

New York City Department of Education
Preliminary FY2008 School Budget Allocation Formulae for District 75

OVERVIEW

District 75 is entering its fifth year of implementing a comprehensive school-based budgeting process that allows all District 75 schools to control their own budgets. This comprehensive school-based budgeting process has resulted in greater principal autonomy and control over funds, and greater transparency in school budgets. Each year, the Department has sought to improve on its school-based budgeting by making budget allocations to schools more timely, more comprehensive and reflective of the resources required to operate programs that meet the instructional needs of students.

The school budget methodology reflects the distinct aspects of the funding model for District 75. D75 school budgets, in contrast to other schools' budgets, are part of an aggregate district budget that must remain in balance while being managed to meet all mandated needs, school-based and district-wide, throughout the course of the summer and school year. In FY 2008, the budget methodology will continue to be a zero-based, building block model, insuring equity and transparency. Essentially, all budget allocations to schools are built from the ground up. The formulae are designed to insure sufficient resources for schools to carry out their instructional mandates for special education services, while providing the fiscal capacity through which the principal may exercise discretion to meet the broad needs of the school's educational program.

In FY 2008, the budget methodology has been revised, as reflected in the Methodology and Management Matrix, to maximize principal discretion, to the greatest extent possible, in the utilization of allocated resources, while incorporating only those rules deemed essential to effective management of the aggregate budget to achieve the above-stated goal. In the interest of empowering principals further in fiscal management of their budgets, we have amended selected items from "District Retains Accruals" to "School Retains Accruals", as summarized below:

- Breakage (school-based portion): Schools will be allowed to retain accruals.
- Classroom Teacher Absence Allocation: Schools may retain accruals from funds in the initial allocation.
- Classroom Paraprofessional Absence Allocation: Schools may retain accruals from funds in the initial allocation.
- Teacher/Paraprofessional Vacancies --- Revised Budget Management Rule: The restriction on modifications to per diem and prep period coverage only is expanded to also include "instructional per session activities".

Principals will receive allocations in the categories of Instructional Programs, Support, Related Services, and Home & Hospital programs (as appropriate); Tax Levy Pre-K Program Support, and TL Pre-K Related Services. Descriptions of major allocations follow under the headings of instructional programs, per capita, needs-based and

programmatic. Some specific allocations are preliminary and will need to be adjusted based on a review of actual student mandated needs.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM ALLOCATION

The Instructional Programs allocation provides funding to support instruction for students from kindergarten through age 21 (as well as the tax levy portion of the Pre-Kindergarten Autistic Spectrum Program). This allocation funds teachers, classroom paraprofessionals, inclusion paraprofessionals, classroom supplies and equipment, as well as school administration and basic instructional support services.

In 2007-2008:

- Funds allocated to schools for Instructional Programs will be based upon schools' allocations as contained in the District FileMaker Placement Allocation Database. The amount allocated to schools will reflect changes in pupil enrollment, types of services mandated for the students, district average teacher salaries, elimination of any "one time" funding received in 2006-2007, and district decisions on district-wide programs or services.
- In keeping with the Children First Initiative and parallel to the new Fair Student Funding model, certain discrete allocations received in FY 2007, such as, Operating Standards, Project Arts and Coaches, will now be part of the instructional base and included in the TL Instructional Programs CW allocation category.

PER CAPITA ALLOCATIONS

In 2007-2008, per capita allocations will continue to be made to schools based upon eligible pupil enrollment.

New York State Library Book, Computer Software and Hardware

Funds from these three New York State funding sources are allocated to all schools on a per capita basis using audited October 31, 2007 registers.

New York State Textbook

Under the New York State Textbook Law (NYSTL), the State provides aid for textbooks. Due to the fact that District 75 contains schools whose students are evaluated through alternate assessment (and as such, do not use textbooks), NYSTL funding may be re-allocated to schools based on need, as determined by the District 75 Superintendent.

NEEDS-BASED ALLOCATIONS

IEP-Mandated Paraprofessionals

In 2007-2008, schools will receive an allocation for all IEP-mandated paraprofessional services. As new mandated needs occur during the school year, additional resources will be provided based upon review by the Superintendent's Office and the Integrated Service Center. Excess resources from IEP paraprofessional assignments which are discontinued will be removed from schools' budgets.

Related Services Speech and Counseling

Funding for IEP-mandated speech teachers and counselors will be allocated to schools as needed, based upon individual student IEP mandates.

Related Services - Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Nurses, Hearing and Vision Services

Mandated services in these areas are provided to schools as needed, based upon individual student IEP mandates.

Assistive Technology

Resources to fund the purchase of specialized educational equipment and the cost to train staff and parents on the use of equipment will be provided as necessary per IEP mandate.

PROGRAMMATIC ALLOCATIONS

Allocation rules associated with these programs will generally remain the same in fiscal year 2008.

Parent Coordinator Allocation

As part of Children First, schools are allocated supplemental resources to establish a parent coordinator position. The coordinator's responsibilities include outreach to parents; encouragement of parent involvement in their children's education; support of parent organizations within schools; responding to parent concerns and inquiries; and creation of a welcoming environment for parents. This program will continue in FY 08.

Jose P

As a result of the Jose P. consent decree, additional resources are provided to schools in District 75 to provide additional support consistent with the decree.