had health impairments.
- 25% were diagnosed with emotional disturbance.

The Need for ECC Still Exists

- ECC and other nonpublic therapeutic schools were forced to close around the same time in 2019.
- ECC does not have the ability to set our tuition rates to cover our true costs. We must rely on the OSSE/DCPS budget allocated to nonpublic schools. This resulted in a deficit and led to our closure.
- ECC does not receive funding from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington or the National Cathedral.

The DC Line

News, Views & Events

Molly Whalen: Multiple school closings are exacerbating DC's failure to properly educate students with disabilities

By [Commentary](#) — Published on [Jun 24, 2019](#) — Last updated [Jul 19, 2019](#)

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It's often said that failing to prepare is preparing to fail. Unfortunately, that can all too often be said of DC's education leaders — and the latest instance, occurring right now, has extreme consequences for the city's most vulnerable students.

This spring, two nonpublic special education schools in DC — the [Kingsbury Center](#) and [Episcopal Center for Children](#) — announced they would be closing at the end of the school year after many decades of serving local students with disabilities. Around 40 students at each school will need new placements.



The Need for ECC Still Exists

- Only one program similar to ECC is currently available in the District.
- Children needing special education IEP services that we can provide are currently being bussed out of DC and to programs in Maryland and Virginia. This makes it difficult for their families to participate in their care.
- Our former employees are also traveling to work at schools outside DC.



Our Campus Sits Empty Today

- We are committed to remaining in Chevy Chase.
- We are not interested in selling our property.
- We must leverage the resources we have so we can serve children.
- The partnership with the Maret School will ensure long-term, sustainable, reliable income that will enable us to reopen.



Change is coming to our campus

- Our underutilized and vacant property needs to be utilized so we can reopen.
- We intend to reopen as a smaller therapeutic school serving children in K-6 with IEPs facing emotional disabilities.
- We also plan to offer an afterschool program for the neighborhood.

