

FY 2009 QUESTION NUMBER: 30

QUESTION:

Provide information on the reduction of teachers in the METS program.

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: Chapter 3 - 72

ANSWER:

There is no proposed reduction of teachers in the Multidisciplinary Education Training and Support (METS) program. Instead, there is a technical adjustment that reduces the overall number of ESOL teachers by revising the method of counting METS students for staffing purposes.

ESOL teachers are budgeted at an ESOL student-teacher ratio of 41:1, 35:1, and 30:1, at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, respectively. For schools that also have METS programs to serve ESOL students with interrupted education, ESOL students were counted a second time. This resulted in an additional 1.0 FTE budgeted for each METS class at the elementary and middle school levels, and an additional .5 FTE budgeted for each METS class at the high school level. At the elementary and middle school levels, each METS class of 15 students received an additional 1.0 FTE budgeted that was added to the ratio-driven ESOL allocation. At the high school level, each METS class of 15 students received an additional .5 FTE budgeted that was added to the ratio-driven ESOL allocation.

Due to efforts to implement the ESOL instructional pathways, a new method of counting METS students enrolled in the ESOL program has been instituted that clarifies how ESOL and non-ESOL staffing resources support ESOL students. The development of a new curriculum, coupled with ongoing training for ESOL teachers and non-ESOL teachers who work with ESOL students in the content areas, has increased teacher knowledge of this student population and their instructional needs. As a result, the student's needs can be met with a portion of the additional staffing allocation previously made.