

PUBLIC COMMENT ANALYSIS

Date: December 13, 2011

Topic: Aggregation of Community School District Budgets

Date of Panel Vote: December 14, 2011

Summary of Proposed Item

Pursuant to Education Law sections 2590-r and 2590-g, the Panel for Educational Policy must approve an aggregation of the community school district budgets, as modified and approved by the chancellor, together with a proposed budget for the administrative expenditures of the city board and the chancellor (the "Aggregated Budget"). The community district budgets represent an aggregation of the school-based budgets developed by each school in the district pursuant to Education Law section 2590-r and Chancellor's Regulation B-801, along with a separate budget for the district's community education council.

The DOE gave notice of the Aggregated Budget and made it available on July 29, 2011. On September 13, 2011, the DOE posted an amended version of the Aggregated Budget which added in approximately \$1.4 million in CEC-based personnel costs. This amendment did not significantly revise the proposed Aggregated Budget, as it increased the total budget by only 0.01%.

On November 29, 2011, the DOE revised the Aggregated Budget to reflect the updated school-based budget information used by superintendents in their review of the alignment of each school's school-based budget with its Comprehensive Education Plan. The Revised Aggregated Budget also reflects more recent, and therefore more comprehensive information regarding how schools are allocating their budgets among major school-based expense categories.

Summary of Issues Raised and Significant Alternatives Proposed

One written comment was received regarding the Aggregated Budget during the public review period. No significant alternatives have been suggested.

Analysis of Issues Raised, Significant Alternatives Proposed and Changes Made to the Proposal

A written comment questioned whether information for all central offices and citywide councils for special education and English language learner were included in the Aggregated Budget. The required contents of the Aggregated Budgets are set out in N.Y.S. Education Law section 2590-r(f) which states that the Aggregated Budget must include data only for the City Board (i.e., PEP) and the Chancellor, not all central offices. It also requires budgets for "community boards" which the department interprets as CECs aligned with community superintendents who have jurisdiction over specific schools. CCSE and CCELL do not meet this definition.

Changes Made to the Proposal

The proposal was revised as described in the "Summary of Proposal" section above. No changes were made to the revised proposal as a result of the comment received.