

FY 2009 QUESTION NUMBER: 16

QUESTION:

Respond to the MCEA testimony that advocates that the nine schools selected for Middle School Reform be given the choice of implementation of the Magnet Consortium model or the Pilot School model. What is the fiscal impact of allowing schools to have the choice?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: 1-11

ANSWER:

The Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) was specifically designed to support three highly impacted middle schools by developing unique programs and attracting students from other middle schools. Expansion of some of the components such as the five out of eight teaching schedule and out-of-area student choice would create undue impact on neighboring schools and the middle school reform budget. Two major components of the MSMC model will be replicated as part of middle school reform. First, selected courses from the MSMC will be expanded to the Phase I and Phase II middle schools and include rigorous course offerings in English, Science, technology, and the arts. Second, a modified version of the MSMC professional development model offers teachers after school cohort collaborative planning time. This permits schools to focus on priority professional development topics while offering a five-out-of-seven or six-out-of-eight period teaching schedule.

Budgeted resources for the Phase I Middle School Reform for FY 2009 are \$2.9 million or approximately \$332,000 per school. The Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) costs approximately \$578,000 per school, and does not include the leadership model in the Middle School Reform initiative, which would add significant costs to these three schools. Both figures reflect staffing and materials costs. To offer schools a choice between one model or the other would more than double the cost of Middle School Reform.

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