

FY 2008 QUESTION NUMBER: 45

QUESTION:

What are the criteria for adding PPW and psychologist positions in the budget?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: 1 - 10, 4 - 60, 4 - 61

ANSWER:

There is no enrollment-based formula used to budget pupil personnel worker (PPW) and school psychologist positions. The need for these positions, however, is reviewed and considered during the budget development process. The FY 2008 operating budget does not include additional PPW or psychologist positions due to the declining enrollment projection. The FY 2007 budget did not include additional PPW positions but a 1.0 psychologist positions was added. From FY 2001 to FY 2005, seven PPW positions were added to the budget and three PPW positions were added in FY 2006 as part of the Collaborative Action Process (CAP). At present, there are 47.0 PPW positions, each having an assignment of four to six schools, including special schools. Those PPWs who are assigned four schools have at least two secondary schools in their assignment.

The FY 2008 budget provides for an average PPW to student ratio of 1:2,915. As shown below, this ratio has steadily improved.

2001: 1:3,626
2002: 1:3,110
2003: 1:3,086
2004: 1:3,164
2005: 1:3,167
2006: 1:2,966
2007: 1:2,932
2008: 1:2,915

At present, there are 102.84 (FTE) school psychologists. This number includes those working directly in schools as well as those serving special education programs, the Bilingual Assessment Team, Central Individualized Education Program Team, Autism Unit, and Head Start. The FY 2008 budget provides for an average ratio of school psychologists to students of 1:1,367. However, considering only those school psychologists assigned directly to schools, the ratio increases to 1:1,812.

The following chart shows the psychologist to student ratios for FY 2001 to FY 2008. This ratio has improved significantly during this period.

2001: 1:1,632
2002: 1:1,509
2003: 1:1,436
2004: 1:1,437
2005: 1:1,424
2006: 1:1,397
2007: 1:1,367
2008: 1:1,332

