

BSEP Effective Student Support  
**Student Achievement Strategies**  
Plan Overview: FY 2020-21  
February 25, 2020

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**Budget Manager:**

Bajé Thiara, Associate Superintendent for Educational Services

The Response to Intervention (RtI) Teachers in elementary and middle schools, and elementary Literacy Coaches remain key to our efforts to support struggling students. Both positions serve critical roles on the Coordination of Services (CoS) teams the District has been building at elementary and middle schools. In addition to serving on those teams, which monitor and react to struggles or growth in specific academic or behavioral outcomes, both positions play key direct service roles with our students.

**BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2020-21**

**Staff**

- RtI Elementary and Middle School Teachers 5.50 FTE
- K-5 Literacy Coaches 5.50 FTE

**RtI Teachers**

**5.50 FTE**

The plan for 2020-21 is to continue to fund 2.75 FTE RtI teachers for the 11 elementary schools (.25 FTE at each) and 2.75 FTE RtI teachers for middle schools (.75 FTE for Longfellow, .75 FTE for Willard, and 1.25 FTE at King).

This allocation rounds out Special Education staffing in schools and expands the focus of the staff members to support struggling students who may not yet be working with Individualized Education Plans (IEP). This focus may prevent over-identification of students for Special Education by providing or coordinating supports and services well ahead of a determination to classify a student.

**Literacy Coaches**

**5.50 FTE**

The plan for 2020-21 is to continue to fund .50 FTE for each of the 11 BUSD elementary schools. These positions remain vital to the implementation of curriculum, to the support and coaching of teachers in delivering the strongest classroom instruction possible, and in some cases, providing intensive one-on-one reading supports as well as intensive small group remediation.

The BSEP Professional Development Resource funds an additional .25 FTE for each elementary site. The co-funding through the Professional Development budget and the Student Support budget reflects the multiple roles fulfilled by

this position. Each elementary school rounds out a full-time position at the site by providing funding for .25 FTE from site BSEP or Title I funds.

### **African American Success Project**

**\$220,000**

An addition to the Student Achievement Strategies for 2020-21 is a program that focuses on supports specific to African American students, who, as a group, continue to experience significant service gaps in Berkeley schools. These additional resources, currently envisioned as a dedicated Teacher on Special Assignment, along with contract support, would build from current LCAP investments in the African American Success Project, which has, since its inception in the 2018-2019 school year, focused on student attendance, social-emotional support, and cultural affirming classroom content. To expand vital work in this area, BUSD will invest in the creation of an African American Success Framework, drawing from research, promising local practices, and empathy interviews to describe how additional staff positions, contracts, and programs can further support African American learners.

### **Be A Scientist**

**\$10,000**

The “Be A Scientist” program provides students with support to engage in authentic science and engineering practices. Previously, teachers lacked the time and resources to mentor students through individual science research projects, and the traditional “science fair project” was assigned as an out-of-school homework project, contributing to inequities in learning opportunities dependent on resources and support available outside of school. Well-prepared scientists and engineers (mostly graduate students and post-doctoral researchers from UC Berkeley) mentor 7th grade students through the 6-week project of designing, conducting, and presenting independent research projects in science lab class.

The program is in the fifth year of a successful partnership with Community Resources for Science, serving about 700 BUSD students, every 7th grade science teacher, and involving nearly 200 mentors. The contribution from BSEP funds toward a contract with Community Resources for Science will be matched by LCAP funds, a Chancellor’s Grant, funding from the Berkeley Public Schools Fund and other sources to provide a robust program that reaches every 7th grade science class.

### **BUDGET SUMMARY**

Following is the proposal for expenditures for Student Achievement Strategies from funds allocated to this purpose in accordance with *The Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2016* (BSEP/Measure E1).

**Budget Summary**  
**Measure E1 Resource 0763**  
**Student Achievement Strategies**

	<b>2020-21 Budget</b>		<b>2019-20 comparison</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>1,538,877</b>		1,502,800	
<b>Expense</b>				
Literacy Coaches	<b>641,600</b>	(a)	623,300	(a)
RTI TSAs	<b>569,800</b>	(b)	564,400	(b)
Math Coach			110,000	(c)
African American Success Project (AASP)				
AASP TSA	<b>110,000</b>	(d)		
AASP Contracts	<b>100,000</b>			
Contract: Be A Scientist	<b>10,000</b>		10,000	
Unallocated Reserve	<b>36,342</b>		64,900	
Indirect Cost	<b>77,056</b>		72,885	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,544,798</b>		1,445,485	
<b>Net Change to Fund Balance</b>	<b>(5,921)</b>		57,315	
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>257,960</b>		152,871	
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Fund Balance	<b>(5,921)</b>		57,315	
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>252,039</b>		210,186	

(a) 5.5 FTE Literacy Coaches

(b) 5.5 FTE RTI TSAs

(c) 1.0 FTE Math Coach

(d) 1.0 AASP TSA