

FY 2008 QUESTION NUMBER: 27

QUESTION:

What criteria are used to determine enrollment for the Junior Great Books and the READ 180 Programs? What are the annual costs and how do the schools receive funding?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: 1-20, 3-10, 3-45, 3-24

ANSWER:

READ 180

Currently 33 schools are providing the Read 180 program. Decision process/criteria for READ 180 program allocations to schools include the following:

- education load percentage ranking;
- free and reduced meals percentage ranking;
- Maryland School Assessment (MSA) reading aggregate percentage ranking; and
- schools that did not make adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) particularly in the area of reading.

The local schools determine student enrollment in the program. Schools receive funding from the central office and annual costs are approximately \$356,000. The annual costs include the following:

- a set of 60 licenses for one site is a one time cost - \$28,000. Ten schools per year are added at an annual cost of \$280,000;
- stipends and substitutes for professional development - \$2,000;
- consumable student workbooks per year - \$59,000 (2,400 workbooks); and
- headphones for student use - \$15,000.

JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS

The Reading, Writing, Language Arts instructional guides state, “Students who need greater challenge should have ongoing access to the Junior Great Books Program, using stories to support each quarter’s indicators.” The Reading, Writing, Language Arts instructional guides further state, “While all students can have access to the stories, selected instructional segments can be implemented during small group instruction.”

Currently the Junior Great Books Program is available to all schools. In addition, MCPS has adapted lessons from Junior Great Books into middle school instructional guides for English Grades 6-8. Local elementary schools use a variety of models to implement the Junior Great Books Program. Some schools provide access to all students, some schools use Junior Great Books with above-grade level guided reading groups, and other schools use a pull-out model to serve targeted students.

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The annual amount centrally budgeted for substitutes, registration, and instructional materials is \$35,974. However, PTA or local school funds may be used for training additional teachers.

Junior Great Books materials costs include:

Student texts	\$13.95
Teacher manuals	24.95
Audio tapes	50.95

One class set (25 students) with teacher manual and audiotapes	\$424.65
One class set for each grade, K-5	\$2,547.90

In most cases, schools use textbook funds to purchase Junior Great Books materials. In rare cases, if funding is available, the Division of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction (AEI) may purchase one or more class sets to support a specific school request.