

TAB 74 – Pilot Program for Student Choice of 4th and 5th Grade Strings or General Music

Question: If the Board required the District to have at least one pilot program at an elementary school where 4/5 students had a choice between general music or strings, where would that be done and what qualities do those schools have that would indicate that such a pilot would be successful at those schools?

Response: The pilot program would be best implemented at a school that meets the following criteria:

1. A principal that supports the implementation of the pilot program.
2. Strong Teachers in both programs to negate the affect of students choosing the class because of the teacher rather than the program.
3. A school that approximates the district student demographics (within 10%)
4. A school that approximates the district wide student participation in the strings program (within 10%).

It is impossible to select a potential school at the present time. There are positions currently open in orchestra at the middle and high school level. Transfers into these vacant positions will change the make up of the staff at the elementary school level. After the transfer process is complete we will be able to select a school. At that time we will also be able to communicate the cost associated with the pilot.