

FY 2008 QUESTION NUMBER: 19

QUESTION:

Are resources available so that class sizes will not increase when learning center students return to home schools?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: NA

ANSWER:

The superintendent of schools has announced a revised special education proposal that would allow all special education students in grades 6 through 12 who are currently in secondary learning centers to remain there through graduation. The revised proposal phases out learning centers over a six-year period, but continues the effort to include more special education students in general education classes. A budget amendment will be forwarded to the Board of Education to implement this revision.

Many secondary students who currently receive support through the secondary learning centers are not instructed in self-contained special education classes. The learning center model includes opportunities for students to access general education classes with supportive services from staff assigned to the learning center. Special education provided by the learning center is not a location but an array of services.

As students are transitioned into their home schools, most will access general education classes and receive supportive services from staff that is allocated to the school as Learning and Academic Disabilities and Resource support. Class sizes in general education will not be affected by the phase-out since the median number of rising Grade 6 students from the learning centers will be two new students for each middle school.