



Pupil Personnel Services



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Pupil Personnel Budget

The Pupil Personnel Services cost center includes services for counseling of students, academic support, college and career planning, nursing, as well as Occupational and Physical Therapy. These services support both regular and special education students. A few budget requests that are listed here are also discussed in the Special Education budget as they have impact on the current budget crisis.

As mentioned in the Special Education budget, we are recommending that an additional school social worker be added to the budget. This position would be full time at the MS, with some support available for students transitioning from 5th to 6th grade who might be struggling. We have seen an increase in students with emotional concerns at the MS, which has led to unilateral placements by parents or requests for out-placements. Additionally, students who might stay in district have more significant needs that are often time consuming and require a higher level of support than counseling services. With expanded school social worker capacity, we also would be able to work closely with families to help them navigate community supports and services, as well as provide direct counseling services.

As also mentioned in the Special Education budget, we are recommending that one School Psychologist position be eliminated from the budget. Currently there are five positions, one at each school and one psychologist who splits time between HES and WIS. With the changing behavioral and emotional needs of our students, the demands have grown for an additional Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) for both HES and WIS. We currently split a BCBA between the two schools. In particular, we are seeing an increase in students on the autism spectrum who need specific programming and, behavior plans, coupled with an increase in students who have more dysregulation in their behaviors. BCBA's complete specialized training in these areas, which School Psychologists do not. We continue to need School Psychologists for comprehensive evaluations as well as individual and group counseling and social skills training, but we now have a stronger need for the type of expertise and programming a BCBA can provide.

The Counseling and Career Center at the HS, which is under the PPS budget, is requesting a full time certified counselor to run the Center. Currently, it is run by a para-professional. Principal Lisa Deorio has discussed this change extensively in her HS budget narrative. This need arises due to the increased volume in the number of college applications that students complete, the variety of colleges that they apply to and the increased knowledge that is necessary to assist students and families with the college process. Additionally, this position would work more closely with students who will not be attending a four year college. These students need assistance in finding other viable post-secondary education or career options. The plan is to eliminate the para-professional position as well as the senior internship stipend, since this would be part of the new CCC counselor's role. These two reductions would help to mitigate the cost of the new position.

Under the district goal of Healthy Learning Environment, we are continuing the initiative of Emotional Intelligence training. This summer we trained the HES and HS staff through the Yale

University Center for Emotional Intelligence. The staff trained at those two schools have been working within their building to train their faculty and support staff. The WIS and MS staff who were trained a year ago have begun to roll out the anchor tools of Emotional Intelligence to their students. While this has been more challenging than training staff, both schools have seen enthusiasm and begun to gain acceptance for the philosophy. In addition, several parents attended training at the Yale Center this fall and are working with the staff to ensure continuity between home and school. The HS/MS school social worker applied for and received a fellowship from Yale and her focus is to educate parents and families on Emotional Intelligence. Several workshops this year have been offered to parents on the topic and have been very well received. Additional workshops are planned for this spring. The funding for the staff training has been through the professional development budget, but also the PTO's have been very generous in assisting with the funding for training and presenters for the parent workshops. This is an important program to continue to support in order to help decrease the stress level of both staff and students as well as continuing the promotion of safe, respectful environments for our students where emotions can be expressed openly without judgement.

A new demand on PPS staff time was just introduced by the State, providing another example of the importance of the addition of a second Assistant Director (described in the SPED Budget Section) to allow the PPS Director to address district-wide management issues. Recent legislation mandates that all districts in Connecticut as of December 1st participate in the School Based Child Health Program. This legislation now requires districts to seek reimbursement for Medicaid eligible services that students may be receiving. These services are primarily provided by the staff in the PPS budget, in particular OT, PT, Nursing, Social Work, School Psychologist and Speech services (which are in the Special Education budget). These services would all qualify because the staff are required to be licensed and the services are considered medical in nature. Only those students who qualify for Medicaid would be eligible for reimbursement. The initial training demonstrates that there is extensive paperwork and management required for this program, but the small districts such as Weston may have minimal reimbursement eligibility. In light of this situation, similar districts have contracted with a vendor who trains the staff and completes the necessary paperwork. The vendor in most cases receives 11% of the reimbursement and the state department also receives a percentage of the reimbursement. We are in the beginning stages of becoming a Medicaid provider with the State Department of Social Services and this will allow us to identify how many students are Medicaid eligible. We are also reviewing the vendors that other districts are using that could assist us with this program. We would need to be on board within the next few months since the first reporting period is at the end of March 2018. While this program may bring in some additional funding, it will also be a program that affects staff time; even with a vendor, district staff will need to coordinate compliance with the program.

PPS
Weston Public Schools, Weston, CT

2017-2018 Actual			2018-2019 Projected				
Operating Budget FTE	Other Sources FTE	Total FTE	Program	Operating Budget FTE	Other Sources FTE	Total FTE	Change
Certified Staff							
Support Services							
Counselors:							
1.00	0.00	1.00	Hurlbutt Elementary School	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
1.00	0.00	1.00	Weston Intermediate School	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
3.00	0.00	3.00	Weston Middle School	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00
5.00	0.00	5.00	Weston High School	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	Weston High School Career Center	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
Total Counseling Staff							
Psychologists:							
1.50	0.00	1.50	Hurlbutt Elementary School	1.00	0.00	1.00	-0.50
1.50	0.00	1.50	Weston Intermediate School	1.00	0.00	1.00	-0.50
1.00	0.00	1.00	Weston Middle School	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
1.00	0.00	1.00	Weston High School	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Social Workers:							
0.50	0.00	0.50	Weston Middle School	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.50
0.50	0.00	0.50	Weston High School	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.50
16.00	0.00	16.00		17.00	0.00	17.00	1.00
Non Certified Staff							
Administration							
1.00	0.00	1.00	Supervisor of Nurses	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Other Classified Staff							
<i>Health Services:</i>							
4.00	0.00	4.00	Nurses	4.00	0.00	4.00	0.00
2.50	0.00	2.50	OT/PT	2.50	0.00	2.50	0.00
<i>Guidance:</i>							
1.83	0.00	1.83	Registrar/Data - Weston High School	1.00	0.00	1.00	-0.83
0.83	0.00	0.83	Career Center-Weston High School	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.83
Clerical							
0.46	0.00	0.46	Guidance Weston Middle School	0.46	0.00	0.46	0.00
0.92	0.00	0.92	Guidance Weston High School	0.92	0.00	0.92	0.00
11.54	0.00	11.54		9.88	0.00	9.88	-1.66
27.54	0.00	27.54		26.88	0.00	26.88	-0.66