

FY 2009 QUESTION NUMBER: 9

QUESTION:

How will the recommended \$1.2 million budget for the Middle School Magnet Consortium be allocated by school and position? Is the cost for transportation for out-of-area students included in these funds? What is the cost of the transportation for students residing outside the consortium?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: 1-17

ANSWER:

The Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) initiative totals \$1,222,934. This provides salaries and employee benefits for 14.75 positions and other resources as follows:

- 3.0 coordinator positions to support the theme programs and provide curriculum and other instructional leadership support at each school, a 0.25 secretary for administrative support, and materials at a total cost of \$522,934. One coordinator position will be assigned to each of the three schools. The .25 secretary is for support in managing the choice process in central office.
- 11.5 teacher positions at a cost of \$700,000 will be used to support the unique program courses and school schedule that permits professional development periods during the school day. This component is dependent on additional federal funding and is not a permanent feature of the program. Schools will be assigned teacher positions based on need as part of the school staffing process that occurs in February.

Transportation for out-of-area students enrolled in the Middle School Magnet Program was funded beginning in FY 2006 at a cost of \$182,907. Additional funds for transportation are not included in the FY 2009 budget initiative. Students currently electing one of the consortium schools from three adjacent cluster areas will continue to receive transportation. All new students electing to attend a consortium school from these three adjacent clusters will be able to ride on these buses through FY 2010. All other students outside the school attendance area will provide their own transportation. The original funding of \$182,907 included \$92,604 for the lease/purchase of six buses (two buses each for the B-CC, Rockville and Walter Johnson High School clusters), 2.25 positions in the Department of Transportation at a cost of \$66,275, and \$24,028 for diesel fuel, contractual bus repairs, bus parts and shop supplies.