

Overview of Additions to the Instructional Program

Curriculum Coaches – Based on the success of our recent work with the instructional coaching model which provides imbedded support for teachers, we propose the creation of two full-time “teacher on assignment” positions. One position would be dedicated to K-12 Math & Science, while the other would focus primarily on ELA for the coming year. This would help us coordinate the transition to CCSS and insure both horizontal and vertical alignment of curriculum and instructional practice. The two positions would enhance our current coaching staff and help us to restore some collegial leadership within our instructional ranks.

Technology Integration Specialist – This represents a restoration of a “teacher on assignment” position to promote the integration of technology into the learning environment. This position, discussed in the last budget session based on the proposed **Long Range Plan for Instructional Technology**, will help to insure horizontal and vertical alignment of the K-12 technology curriculum.

Full-day Kindergarten – This initiative requires an addition of 2.5 FTE to restore a full-day of instruction to our Kindergarten students. The AIS that our K teachers currently provide to first and second grade students will be delivered through dedicated AIS staff at each building allowing K teachers to dedicate their entire teaching day to their K students. This plan creates an instructional day for Math & ELA and does not restore special area subjects. Teacher aide time would be built into the day to cover the teacher’s lunch and planning time.

. 5 FTE Math – As part of the long range plan to increase the number of advanced Regents diplomas, the math department has designed alternate pathways to insure student success. This additional teacher time will provide the opportunity for students in Algebra2/Trig to have daily contact for math instruction (similar to our current practice in Algebra).

Library Media Specialist – This restores a Library media Specialist to each building in our district and provides necessary support to more effectively meet Common Core digital literacy skills and maintain comprehensive instruction in internet safety and digital citizenship. This addition was also discussed in a prior budget development session as a component of our move to a wireless environment.

School Psychologist – Restoration of one full-time Psychologist position to enhance behavioral supports at the elementary level and to perform mandated psycho-educational evaluations for students with disabilities. Additionally, this initiative will allow the district to become a state and county approved Multiple Disciplinary Evaluation site for preschoolers in Rensselaer County.