



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information, contact:

Ellen Laubhan, Communications Coordinator, (970) 490-3427

Deb Hooker, Communications Specialist, (970) 490-3549

Committee sets framework for small schools study

In order to provide a high-quality education for each of the nearly 24,000 students in Poudre School District, what are the standard classes and programs every school must offer? PSD has formed a committee to study that very question, as well as to fine-tune the budgeting model which funds each school. The Small Schools Study Committee met in August to establish the framework in which this study will take place.

During this 4-month study, the committee will define a standard level of education, or required programs and classes offered at each school. As school enrollment decreases the cost per student increases to provide these required classes and programs. The committee will conduct a cost/program offerings analysis of different school sizes and make a recommendation to the student-based budgeting (SBB) committee. This recommendation will define the school size factors within SBB to properly fund each school and will affect 2008-09 school budgets.

"To fully comprehend the charge of this committee, it's important to understand the principles of student-based budgeting," said Kevin Hahn, assistant superintendent of elementary schools and chair of the committee.

Simply put, SBB allocates funds to schools based on their student demographic. Each student receives a base-funding amount. Additional funds are allocated based on individual student characteristics (gifted & talented, English Language Learners, at-risk, or both ELL and at-risk) and school size. It is this school size factor within SBB upon which Small Schools Study will focus.

The committee will also identify a school enrollment number too small to offer the standard level of education within the established student-based budgeting model. The results of this study will be given to the Superintendent's Cabinet for further investigation.

Augenblick, Palaich, & Associates (APA), the firm that conducted the Colorado School Finance Project Adequacy Study, will assist the committee in determining what an effective school looks like by using three approaches:

1. **Evidence Based Approach:** Review current research on what resources are important to have in good schools.
2. **Statistical Approach:** Focuses on data utilized during a study in the state of Nevada that collected expenditure data at the school level. Examine the differences in school spending due to school size.
3. **Professional Panels:** Uses the knowledge of educators to examine the differences in programming & cost based on size. A group of Poudre School District educators, comprised

mainly of principals and teachers, will be brought together to identify the resources necessary for varying sizes of schools.

The next Small Schools Study Committee meeting is scheduled for 3:30pm on September 13 in the JSSC Boardroom (2407 LaPorte Ave.). The public is welcome to attend and observe at all committee meetings.

For more information, a complete meeting schedule, or to read the committee's objectives, timeline, and meeting minutes visit the District Initiatives section of the PSD Web site at www.psdschools.org.

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