Education Law §3614 School Funding Allocation Report

Part F - Narrative Description

1. Describe the local methodology/approach used to allocate funds to each school in the district during the process of budget development and implementation. If schools are allocated funds—either in part or in full—through a formula, outline the nature/mechanics of the formula and the elements impacting each school's allocation. In addition, explain any non-formulaic elements impacting each school's allocation. (Please note that this question asks about the district's budget process, not about how the district completed the New York State School Funding Transparency Form.)

District spending is primarily driven centrally. Each school receives a small per pupil allocation to be used at the principal's discretion for supplies, minor equipment, repairs, field trips, etc. The primary driver for school spending is staffing which is determined centrally based on the student population in that school with additional staffing allocated to support English as a New Language, Special Education program needs, literacy and math intervention supports, and in some buildings community schools programming. Some schools provide special classes, while others are primarily consultant teachers in an integrated class, least restrictive setting. This impacts the amount per pupil spent in those buildings.

2. If applicable, is there anything unique about certain schools which explain why per pupil spending at these locations may be significantly higher/lower than the district average?

Yes. Schuyler Achievement Academy is a persistently struggling school that receives additional funds/supports, including a Community Schools grant unique for that school of almost two million dollars. Additionally, the district receives a number of state and federal grants which funds are available to specific schools. For example, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant provides additional funds to six of our schools; the Empire State Afterschool grant provides additional funds to seven of our schools; one of our middle schools receives funds through the Persistently Struggling Schools grant of almost four hundred thousand; and our Career and Technical Education program at Albany High School receives federal Perkins grant funds to support that program.

On the local funding level, the district provides additional funds to two of our elementary schools to support their magnet themes and transition funds to seven of our schools who are coming off Persistently Struggling Schools status.

3. If applicable, describe any items which the district feels are anomalous in nature and require additional description beyond the Excel entry.