

FY 2010 QUESTION NUMBER: 4

QUESTION:

Provide clarification on the rationale for the change in the Home School Model. What are the roles and responsibilities of special education teachers and paraeducators in the Home School Model and how will those services be provided in the future?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: 5-33

ANSWER:

The departments of Special Education Services and Special Education Operations have identified the Home School Model (HSM) as a service delivery model that provides more inclusive opportunities for elementary students in general education as mandated by state and federal regulations. While some schools may experience a smaller teacher allocation in FY 2010, in most cases, the paraeducator allocation will increase to support students in a variety of settings.

The change to this model establishes an equitable way to allocate staff to all HSM schools. All students with Individualized Education Programs receiving HSM or resource services within an HSM school will be included in the count, rather than only considering those students receiving greater than 15 hours of special education service as is the current practice. This proposed staffing model considers the expectation that students with disabilities are included with their general education peers throughout the school day, as appropriate. Unlike the current staffing model, this staffing model allows for the addition of paraeducator support for the resource teacher.

Special Education teachers will continue to serve the critical role of ensuring the provision of special education services by providing instruction in a variety of settings to meet the needs of each school's targeted population of students with disabilities. This will include access to services in the general education classroom and/or during small group instruction in the core content areas of reading/language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. These teachers will plan with their general education counterparts to deliver quality instructional services. Special and general education teachers will plan and provide direct oversight and supervision of the paraeducators assigned to assist with the implementation of the Individualized Education Program. Paraeducators will support students with disabilities in the general education classroom, and during small group instruction in addition to art, music, and physical education as needed to address each student's individualized needs.