

Education Law §3614 School Funding Allocation Report

Part F - Narrative Description

1. **(A) Describe the local methodology/approach used to allocate funds to each school in the district during the process of budget development and implementation. (B) Please also describe the role(s) of all relevant stakeholders in such budgetary processes and decision-making. (C) Finally, if schools are allocated a significant portion of their funds—either in part or in full—through a formula, outline the nature/mechanics of the formula and the elements impacting each school's allocation.**

Specifically, the Division of Budget and the State Education Department would consider a complete response to this question to include explicit answers to the questions included in the rubric below, including a substantive discussion on the translation of students needs into the district's budget (at least 1 sentence per question, when applicable).

A. The Budget Development Process is led by the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent for Business. The development process is continuous throughout the year beginning in early November.

B. The Superintendent's Cabinet and School/Department Administrative staff work collaboratively to address the needs of the students and build a plan for identifying and funding Mandates, Essential and Non-essential/Priority items.

C. District spending is primarily driven centrally. Each school receives a small per pupil allocation to be used at the principal's discretion for supplies, minor equipment, repairs, field trips, etc. The primary driver for school spending is staffing which is determined centrally based on the student population in that school with additional staffing allocated to support English as a New Language, Special Education program needs, literacy and math intervention supports, and in some buildings community schools programming. Some schools provide special classes, while others are primarily consultant teachers in an integrated class, least restrictive setting. This impacts the amount per pupil spent in those buildings.

2. **If applicable, is there anything unique about certain schools which explain why per pupil spending at these locations may be significantly higher/lower than the district average?**

Schuyler Achievement Academy receives additional funds/supports, including a Community Schools grant unique for that school of almost two million dollars. Arbor Hill Elementary School received additional funds/supports, including a Community Schools grant of one hundred thousand dollars. Additionally, the district receives a number of state and federal grants which funds are available to specific schools. For example, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant provides additional funds to six of our schools; the Empire State Afterschool grant provides additional funds to seven of our schools; one of our middle schools receives funds through the Persistently Struggling Schools grant of almost two hundred thousand; and our Career and Technical Education program at Albany High School receives federal Perkins grant funds to support that program.

3. **If applicable, describe any items which the district feels are anomalous in nature and require additional description.**

N/A