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More Slots for More Hours, but No Summer Programs Under After-School Plan

There are currently more than 500 public middle schools in New York City serving over 224,000 students. Currently 56,369 middle school students participate in some form of after-school activity provided by either the Department of Education (DOE) or the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). In September 2014 an additional 62,791 students would have access to after-school programs as part of Mayor de Blasio's plan to increase middle school after-school programs. This means that an estimated 119,160 students, or more than half of all middle school students, would have access to some form of after-school programming next school year. To accomplish this goal the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for 2015 includes \$190 million in new city funds to expand and improve DYCD's Out-of-School Time program (OST).

Current Out-of-School Time Model. The Department of Youth and Community Development's OST program provides activities for school-age youth during after-school hours, on weekends, and during school vacations. OST programs are offered at no cost to participants and provide a mix of academic, recreational, and cultural programs for elementary, middle school, and high school students. OST service providers operate mostly in public school buildings, with a smaller number operating in facilities of the parks department and the New York City Housing Authority.

For 2013, DYCD revamped its OST program for elementary and middle school students to improve services and raised the per slot rate to cover the additional costs. This increased cost per slot, together with a scheduled decrease in funding, was expected to reduce the number of OST slots in 2013 by nearly half, from 52,600 in 2012 to 26,900. During negotiations to adopt the 2013 budget, however, the City Council added \$51 million to restore nearly 30,000 slots for one year, although these were funded at the previous, lower cost per slot. As a result, the OST program

was able to serve 65,957 students at all grade levels in 2013. (Since many students do not attend these programs every day, the number of students enrolled can exceed the number of slots.)

The City Council once again added \$51 million to the 2014 Adopted Budget to maintain the 30,000 slots for an additional year. The additional funding has allowed OST to serve 65,023 students thus far in 2014, including 16,265 middle school students. In November 2013 the Bloomberg Administration baselined the \$51 million that had been funded for one year at a time, allowing OST to maintain its current service levels in future years. It is in this context that Mayor de Blasio has introduced his plan to greatly expand the number of middle school students participating in OST.

Expanded Program Model. Earlier this month, the de Blasio Administration released a white paper detailing the changes to the city after-school system, specifically for middle school students. According to the white paper there are currently 45,095 slots for after-school activities citywide for middle school students. This number includes programs at the Department of Education and several of DYCD's after-school programs including OST, Beacons, and Cornerstone. The expanded program would create an additional 50,233 OST slots for a total of 95,328 after-school slots for middle school students. (The plan assumes that each slot can accommodate 1.25 students.)

The Mayor's budget anticipates that the \$190 million to fund the expanded program will come from the proposed income tax surcharge on residents with incomes of \$500,000 or more. Of the \$190 million in funds, \$159 million is slated for programming, while the remaining \$31 million will go to DYCD and DOE for administrative costs associated with implementing the new program. DYCD anticipates that it will need to use some of its new



Middle School Expansion Funding	
<i>Dollars in millions</i>	
	2015
New Middle School Slots	\$132
Enhancement of Current OST Middle School Slots	12
Nonpublic School Sites	8
District 75 School Programs	6
DYCD and DOE Administrative Costs	31
TOTAL	\$190
<small>SOURCES: Department of Youth and Community Development; After-School Programs for Middle School Students, Mayor's Office New York City Independent Budget Office</small>	

administrative funding to hire additional program managers to help run the new contracts. The bulk of the \$159 million in programming funds, \$132 million, will go to fund the new middle school slots at public schools, which will be chosen through the RPF process. An additional \$12 million will be used to enhance the current OST middle school slots, \$8.0 million will go to new slots at nonpublic school facilities, and \$6.0 million will be allocated for new OST slots at District 75 schools. The latter programs will be administered directly by DOE. District 75 schools provide educational, vocational, and behavioral programs for students with special needs who require services and supports that are not available in regular DOE schools.

The service model for the expanded program includes some critical changes that distinguish it from the current OST system. These include an increase in the annual cost per program slot, expansion of program hours to allow for higher quality programming, greater use of school resources, and the targeting of struggling students for additional academic intervention. The price per participant will increase from the current OST price of \$2,100 to \$3,000. This increase will allow each program to have a full-time director, as well as an education specialist to train other program staff and provide ongoing technical assistance. Teachers from the host schools will be encouraged to lead after-school activities.

The number of hours of service provided annually will increase from 413 hours in the current OST model to 540

hours. Of the 540 hours, 324 hours will be devoted to structured activities, meaning programming that is aligned with school-day instruction. This can include activities with a focus on the arts, literacy, STEM (science, technology, and math), leadership development skills, academic support, physical activity, and family engagement. Programs will be required to operate their structured activities nine hours per week for 36 weeks during the school year. The remaining 216 hours can be used for unstructured activities such as tutoring and recreation.

School principals will be required to make an in-kind contribution amounting to 10 percent to 15 percent of the total program funding received from DYCD for their schools' after-school program. Such contributions could include rearranging teacher's schedules to have a teacher available for a portion of the after-school program. These details will be outlined in the school partnership agreements between the nonprofit provider and the schools.

No Provision for Summer Programming. The revamped OST program introduced by DYCD in 2013 included funds to provide services during the summer months. Similarly, when the City Council began funding its own 30,000 slots, the Bloomberg Administration agreed to fund corresponding summer slots, but only through the summer of 2013. The \$51 million that was added to DYCD's baseline budget in November 2013 to fund those 30,000 slots no longer covers summer services at those sites. Based on last year's cost, maintaining a summer component for the City Council slots would require roughly \$20 million a year.

Similarly, there is no summer programming in the de Blasio Administration's plan to increase after-school services for middle school students. Based on current OST summer program costs, IBO estimates that an additional \$28 million to \$38 million would be needed in order to fund the summer portion of the new middle school expansion program, depending on what service model is adopted.