

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: BSEP Planning and Oversight Committee
FROM: Brent Stephens, Superintendent and
Bajé Thiara, Associate Superintendent for Educational Service
DATE: February 25, 2020
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Expenditure of BSEP Funds for Class Size
Reduction in FY 2020-21

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to Measure E1 of 2016, “sixty-six percent (66%) of the Available Revenues shall be dedicated annually to reducing class sizes at all District-operated K-12 schools, and may also be allocated to provide funding for professional development, classroom support, program evaluation, and expanded course offerings.”¹

Class Size Reduction and the Teacher Template

The contribution of BSEP Class Size Reduction (CSR) Funds for classroom teachers is estimated using a planning tool known as the “Teacher Template” . The Teacher Template calculates student enrollment and staffing for class size ratios to be paid for by General Fund (GF) resources, and then calculates additional staffing to be paid for by BSEP funds to determine the total number of teacher staffing, expressed as Full Time Equivalent (FTE).

In 2019-20, a \$2.0 million cut target drove a search for reductions in costs, increases in revenues, and alternative funding sources. Nearly 10% of that goal was met by increasing the amount transferred to the General Fund from BSEP through a revised calculation of “Direct Support” costs, which are permitted under the terms of Measure E1 as “costs associated with the opening or maintaining of classrooms to reduce class sizes.”

For 2020-21, continuing pressures on the General Fund are driving the recommendation to adjust the relative contributions of the GF and BSEP to the class size reduction calculation, so that for K-5 grades, the GF will support staffing ratios at 36:1 (instead of 34:1), and BSEP will provide the funds to bring the class sizes down to the specified targets. This is permitted under the terms of Measure E1, as “Reducing Class Sizes” means that the BSEP revenues shall be allocated to reduce class sizes “below the staffing ratios supported by the District’s Unrestricted General Fund.” Class sizes will not be affected; the BSEP funds will be assuming a greater share of the FTE required to achieve targeted class sizes because the General Fund is unable to support better ratios at this time.

¹ BSEP Measure E1 of 2016, Section 3.A

The Teacher Template, representing the plan for Class Size Reduction in 2020-21, is being to the P&O Committee for approval at the 2/25/2020 meeting.

[The Teacher Template Class Size Planning Document is provided here.](#)

A summary of how this Teacher Template fits together with the plans for the “Support for Teaching” discretionary purposes funded under the same High Quality Instruction resource is being provided in a separate document, for discussion, also on 2/25/20.