

Brooklyn Public Schools

2018-19 Budget

Questions and Answers

January 24, 2018

1) Q: Do both BES and BMS need an assistant principal and a principal full-time?

A: Yes. The need for two admins in each building (we can provide data on the number of evaluations that need to be performed (time involved), the number of bus tickets, behavioral referrals, reports, accreditation requirements, grant requirements, # of 504s, other meetings, responsibilities, & PD related to the administrator competency rubric, etc...).

2) Q: Why does Brooklyn Public Schools (BPS) need a School Psychologist?

A: Special Education evaluations & 504 testing (Cognitive, Social/Emotional/Behavioral, Adaptive Behavior)

- Participation in PPTs to review evaluation results, assist in developing student programs, determine Special Education eligibility.
- Primary counselor for Behavioral classroom at BES
- Conduct student observations for program reviews
- Conduct Social Skills groups
- Counseling
- Conducting FBAs (Functional Behavioral Assessments) and developing BIPs (Behavior Intervention Plans)
- 504 Coordinator
- Character Education Programs (anti-bullying programming per climate plan)
- Crisis Team Member
- Restraint/Seclusion staff trainer
- Attend CST & SAT meetings (as needed)
- Offer Parenting Skills Class/Programs

3) Q: Why has BPS created a learning center? What is it and does it save us money?

A: Increasing number of dysregulated students which impacts learning for the dysregulated student and the other students in the classroom. Best practice for said students indicates the positive impact of lower student-teacher ratio, staff trained in behavior and mental health needs, consistent program where student data can be monitored, and psychological/mental health supports in place.

4) Q: Why are there such large increases to the technology line items?

A: one response would be the \$60,000 I did not put in last year (not realizing there wasn't a separate IT budget...wouldn't say that...something more like- I wanted to get a sense of the building needs...). Moving Brooklyn forward technologically, so our students will be able to compete in the global market. (We have many rooms still with chalk boards)... This coincides with our STEAM plan.

Special Education: Other Technical Services- Tech Support = iPad set up, assistive tech repair, routine maintenance/updates

Instructional Equipment =Purchase of new iPads, Classroom equipment (ex. Seating options, sensory materials), OT/PT recommendations.

Technology Software = IEP Direct (\$9,000.00), iPad Apps, Boardmaker

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5) Q: Why is there an increase to the professional development lines?

A: PD increase: BES is behind on NGSS Science, Social Studies, & UA curriculum work. Continuing to implement the RW Workshop model- materials & training involved. Also, we are hoping to contract with a tech integration specialist to further support technology in the classroom.

6) Q: Do we really need a clerk at BES/BMS?

A: Yes. BES has over 500 students and 80 staff with one secretary. This makes it difficult to manage the ever growing responsibilities (bussing, scheduling, attendance, staff coverage, record keeping/database entry, SR grant reporting, phone calls, dismissal, 504 meeting invites, etc...)