**Education Law §3614 School Funding Allocation Report**

**Part F - Narrative Description**

**(A) Describe the local methodology/approach used to allocate funds to each school in the district during the process of budget development and implementation. (B) Please also describe the role(s) of all relevant stakeholders in such budgetary processes and decision-making. (C) Finally, if schools are allocated a significant portion of their 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.**

**Specifically, the Division of Budget and the State Education Department would consider a complete response to this question to include explicit answers to the questions included in the rubric below, including a substantive discussion on the translation of students needs into the district's budget (at least 1 sentence per question, when applicable).**

Where appropriate, we budget based on actual costs directly tied to a particular school (i.e. teacher and administrator salaries and benefits). We allocate funds such as classroom supplies, textbooks, library aid, etc. on a pupil-count ratio (the number of students in each building divided by our total district enrollment). We make slight adjustments in areas such as music where we steer a greater percentage of funds towards our secondary schools to reflect the higher cost of instrumental music, which we do not offer in grades PK-3. We allocate overhead costs such as maintenance, custodial and buildings & grounds on a square-foot ratio (square footage of a building divided by the total district building square footage).

Although Central Valley is four different buildings (PK-1, 2-4, 5-8, 9-12), we operate as a single entity. Our goal is to build PK-12 programming that prepares students at every grade for the next level. Throughout the budgeting process, the district and building-level administrators provide input and play an active role in critical decisions about staffing and programming. This ensures that no single voice dictates funding and that our budget addresses each building’s educational and physical needs.

**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?**

In an effort to combat endemic poverty and poor academic outcomes, the district has committed to building a stronger educational and developmental foundation in early childhood. This includes smaller class sizes, more academic supports, and staffing and programming to develop social skills for our youngest students. Our model for return to school will include PK-12 grades in person every day. Our virtual model will be ready to go if the pandemic were to force another shutdown.

Similarly, the district has committed to academic and extracurricular opportunities at the high school. In addition to core Regents courses, Central Valley Academy (9-12) offers a broad range of AP and college-level courses, an extensive music/theater/art curriculum, Navy JROTC, and technology classes. A high percentage of students attend costly BOCES career technical education programs. Students also participate in interscholastic athletics ranging from lacrosse to field hockey and diverse afterschool clubs.

This has been an extremely difficult Budget year due to the ongoing pandemic crisis. During the 2020-21 school year we made many staff cuts along with 14 teacher retirements that we did not fill in anticipation of 20% aid reduction. Now that federal aid has come through we are in the process of reinstating the cuts that were made along with increasing our staffing in an effort to address the learning loss that has taken place. This roller coaster has significantly changed our staffing at different buildings. This is a continuous process as we look at all of our virtual and in-person data. Transportation will be again be challenging and we will likely have to transfer monies into those areas as we are bringing all students back for in-person instruction. This year will likely see many budget transfers as our education plan develops. As we continue in our grant development significant budgetary adjustments will be made to adjust to the federal aid available.

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

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