

Tab #8 - Albanian BRS

Item:

Albanian BRS

Analysis:

Please see Page 55 of 2006-07 Budget Book Volume 1 for impact statement. The number of Albanian-speaking students no longer meet district-wide "trigger numbers" as determined by the DPI state categorical aid reimbursement requirements. Trigger numbers are as follows:

10 students grades K-3

20 students grades 4-8

20 students grades 9-12

Albanian student numbers projected for the 06-07 school year are:

6 students grades K-3

15 students grades 4-8

14 students grades 9-12

There are approximately 52 language groups represented by students enrolled in ESL and bilingual education. Of those language groups, 7 languages have enough students district-wide to reach the trigger numbers to support reimbursement for BRS positions. These languages are: Spanish, Hmong, Korean, Khmer, Chinese, Lao, Tibetan.

If the decision is made to keep BRS when we will no longer receive reimbursement, the question then arises about the equity of supporting these low incidence languages while not supporting other low incidence languages where we are beginning to meet trigger numbers. (For example, we are projected to reach trigger numbers in French and Russian-speaking students for the 06-07 school year at grades K-3 only. We do not plan to employ BRS at this time in these languages, but will review this on an annual basis.) In addition, DPI requires that we prorate the percent of reimbursement if we don't reach the trigger numbers at certain grade clusters. During the 05-06 school year, Lao-speaking students at grades K-3 did not meet the trigger numbers, and Tibetan-speaking students at grades 4-8 did not meet the trigger numbers. Reimbursement on the Lao and Tibetan BRS positions was prorated due to the drop in students who speak those languages. This will also occur for the 06-07 school year.