

Education Law §3614 School Funding Allocation Report

Part F - Narrative Description

- 1. Describe the local methodology/approach used to allocate funds to each school in the district. If schools are allocated funds—either in part or in full—through a formula, outline the nature/mechanics of the formula and the elements impacting each school’s allocation.**

We do not use a formula for the allocation of resources to our schools. Our allocations are predicated on student population, with emphasis on balancing our building populations as well as the strictures of our collective bargaining agreements. Our agreements limit class sizes to 20 at the PreK level, 25 at the Kindergarten to Grade 2 level and 28 in grades 3 through 12. Given that staff costs exceed seventy percent of our General Fund budget this is a significant determinate of where resources are allocated.

We have a significant population of Special Needs Children as well being a District with a free and reduced lunch population that hovers in the mid seventy percent range. These needs are partially addressed with significant numbers of Teachers being used as Academic Coaches, Teaching Assistants and Classroom Associates, all of whom are assigned based on the needs of the students in each building.

All this is taken into consideration when budget deliberations commence.

- 2. If applicable, is there anything unique about certain schools which explain why per pupil spending at these locations may be significantly higher/lower than the district average?**

We noticed that are Preparatory schools were above the calculated average cost per student. These schools only include grades 7 and 8 but run full academic and co-curricular programs. Class sizes are lower and the costs are spread over fewer students.

- 3. If applicable, describe any items which the district feels are anomalous in nature and require additional description beyond the Excel entry.**

Regarding the expenditure for “Services Provided to Charter Schools” the number is accurate and represents the partial cost of a Speech Therapist that does evaluations. All our charter students attend Charter Schools outside the District boundary. We do not provide transportation, food service or any related services.

We provide a significant amount of in-service training through our Federal and State Grants program. All but \$137,375 of the amount shown comes from these programs, specifically our Entitlement grants and our School Improvement Grants. We have seven schools that are designated in need of improvement and receive commensurate grant dollars. The portion of these grant funds we anticipate spending on In-service exceeds \$240,000 and it is mostly for hourly and per diem pay for staff to attend professional development session. The amounts committed from the Entitlement funds exceed \$558,000.

Another factor impacting the need for this training is the significant needs for the increasing population of ENL students in our District. We run our own Summer School program for these students and that required a significant need and commensurate costs for teacher training.