

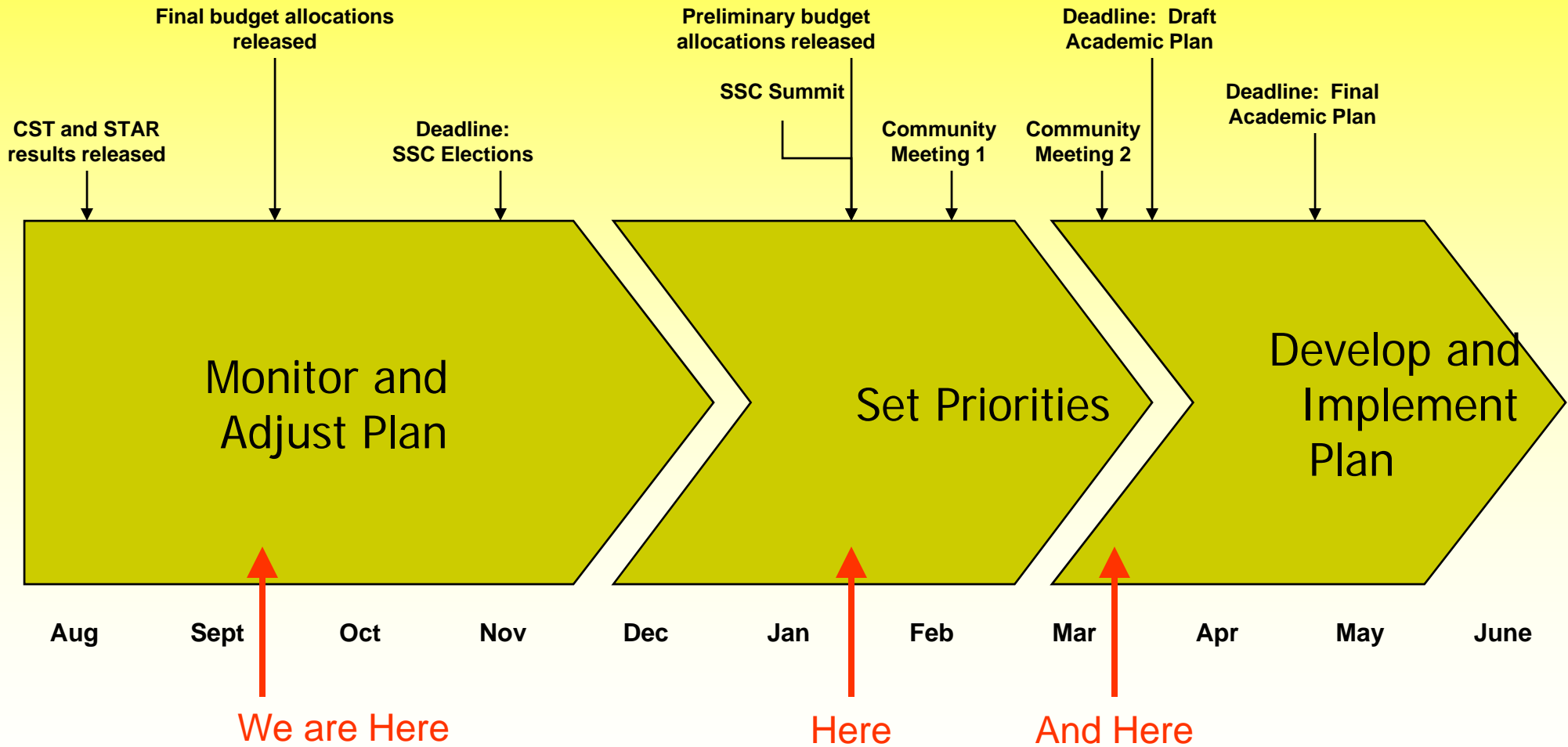
School Governance: A Course for Parents

School Governance : Module 6
School Site Council (SSC) Aligning
the Budget with School Priorities

*Helping parents become partners in
improving student achievement through their
School Site Councils.*



SSC Timeline



This Module Covers



- Weighted Student Formula (WSF)
- Unrestricted v. Restricted funds
- Questions for SSC Parents to Ask
- Tips for Developing a Budget
- Special Circumstances for SIG schools
- Small Group Activity



Budget: SSC Role

- It is crucial that the SSC establish strong and clear links between the budget and academic priorities, objectives and strategies in the Balance Score Card.
- The budget is constrained and this can be a challenge for schools. SSC must determine how to distribute the funds. All decisions you make are based on what you can afford.
- Based on academic data and goals, determine how much each strategy cost.
- Review site-based allocations and minimum staffing requirements
- Decide which funds should support each strategy (starting with the most restricted funds first).

Budget tips:

- *Develop and maintain a “wish-list” of needs that can be referred to when new funding become available or a list of items your site could live without in case funding decreases in the future.*

Weighted Student Formula (WSF)



- What is it?
 - A way to move funds – and decision-making – from the central District office to the school sites
- How is my school's WSF amount calculated?
 - Enrollment by grade level
 - Enrollment of students with special characteristics

In short, the dollars follow the children, and kids with special characteristics come with more money.

Weighted Student Formula (WSF)



- How do I know what it is?
 - District provides a projection in the spring
 - Actuals may be adjusted in the fall
 - This is due to the State's budget process and
 - Actual enrollment count

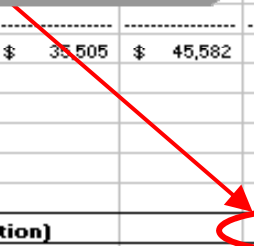


PARENTS
for
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Elementary School A Preliminary Weighted Student Formula and Consent Decree Allocation for SY 2007-08

Enrollment												
Grade Levels	Total Enrollment	ELL				SES	Special Education Enrollment					
		LTNR	Beg. / Int.	Adv. / Trans	Total		RSP	SDC-NS	SDC-S	Total		
Kindergarten	80		31		31	25			1		1	2
Primary (1-3)	279		82	38	120	87			12		5	17
Intermediate (4-5)	227		25	13	38	71			12		5	17
Middle School (6-8)												
High School (9-12)												
Total	586		138	51	189	183			25		11	36
Allocation of Dollars Based on Base Funding Factor of \$2,761.29												
Grade Levels	Basic Education	ELL				SES	Total	Special Education Dollars				
		LTNR	Beg. / Int.	Adv. / Trans	Total			RSP	SDC-NS	SDC-S	Total	
Kindergarten	\$ 293,801						\$ 306,224	\$ 27	\$ -	\$ 87	\$ 114	
Primary (1-3)	1,024,632						1,068,624	321		435	756	
Intermediate (4-5)	626,813						651,485	321		435	756	
Middle School (6-8)												
High School (9-12)												
Total Student Allocation	\$ 1,945,247	\$ -	\$ 27,600	\$ 7,905	\$ 35,505	\$ 45,582	2,026,334	\$ 670	\$ -	\$ 957	\$ 1,626	
Foundation Allocation "Floor Plan" Funds							171,838					
Total Weighted Student Formula Allocation (Excluding Special Education)							\$ 2,198,172	SF Sp. Ed. Allocation	\$ 1,626			
Consent Decree Allocation							\$ 25,827					

Total funds from Weighted Student Formula (WSF)



Weighted Student Formula (WSF)



- How can my school spend it?
 - Fund the Core Program first
 - Additional funds may be spent on “any lawful purpose to support student achievement”
 - Additional funds should be spent to support the priorities identified in your schools Balance Scorecard.

Unrestricted v. Restricted Funds: Sources



- Unrestricted funds:
 - Most unrestricted funds come from WSF
 - SLIBG and TIIBG are now unrestricted
- Restricted funds:
 - Restricted funds come from various sources:
 - Federal or State grants
 - Local grants

**Elementary School B
Preliminary Allocations
SY 2007-2008**



Funding Source	Site Amount
WSF	\$ 2,474,416
WSF Special Ed	\$ 2,437
Consent Decree	\$ 253,345
Title I	\$ 147,020
SCE	\$ -
LEP	\$ 73,932
SIP	\$ 82,465

	\$ 3,033,615
<i>Other Local Funding Sources</i>	
Proposition H Arts	\$ 9,342
Proposition H Sports	\$ -
Proposition H Libraries	\$ -

	\$ 9,342
<i>New State Funding Sources</i>	
Art, Music, & PE Education Equipment*	\$ 23,642
Instructional Materials, Library & Technology*	\$ 7,655
Discretionary Block Grant (Remaining 25%)*	\$ 11,016

	\$ 42,314
	=====
Grand Total	\$ 3,085,270
*One-time funding, but can be carried over from year to year	

WSF and the Discretionary Block Grant provide the school site with unrestricted funds.

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Preliminary Allocations
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	=====
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Each school site receives restricted funds from multiple sources.

*One-time funding, but can be carried over from year to year

Unrestricted v. Restricted Funds: Uses



- Unrestricted funds/Core Funding:
 - Schools have some latitude in spending these funds after meeting core program requirements
- Restricted/Categorical funds:
 - Schools must comply with state, federal, or local restrictions when spending these funds
 - Should *supplement* not *supplant* the Core Program
 - Subject to additional reporting requirements



Supplanting – it's not allowed

- You can not spend restricted dollars on non-restricted programs
- In other words: you can not use categorical dollars to pay for something you would normally have in your core program
- For example, you have a part time teacher at your site, paid out of your core program dollars. You want her to be full time. You can NOT pay her from categorical funds (including SIG funds) because she is part of your core program. That is called supplanting, and it's not allowed.

Students with special needs



- Special Education, English Learners, Low Income Students
 - Categorical funds force us to think about students with special needs and the issues they confront, so make sure you ask:
 - “What are we doing to support the academic achievement of these students through the general fund?”
 - “What are we doing to support the academic achievement of these students with our categorical (including SIG) funds?”

Questions for SSC Parents to Ask



Monitoring this year's budget:

- What are our school's priorities for this year, as identified in the Balanced Scorecard?
- How are we spending our school's money today?
- Do our current expenditures support our school's priorities?
- Are our current expenditures working? Are we making measurable progress? How do we know?

Questions for SSC Parents to Ask



For next year's budget:

- What are our school's strengths and weaknesses?
 - Academic data
 - Community input
- What should our priorities be for next year?
- How can we spend our money to support these priorities?

School Improvement Grant (SIG) Sites



- SIG dollars are intended to transform schools
- They are temporary through School Year 2013
- Money should be spent to transform programs that can be sustained after 2013 through the usual categorical or unrestricted funding that all schools get.
- Examples:
 - Technology or classroom libraries are one time expenses that will last beyond 2013
 - Professional Development for teachers to ensure that best practices are in place even after SIG money is gone

Tips for Developing a Budget



- Make sure the budget directly supports the priorities identified in the Balanced Scorecard.
- Confront tough choices
 - Prioritize all non-Core Program spending options
 - Be honest about the tradeoffs
 - Avoid the tendency to preserve the status quo
- Think holistically
 - Consider other funding sources (PTA, private grants)
 - Coordinate with other groups, where possible
 - Consider what's centrally provide (e.g. LSPs)
- Don't start from scratch – use templates!



Developing a budget at a SIG site

- SIG brings a huge influx of dollars to the school sites, so you have to monitor your spending throughout the year.
- Develop a scope of spending timeline to ensure that you are spending on track.
- Because SIG is a temporary transformation program, you also have to have a plan to ramp down the spending and develop a plan to sustain your programs once the money is gone.
- You also have to differentiate spending in three areas:
 - Core program funding
 - Regular categorical funds for English Learners, Special Education and Low Socio-Economic
 - SIG dollars

Small Group Activity



Task:

1. Identify two academic objectives based on your school's academic achievement data.
2. Discuss various ways in which your school's budget is or could be targeted to support these objectives.
3. How would your group support these objectives with \$1,000? With \$5,000? With \$25,000?

Task:

1. What items of your Balance Score Card are most costly?
2. Are there important strategies that aren't being funded sufficiently?
3. If new funding became available, in what ways would you spend it? What is your "wish list" of currently unfunded needs?
4. If funding were to decrease, in what ways would you reduce cost in the budget?

Thank You



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