

FY 2008 QUESTION NUMBER: 11

QUESTION:

How much was added to the FY 2007 budget for Study Circles? Is there a backlog of requests to form Study Circles and what is the ability to respond to the requests?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: 9-5, 9-6, 9-8

ANSWER:

The Study Circles program is managed by the Division of Family and Community Partnerships in the Department of Communications. In the FY 2007 budget, an initiative for \$100,000 was added for the Study Circles program to increase study circles from 15 in FY 2006 to 25 in FY 2007.

Currently, the division has no backlog and is able to respond to all requests for study circles. To meet the expanded needs this year, more intensive facilitator training has been provided and a team of lead facilitators has been created who also serve as trainers that work with less experienced facilitators. This emphasis on increasing facilitator capacity has allowed for the expansion to more schools without decreasing the quality of the program. Online facilitator communication, newly designed outreach materials, and an improved facilitator guide have made it possible to meet the increased demand for the Study Circles program.