

May 2015

Alternative to School Closure: Significant Resources Directed Towards 94 Renewal Schools

Prior to the current 2014-2015 school year, the Department of Education (DOE) identified 94 schools for participation in its Renewal Schools program. Following an infusion of \$31 million in new funds in fiscal year 2015 as part of the preliminary budget plan in February, the Mayor’s executive budget adds an additional \$40 million in funding for this program in 2016, with larger amounts added to subsequent years. Cumulatively, these actions add \$149 million in new city funding to the DOE budget over three years (2015 through 2017). The executive budget also identifies \$113 million in existing funding that is being reallocated to the Renewal Schools program each year through 2019.

Specific intended uses of this funding include: a two-year plan to bring each school’s Fair Student Funding (FSF) allocation to 100 percent of the formula amount by 2017; summer school programs; substance abuse counselors; additional math, English Language Arts (ELA) and science programs; mental health clinics; and parent engagement.¹ The full array of initiatives and budget allocations is presented in the table below. The de Blasio Administration has said that renewal schools will also provide one additional hour of instruction each day, although funding for the added instruction is not broken out in the budget.

Budget for Renewal Schools Program					
<i>Dollars in millions</i>					
Program Costs	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Additional Services Out-Years	\$0.0	\$108.3	\$107.6	\$107.6	\$107.6
Raise Fair Student Funding to 100 % of Formula*	0.0	33.6	59.7	59.7	59.7
Summer School Programs	0.0	9.2	12.1	12.1	12.1
Substance Abuse Prevention (SAPIS) Workers**	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Urban Advantage Science Programs	0.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Double ELA/Math Intervention Funding	0.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Mental Health Clinics	0.0	1.2	2.0	2.0	2.0
Support for Overage 8th Graders	0.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Parent Engagement	0.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Administrative Field Support	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
First-Year Costs (Added in February Plan)	30.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Program Cost	\$30.7	\$162.6	\$187.8	\$187.8	\$187.8
Existing Funds Redirected to Renewal Schools:					
Federal	\$0.0	(\$58.0)	(\$58.0)	(\$58.0)	(\$58.0)
After School Inter-City	0.0	(55.5)	(55.5)	(55.5)	(55.5)
Net New Funding	\$30.7	\$49.1	\$74.3	\$74.3	\$74.3
NOTES: *Includes funds for Persistently Failing and Community Schools, as well as a 1 percent increase in the Fair Student funding “floor” for all schools. **Includes funds for Persistently Failing Schools.					

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