

BPS Budget Priorities

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The main issue is that BPS has struggling schools and thriving schools. Funding needs to be more equitable so that all schools are fully funded.

All schools need to offer what individual students need not what the average need is. This is a city of haves and have nots, with huge differences in wealth. Each school needs to take care of all their students.

Propose to:

- Update student weighted funding yearly to address inflation and other cost increases. This past year this has not been updated and this is part of why school budgets have decreases in spending
- Change the school funding formula so that struggling schools are no longer under-funded because of enrollment. Have all schools have a foundation staff so that all schools provide the same educational opportunities and supports.
- Have any extra funds relate to student need and not to school achievement. Schools should not be penalized for academic achievement or have incentives for students to have low achievement.
- Student weights could still be used to determine how many classrooms need to be filled and to have funds support the specific needs of individual students.
- Bring back earlier weights for autistic students, and students with emotional impairments.
- School funding needs to be stable from year to year.
- All schools could share one fund for fund raising which would be evenly distributed between all schools. One possibility would be for the district to create matching funds so that both schools with strong and low fundraising would remain motivated to fundraise. Families could control this funding independently through the City Wide Parents Council.

Possible Initiatives to Fund:

- A fund could be set up in the BPS safety department that schools could tap into quickly when needed, that would be helpful for addressing immediate safety issues. One use of this fund would be to add an additional teacher or para to a classroom. Another use of this fund could be to pay for additional bus monitors.
http://ljgraf.com/BPS/equity_for_therapy.pdf
Note: If BPS staffed Inclusion classrooms with two teachers and one Paraprofessional than this proposal might be less needed.
- BPS could cover co-pays for therapy increasing access for more families and creating more equity among schools.
http://ljgraf.com/BPS/Central_and_School_Based_Supports.pdf
Note: If BPS staffed Schools with a foundation budget, that included a nurse, psychologist, and a social worker then this proposal would be less needed.