

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Natasha Beery, Director of BSEP and Community Relations and
Baje Thiara, Associate Superintendent for Educational
Services
DATE: June 10, 2020
SUBJECT: 2020-21 School Plans for Student Achievement

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The California Department of Education requires every school participating in school-based categorical programs to have a Board-approved School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) that must be revised annually based on current student data. The Principal at each BUSD school site worked with School Site Councils (SSCs) to develop a comprehensive plan for their school, including the allocation of BSEP Site Program funds.

The *Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2016* (Measure E1 of 2016) allocates 10.25% of the available revenues annually for School Site Programs:

“The School Site Council (as described in Section 8.C) shall develop recommendations to allocate these revenues for the personnel, services and materials required to deliver effective and equitable opportunities for student engagement, enrichment, and achievement.” (Section 3.B.iii)

The total 2020-21 district (non-donation) budget for these site plans is \$3,555,003. BSEP Site Program funds provide \$3,156,140 in regular year allocations to all schools in the district, and Title I funds provide \$398,863 to schools eligible for federal funding. BSEP Site Program funds were allocated based on a per-pupil amount of \$305 (a significant increase from the \$285 per pupil allocated in 2019-20). The site allocations for 2020-21 are described in Appendix A. The site plans also allocate carryover BSEP Site Program funds, totaling an additional \$380,665.

Strategic use of resources permits the funding of key elements in the plans. For example, each elementary school site is asked by the district to contribute funding for .25 FTE for a Literacy Coach from either BSEP or Title I site funds, while other district-wide BSEP funds contribute .75 FTE per school to round out a full-time Literacy Coach position at each elementary site. Similarly, in 2020-21, all three middle schools will use site funds to increase Counseling FTE, above the level provided by district-wide BSEP funds.

SSCs begin the annual planning process with a review of student data from previous years. In addition, SSCs also gather community feedback by conducting staff, family, and student surveys. After reviewing that data and

feedback, as well as the District's LCAP-aligned goals, specific site fund allocations, and centrally allocated positions and programs, each SSC developed an action plan which identified strategies to address school needs, using Federal Title I funds (if applicable), BSEP Site Program funds, and any other available resources such as grants and PTA donations.

For PreK-8 schools, in addition to standard site plan expenditures such as academic and enrichment staff and materials/supplies, many sites continue to support mental and behavioral health needs through funding counselor salaries or counseling contracts. An increasing number of sites are also allocating funds for Math support and instruction.

Berkeley High School's BSEP Site Committee worked in partnership with the BHS SSC to develop their BSEP Site Program fund budget. As the School Board approved a revision to the BHS Committee Bylaws in the 2019-20 school year, beginning in 2020-21 a single combined committee will undertake this work on behalf of Berkeley High.

Appendix B contains each school's Site Budget summary, which include allocations of all known site resources for the 2020-21 school year. It is important to note that due to the COVID-19 school closures, significant unknowns remain for many BUSD schools. PTA fundraising was significantly disrupted and several schools will wait until the Fall to determine what resources may exist from donations to support site-specific goals. Additionally, several sites have opted not to allocate priorities for BSEP carryover funds, preferring to leave that work to the 2020-21 SSCs based on needs that emerge as the crisis continues to unfold through next school year.

The Consolidated School Plan document includes plans to expend Site Program funds for Early Childhood Education, each elementary and middle school, as well as Berkeley High, Berkeley Technology Academy and the Independent Study Program. All elementary and middle schools use a standard template, which includes:

- Cover page including the Purpose and Description of the Plan
- Surveys
- Classroom Observations
- Analysis of Current Instructional Program
- Standards, Assessment, and Accountability
- Staffing and Professional Development
- Teaching and Learning
- Opportunity and Equal Educational Access
- Parental Engagement
- Stakeholder Involvement
- Resource Inequities
- School and Student Performance Data
- Planned Improvements in Student Performance (goals, strategies, and proposed expenditures, annual review and analysis)

- School Site Council Membership
- Signed Recommendations and Assurances
- Attachment – School Site Budget Summary

Early Childhood Education, Berkeley Technology Academy, Independent Study, and Berkeley High each use their own site plan formats to summarize site spending, but these still include proposed site fund expenditures, School Site Council membership, signed Recommendations and Assurances, and an attached School Site Budget Summary.

The School Plans comply with the basic legal assurances for Title I as well as BSEP/Measure E1 of 2016. The Plans have been reviewed by Educational Services. The staff believes that each site has an understanding and ownership of its plan and has identified strategies to increase the performance of all students while accelerating the achievement of those who have not been succeeding in school.

A summary of the 2020-21 School Plans' allocations of BSEP Site Program Funds was presented to the BSEP Planning and Oversight Committee for review on June 2, 2020. Appendix C contains comparisons of BSEP Site Program Fund expenditures between school sites, across spending categories, and over several years. Copies of the comprehensive plans were delivered electronically to each Board member, and once approved by the Board will be posted online on each school's BUSD website.

POLICY/CODE

Education Code 52850-52863

Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2016 (Measure E1)
Section 3.B.iii.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approximately \$3,935,668 in BSEP and Title I Site Program Funds.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the 2020-21 School Plans for Student Achievement.