

Background:

In May 2021, the Board approved creating an administrative position for the 2021/22 school year called Education Director. This middle management position was designed to assist the Principal/Superintendent in creating and facilitating programs to accelerate, expand, and improve learning at the school. The position was intended to be funded for two years only using ESSER funding.

In June 2022, due to programmatic successes and available funding, the Board approved continuing to fund the Education Director position, utilizing first ESSER funding and then Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant (LREBG) funding.

During the 2023/24 school year, despite significant efforts, we were unable to staff the Education Director position. All ESSER funds are now exhausted. Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant (LREBG) funds remaining are insufficient to staff this position full time for the 2024/25 school year.

In February 2024, as part of the January Governor's Budget proposal, trailer bill language was proposed which changes how the LREBG funds may be allocated. If this trailer bill is passed, funds not expended or encumbered by June 30, 2024 are subject to a needs assessment and inclusion in the LCAP. The needs assessment will focus on very low and low performing students and student groups with very high or high chronic absenteeism. We have been unable to determine if our planned usage of the LREBG funds constitutes an encumbrance. This may not become clear until after the Governor's May Revise on May 15, 2024.

Information:

The current 2024/25 budget includes the Education Director position at an FTE of 0.40 instead of 1.0. Test score improvements can be tied directly to internal assessments and focused learning improvements made possible through staffing the Education Director position. We would like the Board to consider if this position should remain for another year (2024/25), regardless of the availability of the LREBG funds, should it be determined that they are not considered "encumbered" under the new trailer bill language.

Agenda:

This item is on the Discussion/Action Calendar for discussion and/or approval. Please contact Kathy or Amber with any questions or concerns you may have.