

FY 2009 QUESTION NUMBER: 47

QUESTION:

Provide additional information about the positions to support nine middle schools in Middle School Reform. If money is tight, are there other positions to help build capacity without adding more schools?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: 1-17

ANSWER:

Originally, the FY 2009 plan for middle school reform identified 12 schools for Phase 2 of the Middle School Reform Initiative. Partial implementation of the reform was going to occur in six of the schools while full implementation would occur in the other six. The number of schools was reduced to nine after realizing that the initiative would be compromised if schools did not receive the cohort collaborative planning time, which provides teachers the opportunity to work with content specialists, the literacy coach, other instructional leaders and their peers on the sessions such as building their content knowledge, analyzing student data to inform instruction, and planning lessons using the collaborative planning cycle.

By reducing the number of schools, it is believed that the program will more effectively target those positions that impact building staff capacity.