

Operational At-Risk Funds

Current Allocation (Before Change):

- **Fixed Allocation:** All schools receive a base amount of \$70,000.
- **Variable Allocation:** Funds are distributed based on enrollment and three factors:
 - 1/3 Poverty
 - 1/3 English Language Learners (ELL)
 - 1/3 Student Mobility

Allocation (After Change):

- **Fixed Allocation (Tiered):** Schools are categorized into four performance levels, each receiving a different fixed amount:
 - Priority Schools: \$93,000
 - Emerging Schools: \$81,000
 - Acceleration Schools: \$70,000
 - Distinction Schools: \$70,000
- **Variable Allocation:** Funds are distributed based on enrollment and two factors:
 - 2/3 Poverty
 - 1/3 ELL
- **Additional Allocation:** Priority and TOPS (Transformation Opportunity Program Schools) receive an additional \$25 per student for "genius hour" supplies.

Key Changes and Implications:

- **Tiered Fixed Allocation:** The most significant change is moving from a flat fixed allocation to a tiered system based on school performance. This aims to provide more support to schools identified as "Priority" and "Emerging."
- **Shift in Variable Allocation Factors:** Student mobility is no longer a factor in the variable allocation. The emphasis has shifted to a heavier weighting of poverty (2/3) and a continued focus on ELL students (1/3). This suggests a prioritization of schools with higher poverty and ELL student populations.
- **Additional Funds for Priority/TOPS:** The extra \$25 per student for "genius hour" supplies provides targeted support for Priority and TOPS schools, intended to enhance educational opportunities and innovation.
- **Total Budget:** The total Operational At-Risk funds remain at \$31 million. This means the changes represent a *redistribution* of existing funds, not an increase in the overall budget. Some schools will receive more, while others will receive less.
- **Rationale:** The changes are driven by a desire for more equitable resource allocation, guided by Guardrail 2 of the Board of Education's Goals and Guardrails and aligned with the APS Strategic Plan's move towards student-based budgeting. The Performance Framework is used to determine the school performance categories.

School-Based Funds (Title I & Medicaid)

Current Allocation (Before Change):

Schools with a 50% or higher poverty rate received school-based Title I funds. Per pupil allocations were based on the funding bands below.

BAND	YEAR							
	2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025	
	Percentage Range	Per Pupil Amount	Percentage Range	Per Pupil Amount	Percentage Range	Per Pupil Amount	Percentage Range	Per Pupil Amount
A	94.5 – 100%	\$497.00	94.5 – 100%	400.00	94.5 – 100%	\$497.00	94.5 – 100%	\$497.00
B	84.5 - 94.4%	\$476.00	84.5 - 94.4%	350.00	84.5 - 94.4%	\$476.00	84.5 - 94.4%	\$476.00
C	74.5 - 84.4%	\$454.00	74.5 - 84.4%	300.00	74.5 - 84.4%	\$454.00	74.5 - 84.4%	\$454.00
D	62.5 - 74.4%	\$427.00	62.5 - 74.4%	300.00	62.5 - 74.4%	\$427.00	62.5 - 74.4%	\$427.00
E	49.5 – 62.4%	\$406.00	49.5 – 62.4%	300.00	49.5 – 62.4%	\$406.00	49.5 – 62.4%	\$406.00

Allocation (After Change):

Schools with a 60% or higher poverty rate will receive school-based Title I funds. Per pupil allocations will be \$777. There will not be any funding bands for the 25-26SY.

- **Additional Allocation (Out of Title I and Medicaid):**
 - Priority schools will receive 3.0FTE for the following positions: Transformational Coach, Community School Coordinator & Student Success Systems Coordinator
 - Emerging schools will receive 1.0 FTE for a transformational coach.

Key Changes and Implications:

- **Increase in Funding Threshold:** In order to provide an increase in funding to schools that have a higher poverty rate, the funding threshold was raised from 50% to 60%. This means that some schools who previously received school-based Title I funding will not receive it for the 25-26 SY. All Priority schools remain Title I schools.
- **Elimination of Funding Bands:** To provide equitable student-based funding, bands will no longer be used. The same per pupil amount will be allocated to all sites receiving Title I school-based funding.
- **Behavior Redirectors:** Every elementary school will receive a 1.0 FTE to support the work of behavior redirection. This allocation will be supported with Medicaid funds.
- **Rationale:** The changes are driven by a desire for more equitable resource allocation, guided by Guardrail 2 of the Board of Education's Goals and Guardrails and aligned with the APS Strategic Plan's move towards student-based budgeting. The Performance Framework is used to determine the school performance categories.