

AEA 2020-21 Menotomy/Elementary Budget Requests

Menotomy PreSchool

A. An additional.....

- 1.0 FTE BCBA
- .5 FTE SLP

Rationale: Due to the return of a seventh Preschool class, an increase of caseload, and to best meet the needs of the students

Elementary

A. An additional.....

- 1.0 FTE EL teacher at Bishop
- 0.4 FTE EL teacher at Dallin

Rationale: Allow push in and differentiated instruction. Also to meet the district's goal of cultural competency.

B. An Additional 1.0 FTE Learning Specialist at Peirce

Rationale: To have at least three learning specialists at each elementary school (K-1, 2-3, 4-5). This will also create equity.

C. Additional 1.0 FTE Occupational Therapist

Rationale: At the elementary level, the OT demands have increased. In order to meet demand, an additional 1.0 OT is necessary to ensure IEP compliance and to ameliorate scheduling and travelling challenges.

D. TA in all grades 1-2 with 22 or more students

TA in all grades 3-5 with 24 or more students

Rationale: To meet the needs of all behavioral, academic, and social/emotional needs of all students. As we raise the expectations of students and with the increase of students with Special and social/emotional needs, students and teachers need a greater support system.

E. Additional 3.5 FTE Team Chairs

Rationale: To meet the needs and demands of increasing job duties and increase of students; at this time, most chairs are split between two buildings. The CPR indicates that we need to strengthen our procedural compliance in special education across the District. Team chairs who are assigned to only one building will have more direct contact with staff for training purposes, and reduced caseloads would lend themselves to the timely completion of all required paperwork, since chairs would have more time to do it.

F. More Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs)

Rationale: **Students with behavioral challenges require the establishment of safety and behavior plans that have to be regularly and consistently implemented and revised. BCBAs are overseeing the Behavioral Support Paraprofessionals (BSPs), whose numbers have expanded and are now in many elementary buildings full-time. Additional BCBAs would ensure that Teams are effectively responding to the social-behavioral needs of students; as Arlington's population grows, so does the variety of needs that students have when they enter the school setting.**

G. Materials for The Great Body Shop Curriculum

Rationale: **Physical education teachers have taken over the Great Body Shop curriculum and updated materials are needed to carry out the program in grades K-3. Classroom teachers in grades 4-5 will continue to teach the GBS program to their classes and updated materials are also needed.**

H. Increase of Social Workers

Rationale: **Due to an increase of students with social and emotional needs. An awareness of these needs warrants staff who can be available for not only direct scheduled service, but also for crises or situations in which an immediate response is necessary.**

I. Increase of Learning Specialists

Rationale: **To ensure that students are able to access a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment- in their home school and in a general education classroom placement- an increase of learning specialists district wide is necessary. This is furthermore required by an increase in reading instruction that special education is assuming, which historically has been absorbed by the reading department. The special education department has spent considerable time and resources on reading professional development, but no increase in FTE has been made to reflect an increase in reading instruction by special education at the building level.**

J. Additional 3.0 FTE Reading Teachers

Rationale: **Create equity among the elementary schools. Also to meet the demands of the growing student population.**

K. Mounting projectors across all schools and classrooms

Rationale: **Teachers should not have to wheel projectors in and out of the classroom. Cords running across the classroom causes a safety hazard. All classrooms, including those of interventionists, should have its own mounted projector.**

Many of the most urgent requests from our teachers this year involved capital improvements, which we realize are budgeted separately. Given that, our staff would like to remind the School Committee that there is still a need for roof repairs, air conditioned spaces in schools, replacement of worn out or broken classroom furniture, and pest mitigation. As some buildings have been renewed or expanded with new furnishings, the inequities between classrooms has become more noticeable. We hope you will work to ensure all teachers have access to safe classrooms of comparable quality. This will also help reduce the non-reimbursed out-of-pocket teacher expenditures.