

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: BSEP Planning and Oversight Committee
FROM: Becca Todd, District Library Coordinator
Pasquale Scuderi, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services
DATE: March 8, 2016
RE: Recommendation for Expenditures in 2016-17 from the Library portion of the *Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2006* (BSEP)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The *Berkeley Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2006* allocates 7.25% of the available BSEP revenues annually:

“to provide student access to quality school libraries which shall be maintained by providing library staff to operate the District’s K-12 school and other specialized libraries, and by allocating revenues for books and materials to EXCELLENCE

- At the heart of the matter is the importance - and joy - of pursuing ideas and information through reading. Our students are served by skilled library staff, working with high quality resources in print and online. Our libraries are open and staffed every school day and provide 24/7 online access to curated resources via the Internet.

EQUITY - We provide Internet access and printing capacity for students who don’t have these resources at home. We are increasing our information literacy and digital citizenship instruction to develop stronger skills online. Our book lending collections augment reading options outside of the classroom, *también en español*. Books can be windows and doorways to other cultures, possibilities and experiences (“You mean I could be an engineer?”), or mirrors of one’s own life (“You mean I am not alone?”). The library is a safe space, a third space, a sanctuary.

ENGAGEMENT - Choice of reading material plays a crucial role in student learning and engagement. We provide a variety of reading materials, including audiobooks, e-books, and print books, to meet the needs of all learners. We also offer reading clubs, book talks, and author visits to deepen student engagement and understanding. We provide reading materials and projects, in addition to upholding individual interests.

ENRICHMENT - Through author and illustrator visits, book clubs, special projects (art, coding, tech squad) and other recess options, our students know that the library is a likely source of materials, ideas, staff support - and students! - with whom to enrich their own growth and development.

Program Objectives

Our library program aims to foster curiosity, creativity and critical thinking - and of course, a love of reading. Our focus is to provide a wide range of print and digital books, online resources and curricular programming to address every student’s academic and independent reading needs. We work with classroom teachers, staff and families to deepen reading engagement, build digital literacy and digital citizenship, and improve student achievement for each and every student.

Program Summary

BSEP monies fund library staffing and resources throughout the Berkeley public school system. Recognizing the integral role school libraries play in our children’s education, the Berkeley Public

and the Teachers College Reading and Writing Program (TCRWP), and often model their use in instruction.

There is an urgency for Teacher Librarian instruction and collaboration at the elementary level with the growing use of online resources by our younger computer users. We are striving to bring consistency, equity and full implementation to our Digital Citizenship instruction. Digital Citizenship encompasses much more than the early notions of “cyber safety”, including issues about privacy, security, relationships and communication, cyberbullying, creative credit and copyright. As we grow in our use of digital resources, we need to teach skilled and responsible use of those resources, and more fully integrate information and computer literacy instruction into all subject areas. Teacher Librarians have this cross-curricular, information and computer literate instruction as their core focus.

The Elementary Teacher Librarians have established deeper instructional articulation between departments, are collaborating with classroom teachers, other district TSAs, and are a core component of the DigiTech Instructional Technology team. We continue to align and update our school library resources with the standards, respond to district-wide initiatives such as the *Toolbox* curriculum and *Welcoming Schools*, participate in the *We Need Diverse Books* campaign, and integrate the strategic use of ebooks, audiobooks and academic databases in addition to our strong print resources.

Secondary - For the 2016-17 school year, our secondary Teacher Librarian staffing ratio is the same. We have a Teacher Librarian at each middle school, a 0.6 FTE Teacher Librarian at B-Tech Academy, and two Teacher Librarians at Berkeley High School. Our middle and high school Teacher Librarians provide lessons in information literacy, research process, and digital citizenship; collaborate with

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At the high school level, the 0.8 FTE Library Media Technician position at BHS is an 11 month position

stimulating students' selections for free reading and pursuing individual interests. Library books can range from \$11-\$30 in cost, with nonfiction titles tending toward the higher end of the range. This budget contains a reduction for new book acquisition from \$15/student to \$7/student. (Note: At our 22 : 1 books/student ratio, we are above the California average of 20 : 1, and slightly under the national average of 25 : 1.)

Bilingual, TWI and Transitional Kindergarten Collections - \$4,800

An additional allotment for the Bilingual and TWI libraries continues to augment materials for students at our Bilingual and TWI schools who are studying core curriculum and pursuing free reading in Spanish. Adjusting to new TK students also requires additional funding for preschool-age appropriate library materials at the school libraries now are serving an increased number of younger students.

Interactive ebooks, audiobooks and special projects - \$10,000

Our libraries' audio and digital ebook collections benefit from a central allocation as we continue to establish best formats for expansion of our digital resources, and then provide support to effectively utilize these resources. This central allocation also supports our participation in the Cook Prize Award for STEM picture books, the California Young Reader Medal program, the We Need Diverse Books campaign, our Welcoming Schools and Toolbox initiatives, and author visits.

Online research databases - \$18,600

Subscription online databases are designed with student learning in mind, and are essential for academic success throughout their lives. Linked on every school library website, these advertising-free databases offer high quality vetted information that ensure stable stepping stones along the path of information seeking projects. All BUSD students can seamlessly access these resources from any district-networked computer, and have password-protected access off campus. Our subscription to *World Book Online* encompasses three reading levels and *Enciclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos* in Spanish. The *TrueFlix* subscription provides ebook versions of the printed nonfiction titles alongside a brief video introduction, "read to me" options and online dictionary definitions. Our secondary schools have access to more research databases, such as *ABC-Clio*, *Opposing Viewpoints*, *ProQuest*, and *Teen Health and Wellness*.

The amount budgeted he 0 -19611(b) (s.)rotece 5(e)9(d) [(n-2(oQa(W)18(or) f19611(b)-5(l)-5(e)5(e)9f1961)-2(w)5(o)n

with the Technology Department. Due to financial constraints, this proposed amount has been reduced by \$15,000 for the 2016-17 school year.

Library Services Office - \$5,000

The District Library Coordinator's office handles ongoing needs such as materials promoting author/illustrator visits, posters for the California Young Reader Medal and the Cook Award for STEM
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