

SIF UPDATE - Frequently Asked Questions for School Innovation Funds

Salcido, Pedro

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Importance: High

 1 attachments (108 KB)

Settlement Funds FAQ 092017.pdf;

Good Evening Principals,

As promised, attached is an initial FAQ for your review and use. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have additional questions. Enjoy a restful and blessed day tomorrow.

Best,

Pedro Salcido

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School Innovation Funds

2017-2020

Frequently Asked Questions

How were the 50 schools selected?

The 50 schools were selected through a ranking of schools consisting of multiple factors: foster youth and homeless counts, Targeted Student Population (TSP) counts, suspension rate, and SBAC math performance. These funds were directed to middle and high schools.

Does it matter in which “tier” a school is?

School tiers are based on the amount of funds a school has received under the settlement. This amount was calculated using a school’s duplicated count of TSP students. Since all schools are high need, the tiers loosely correspond to enrollment. Each plan requires certain personnel be hired for an Achievement through Support (ATS) Team. Those schools in higher tiers will be required to fill an entire team while the tier that is receiving the lowest amount of funds will only need to fill certain positions on the team.

What percentage of the school’s School Innovation funds must be expended on Professional Development?

A school will reduce its overall allocation by the amount needed to meet the requisite staffing level under the ATS requirement. After accounting for the requisite reduction, 10% of the remaining balance of School Innovation funds must be committed to professional development actions focused on mathematics and English language arts (ELA).

What is the purpose of the Achievement through Support (ATS) teams?

Improving school climate efforts is a focus area identified by the settlement and the District. As such, a tiered, integrated team of student support, the *Achievement through Support Team (ATS)*, will provide wellness, restorative justice, child welfare and attendance, dropout prevention, intervention, and recovery, and trauma-informed supports to schools. These teams will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment and will utilize evidence-based, data-driven approaches to build capacity and tailor multi-tiered systems of support and interventions to address the identified needs of each school community.

I already have a Pupil Services and Attendance Counselor and a Restorative Justice Teacher Advisor at my school; do I need to hire additional staff under the ATS requirement?

No. A school may provide evidence and demonstrate they have already committed resources that achieve the minimum level of staffing required under the Achievement through Support team. Schools may also submit budget adjustment requests to use SIF resources for these specific positions.

Do I need to set aside resources to support professional development in Restorative Justice for all personnel at a school?

No. However it is recommended that all staff receive additional training in Restorative Justice. The Restorative Justice Unit provides trainings throughout the District. Please contact Deborah Brandy, Director, at Deborah.brandy@lausd.net.

Can I submit my plan before the deadlines mentioned?

Yes. Submit as soon as possible.

How do I submit my approved final plan?

Approved plans must be uploaded onto the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) online platform at <https://spsa.lausd.net/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>. Log in with your current LAUSD Single Sign-On credentials. Once logged in, on the left column select upload additional plan. Please follow the additional prompts.

Why did I only receive a notification for the amounts to be allocated over two years when the funds will be distributed over three years?

After the second year of funding, the third year of allocated School Innovation funds will be readjusted for schools to reflect changes in schools' duplicated pupil counts.

May I carry over School Innovation funds?

The School Innovation Fund allocations will be carried over year-to-year until the end of the final third year, at which time remaining funds will be recovered.

Can I get an advance for Year 2 funds if I have a special project or plan that I want to accomplish?

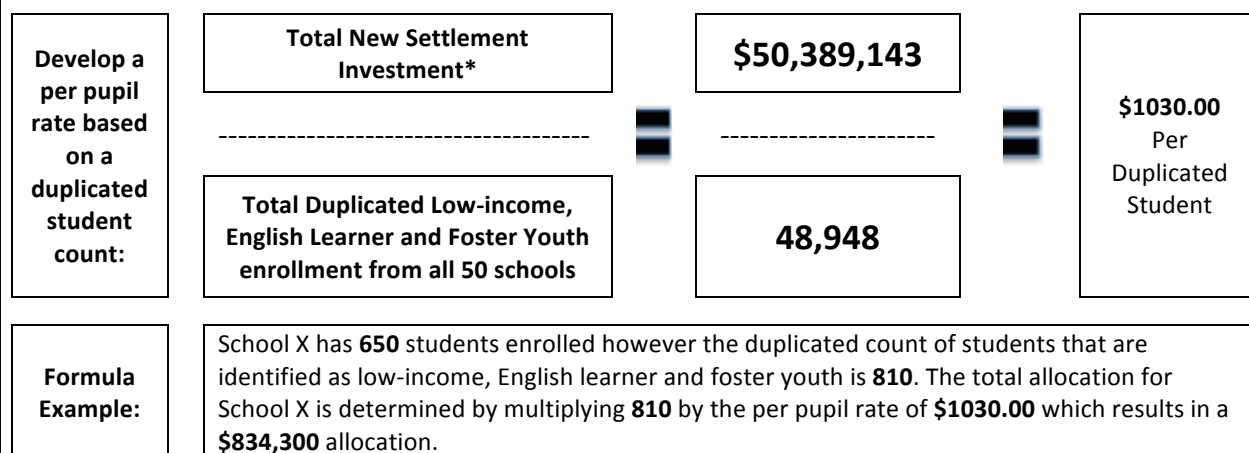
No. Funds will not be allocated before the fiscal year in which they are given.

May I revisit my plan during the 2018 budget development period to reflect additional needs and changes?

Yes. Schools may submit amendments to their plan during the Spring 2018 budget development period to reflect updated actions for the 2018-19 school year. Amendment forms will be provided during Spring 2018.

Who supports and provides direction to the ATS team members?

Principals will provide the primary direction to the ATS team members at the school-site. Local District and Central office support will be providing additional guidance consistent with the resilience curriculum framework and the restorative justice implementation expectations.

How was my school innovation fund allocation amount calculated?**Allocation Methodology per Settlement Agreement****How will my expenditures be evaluated?**

The School Innovation Fund Plan outlines numerous sections in which data connected to the District's Local Control and Accountability Plan and Strategic Plan are utilized as measureable outcomes for each of the planned actions and their intended objectives.

Who has discretion over the use of school innovation funds?

After a school's plan is approved, the Principal has the sole discretion and oversight on how these funds are utilized. These resources do not require School Site Council approval.

Who do I call if I need help in the planning process?

For plan completion and assistance, please contact your Local District Director. In addition, should you need budget guidance and assistance with appropriate budget adjustment requests, please contact your fiscal specialist.

If I am a per pupil pilot, will these additional funds impact my December allocation adjustment?

No, this additional resource will not be included in future per pupil rate adjustments.

I would like to use my SIF resources as soon as possible. Will the District provide the required Achievement through Support staff in a timely manner?

Student Health and Human Services and Human Resources are preparing eligibility lists to assist in the hiring and placement of the required personnel. The intent is to facilitate the expedited placement of staff at all schools.

Important Contacts

Budget Related Questions – Please contact your fiscal specialist

SIF Plan Completion Assistance – Please contact your Local District Director

Procurement/Vendor Questions – Please contact your assigned Local District contact for Professional & General Service:

LOCAL DISTRICT NORTHEAST, NORTHWEST and WEST:

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