

FY 2008 QUESTION NUMBER: 21

QUESTION:

The testimony provided by Potomac Elementary School PTA requests that the half-time Chinese lead teacher be made full-time as is the case at College Gardens Elementary School. What are the criteria used to decide the staff allocation?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: NA

ANSWER:

Immersion program lead teachers are allocated based on whether the immersion program is a full immersion program or partial immersion program. Full immersion programs have a 1.0 lead teacher; partial immersion programs have a .5 lead teacher. In full immersion programs, children learn all the core subjects (reading, writing, mathematics, social studies, and science) in the second language. Full immersion programs are offered at Maryvale Elementary School (total French immersion), Sligo Creek Elementary School (total French immersion), and Rock Creek Forest Elementary School (total Spanish immersion). In partial immersion programs, only a portion of the curriculum is taught in the second language. Partial immersion programs are offered at Burnt Mills Elementary School (partial Spanish immersion), College Gardens Elementary School (partial Chinese immersion), Potomac Elementary School (partial Chinese immersion), and Rolling Terrace Elementary School (partial Spanish immersion).

A 1.0 immersion teacher position was allocated to College Gardens Elementary School during the 2006–2007 school year as an anomaly related to the program’s start-up and is planned for phase-out to align with other partial immersion programs.