

FY 2009 QUESTION NUMBER: 10

QUESTION:

What are the savings from reducing release periods for magnet programs?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: 1-18, 1-25

ANSWER:

The programs for highly gifted students at the middle and high school levels were provided additional staffing to reduce class sizes, run the unique scheduling requirements of the program, and in some cases provide an additional teacher release period. The teacher release period was allocated to provide program teachers additional preparatory time to meet the demands of unique curriculum development and planning. As the programs have matured, the additional planning time for teachers has become less essential. The work demands in these programs are similar to ESOL, special education, or most general education teaching assignments, including coursework preparation for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs throughout the system. The remaining staffing is needed for scheduling, class size reduction, and for limited ongoing program development and planning.

The savings in the FY 2009 budget of \$546,060 includes the reduction of 4.3 positions at the middle school level and 6.0 positions at the high school level. The reduction of positions at the high school level include some reduction of release periods and also reductions in other allocations, including positions given to Poolesville High School when low enrollment made it difficult to schedule unique high school classes.