

PUPIL & STAFF SUPPORT SERVICES

Educational & Budget Priorities

2007-2008

The proposed 2007-2008 budget for Pupil & Staff Support Services addresses both Connecticut State Statutes and the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEIA, December 2004) laws that require the provision of special education and related services to eligible children with disabilities as well as guiding principles found in the Board of Education Mission Statement. Mandated laws ensure that children with a disability have available to them “a unified and coordinated continuum of educational opportunities and supports within the least restrictive environment with age appropriate peers”. The mission Statement for Coventry Public Schools seeks to “ensure that all children will reach their individual potential”. The PSSS department’s budget reflects the special education and related services needs that are necessary to ensure that students are offered programs designed to address individual needs while serving and benefiting all students to reach their maximum potential.

The Pupil and Staff Support Services Department is committed to adhering to the tenets of the district’s long-term goals and annual objectives. The department services children with very diverse cognitive, physical, emotional and behavioral needs. Subsequently, the nature and variety of line items within this budget reflect the diversity of this population as well as the varied special education, related services, nursing, guidance, and classified personnel who work with these students.

The current proposed budget represents a 1.5 % increase for categories related to instructional supplies only. All other categories including textbooks, equipment, dues and fees etc. represent a 0% increase for the next fiscal year. Increased costs associated with leasing space for the CEED preschool program, contracting for specialized services for the hearing/visually impaired and securing itinerant nurse services for medically fragile children are reflected in the current budget. While decreases are noted in costs with non-public tuitions, public tuition costs have increased slightly for the 2007-2008 school year. Unanticipated outside placements are not reflected in this budget.

Respectfully submitted,

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Director of Pupil & Staff Support Services