

Meeting Notes
Weighted Staffing Standards (WSS)/ School Funding Workgroup
2022-23 School Year WSS Development

Meeting Date: Dec 9, 2021, 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Meeting via “Teams”

Workgroup Members:

JoLynn Berge, Ashley Davies, Linda Sebring, Sara Bonneville,
Treena Sterk, Michael Stone, Eric Anderson, Laura Davis Brown, Anthony Ruby, Concie Pedroza,
Dedy Fauntleroy, Rina Geoghagan, Gerrit Kischner, Keven Wynkoop, Shannon Conner,
Rainey Hartford Swan, Jennifer Matter,

Attendees: JoLynn Berge, Ashley Davies, Linda Sebring, Sara Bonneville, Eric Anderson,
Rocky Torres, Mia Williams, Rainey Swan, Jennifer Matter, Anthony Ruby, Shannon Conner,
Laura Davis Brown, Dedy Fauntleroy, Gerrit Kischner, Rina Geoghagan, Chris Carter

Agenda:

1. Equity tiering methodology for next school year
2. (Added) non-staff dollar rates to schools, difference between elementary and secondary rates

(1) Equity tiering methodology for next school year

Asst Supt Berge asked Dr Anderson to present the updated changes to Equity tiering model. Update Methodology based on last conversation (2 measures only). Ran with current (Oct/Nov) students and has some changes, and 2 measures only. Results in 6 more schools (net) in tier 1, 2 more in Tier 2, fewer schools in Tier 3. Looked at “norming”, but not able to simulate options for Middle Schools and High Schools.

Question: why are there more Tier 1 schools? Thought it was a fixed number (nine or ten) in Tier 1? Per Eric A, the cut points for tiers are based on standard deviation, so more schools in Tier 1 because more schools above the cut-point of 8.5 for Tier 1. Could rebuild the model and change the cut-points. Discussions.

Question about other funding for elementary schools that is different from the poverty (FRL), due to secondary schools having a higher per pupil rate for Equity Dollars, so that Elementary and Secondary do not compete for resources. Question about Title I allocations. JoLynn clarified the allocation of state Title I and LAP dollars, and High Poverty LAP that goes directly to schools. Will discuss this later

Summarize changes in Tiering Model: Removing SBA as a factor in equity tiering, keeping cut points the same. Also, under consideration, “Any African American Male” (AAAM) for students who are now classified as “multi-racial” using the “Federal 7” rules. Quite a few students not being counted as African American Male (AAM); an additional 2300 would be counted as AAM. Not a large impact on tiering; only 3 schools changed tier. Discussions. Disaggregated data has

been provided to the board on achievement of Latin and African American boys. Kids counted as Latino “when they are so much more than that”.

Changes to Tiering that are on table:

- 1) do we include multi-racial or Hispanic male students in definition of AAM students?
 - a. Students that have checked the box for African American, as well as other boxes that are
- 2) do we remove test scores (achievement) in tiering?
Need to understand that there is going to be some movement.

Last comments: no comments. Moving forward with that.

Question about what goes on from here? This recommendation will go forward to cabinet and to board in January for WSS tiering. A change for AAM definition for strategic plan purpose is in a “separate lane” for the board to consider.

2) New Topic: Rate-difference in Non-Staff dollars in WSS (Equity Dollars)

Address the difference in the rates for Equity \$ allocations for elementary and secondary grades. Discussion on history behind the difference in the rates, developed when there was a significant drop-off in students registered for Free-Reduced Lunch as they transitioned to upper grades, so that was one of the reasons that rates were set higher for secondary grades.

Budget will work (with grants) to gather data on poverty statistics by school for the workgroup to look-at. Equity Dollars are not limited in how they are spent. Suggestion about developing list of strategies for best use of these resources. Amount of underspend of these resources reflects that many schools do not “need” these resources because they are not using them. Is there a better way to distribute these resources? Discussions.

Ed Director Chris Carter called in to share several things with the group: Five of his schools are small schools. Align small schools and how they are funded with overall district strategic plan. To attend staffing issues, how small schools are staffed, in a cost neutral way.

He will send a document. Something to discuss in January.

This is the final scheduled meeting of the WSS Workgroup for the 2022-23 WSS process.

A follow-up meeting in early January has been suggested.

- Will bring back data on how Equity Dollars rates were created and what is different currently.
- Review small schools paper that Chris Carter is sending to the group.

Question about Asst Principal (A/P) allocations, and has this group discussed. Per JoLynn, this group did not take up the subject this year, since a considerable amount of time was spent discussing this last year and the group could not reach consensus on any changes to A/P allocations.

Was requested that they would like to see breakdown by types of schools and “who is going”, and how it achieves the strategic plan.

Meeting adjourned 3:03 PM

Notes and comments from "chat":

[2:09 PM] Jennifer Matter [WA]

I am not in favor of changing the cut off's.

[2:11 PM] Davis Brown, Laura

What is the financial impact on schools that end up shifting?

[2:11 PM] Jennifer Matter [WA]

Thank you for that explanation. I clearly needed this review...

[2:23 PM] Kischner, Gerrit

I'm in support of this removal of SBA from the Tiering. I look forward to hearing about other equity moves we could make within the WSS. Out for 10 minutes now for dismissal.

like 1

[2:28 PM] Rainey Hartford Swan | PASS (Guest)

I do wonder about what the specific impact on some of these schools moving off of a higher priority tier will be. Certain programs etc. will be impacted. Do we need to be thinking about a transition phase ...? And certainly if we make these changes, we will need to communicate our "why" really well. Thank you Eric (and team) for walking us through these conversations.

[2:34 PM] Fautleroy, Dedy G

Thank you, Eric for all your work on pulling that data together--it is much appreciated.

like 3

[2:34 PM] Davies, Ashley E

Thank you Anderson, Eric M for preparing all this information!

like 1

[2:41 PM] Davis Brown, Laura

Do you think that the restrictions on to spend the money impact the underspend?

[2:44 PM] Fautleroy, Dedy G

It would be good to look at why there is underspend

like 2

[2:54 PM] Kischner, Gerrit

Rainey is right. What I hear every time from principals is that we have to find a way to grow the pot for WSS. What these Ps say, is that when we say that any moves in WSS have to be "cost-neutral" that immediately becomes an impossible conversation that move us.

[2:55 PM] Kischner, Gerrit

to move us.

[2:57 PM] Rainey Hartford Swan | PASS (Guest)

These are the sorts of conversations that we could be having monthly to better problem solve and understand each other's perspectives and the multi-faceted budget. Thank you everyone :)
like 1

[2:59 PM] Rainey Hartford Swan | PASS (Guest)
and Gerrit you are right about the "cost-neutral" point. Chris just contributed that perspective as well... makes for a true challenge.

[3:04 PM] Rainey Hartford Swan | PASS (Guest)
Thank you JoLynn and Eric and team :)
heart 1

[3:04 PM] Conner, Shannon
Thanks TEAM WSS! Happy Holidays!
heart 1

[3:05 PM]
3:05 PM Meeting ended: 1h 6m 33s