

Brooklyn Public Schools Board of Education Approved Budget 2020-2021

Approved by Board of Education 5/26/2020

Brooklyn Elementary School

BES requested additional instructional support to address teaching and learning. Staff at all levels have worked diligently to learn and implement new instructional strategies to change outcomes for students. An instructional coach will be helping to implement best teaching practices. We will give up the library media specialist to fund the coach and provide noncertified support in the library to students and staff.

Classroom teacher numbers will remain the same. We rotate teachers as large or small class sizes move through the grade levels, but there are no additions or reductions to the number of teachers.

Curriculum and instruction will include the continued instruction of readers and writers workshop for language arts and a new, full implementation of Engage New York mathematics program. New instructional methodology and materials are needed to raise the performance levels of our students. Next generation science standards are being addressed by the STEAM teacher and classroom teachers collaboratively.

Preschool model of instruction will change to include the PK teacher serving as a special education case manager for most students needing services. We have discussed possible reductions but we did not cut the program as this is a valued program to our families and a source of pride for the district.

Health needs include additional support in our nurse's office. Even prior to COVID-19 there was a need for additional support. This will be a health aide to help our youngest students and the recordkeeping required. We anticipate an impact to related arts and athletics at both schools.

Total Budget Request: \$19,173,991; increase of \$511,223 or 2.74%

Brooklyn Middle School

BMS had requested an additional school counselor to address the needs of our students. They are also working hard to implement readers and writers workshop models, Engage New York for mathematics and have revised the science, social studies and related arts curriculum. The school counselor position will be funded by reducing the library media specialist position and providing a noncertified staff member to assist students in the library.

Classroom teacher numbers will remain the same. We rotate teachers as class sizes move through the grade levels, but there are no additions or reductions to the number of teachers.

Curriculum and instruction will include continued instruction of readers and writers workshop for language arts and Engage New York mathematics program. Science and social studies curriculum work continues to ensure instructional alignment to the Connecticut Common Core Standards.

Related arts, athletics and extracurricular activities may be impacted by the COVID-19 health risks and requirements set forth by the State. We anticipate reduction of some classes such as band and choral music. Fall sports may also be impacted. We await further direction from the State.

Special education and related services include the same number of special education teachers at both BES and BMS.

Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and a half-time **speech and language pathologist** were added to the budget to address the current individualized needs of students. We have also hired an occupational therapist, rather than contracting, which saved us money.

****Transportation and cleaning** may result in additional costs as it relates to guidelines to keep students and staff safe during this pandemic.

District: The Board of Education has saved money by creating special education programs that meet the needs of some students who will return to the district or avoid costly outplacements; by contracting for buses through EASTCONN; and will realize savings in electricity once the solar project is completed. These have helped us to offset the increased costs of employee contracts, insurance and increased costs of high school tuition. This year we reduced our request for new technology hardware due to the difficult budget year, but will need to make purchases next year to maintain the replacement cycle.

The COVID pandemic may result in increased costs to provide PPE and cleaning. We await more guidance from the State of Connecticut and the Governor.