



# Small Schools Study

November Update

11/07/07

The small schools study committee, formed to conduct a cost/program offerings analysis of different school sizes and fine-tune the student-based budgeting (SBB) school size factor, met in October to start reviewing the preliminary data from the elementary professional panel. Professional panels for both elementary and junior high schools met in October.

Two professional panels, composed of nine PSD principals and teachers on each, used the parameters of the Colorado Content Standards, class size guidelines, core subjects, and electives to 'build' and staff schools of different enrollment sizes (100, 200, 300, etc). The panels were charged with identifying the resources needed at different size schools to provide core classes and for students to meet academic goals.

The initial review of the elementary professional panel data focused on the incremental changes in cost at various enrollment sizes (171 students to 684 students). Costs considered included staffing licensed and classified positions within schools.

Over the course of the next month the small schools committee will review the preliminary data from the elementary and junior high professional panels, and begin to analyze the implications of the data when adjusting the school-size budgeting factor.

## **Small School Study on Channel 10**

Community members can learn more about the small schools study on PSD's Channel 10 (on Comcast and US Cable). The small schools study TV show airs Tuesday, Nov. 13, 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM; Thursday Nov. 15, 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM and 8:00 PM; Tuesday, Nov. 20, 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM and 7:00 PM; and Thursday, Nov. 22, 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM and 7:00 PM.

## **Student-Based Budgeting School Size Factor**

SBB allocates funds to schools based on their student characteristics. Each student receives a base-funding amount. Additional funds are allocated based on school size and individual student characteristics (gifted & talented, English Language Learners, at-risk, or both ELL and at-risk). It is this school size factor, upon which the small schools study is focusing.

## **Study Timeline**

In December, the small schools study is expected to make a recommendation to the student-based budgeting committee about the school-size factors to affect the 2008-09 school budgets.