

FY 2009 QUESTION: 11

QUESTION:

Provide information on the proposed reduction of Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP). What is the staff to student ratio? Provide a three year history of SLP positions and other related services, including workload standards in the ASHA presentation.

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: 4 – 45 and 4 – 48

ANSWER:

As shown on the chart below, the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staffing ratio for speech and language pathologists (SLP) that provide resource services in FY 2009 remains at 56.4 students per full-time employee (FTE) at the Grade K through 12 level and 40 students per FTE at the prekindergarten level. The reduction of SLP positions for FY 2009 is a direct result of a reduced enrollment projection for speech and language services.

	<u>FY 2007</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>
Preschool:			
Enrollment	1,350	1,250	1,200
Positions	34.00	31.00	30.00
Ratio	40.0:1	40.0:1	40.0:1
K-12			
Enrollment	8,600	8,400	8,000
Positions	152.50	149.00	141.80
Ratio	56.4:1	56.4:1	56.4:1

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) recommends using a workload analysis approach for establishing caseload standards in schools. Their established guidelines look at direct services to students, indirect activities that support students in the least restrictive environment accessing the general education curriculum, and activities that support compliance with federal, state, and local mandates. These factors are formulated and used as a guideline to determine allocations for SLPs. MCPS has collaborated with ASHA to explore the use of this approach and investigate the budgetary implications for implementation. If workload analysis were endorsed by MCPS, it is estimated that staffing would increase by approximately 56.70 FTEs.

The chart below shows the enrollment, number of positions, and ratio for occupational therapists (OT) and physical therapists (PT) that provide resource services for students in grades K-12 for FY 2007–2009.

	<u>FY 2007</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>
K-12			
Enrollment	3,400	3,400	3,300
Positions	98.50	98.50	95.50
Ratio	34.6:1	34.6:1	34.6:1



	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
K-12			
Enrollment	3,228	3,400	3,300
Positions	98.50	98.50	95.50
Ratio	34.6:1	34.6:1	34.6:1