

### **Current Status of ELO Elimination from the 2014-2015 Budget**

In the 2014-2015 budget, forty ELO positions were eliminated PreK-12 as a cost savings measure. The elimination of forty positions provided a savings of approximately \$280,000.00 in the FY 15 budget. The elimination of those positions has had a range of impact on schools. The following is a compilation of the impact felt at elementary, middle and high schools.

#### **Elementary:**

- The amount of time that students receive ELO has been reduced and students receive less time for intervention
- When schools offer interventions after school, they have the opportunity to have flexible grouping within ELO interventions and target the specific needs of each student. Fewer staff make this difficult to implement
- ELO positions provide opportunities for Above, Below, and On-Grade students. Schools have been able to be strategic in meeting the needs of students and staff. The information we have charted has shown growth for students- the elimination of staff has impacted schools' ability to assist these students
- ELO positions are used to provide enrichment and extension activities such as STEM clubs. Eliminating positions has meant that these programs have been reduced or eliminated.

#### **Middle:**

- Reducing ELO teachers would hamper a schools' ability to serve the needs of students in LA/Math/STEM and homework support.
- With fewer ELO positions, schools had to change the format ELO. One school for example, had a session that ran Academic Recovery with our neediest students and a section that focused on authentic, real life application of skills in a project based format. It is challenging this year to meet both sets of needs with fewer positions.
- Schools have had to limit to number of students participating in ELO as they did not have the staffing to accommodate the larger numbers.

#### **High:**

- The number of days ELO is provided for HSA tutoring has been reduced. This has also impacted students who are completing bridge projects- schools will not be as effective in providing the amount of support the students require to complete bridge projects spring 2015.
- Students with all levels of need attend tutoring sessions. It is most difficult to assist the neediest students when there is fewer staff available and less time in which to provide the level of assistance needed. Many students who attended the HSA Saturday review sessions Fall 2014 were IEP students who have read all or read select as part of their IEPs. They were not always reviewing for the same tests. It made it difficult to provide the level of reading assistance each of these students required with one less staff member.
- Tutoring would be more effective and efficient with the return of four ELO positions
- Schools with embedded time in the day such as Connect report that it is a more viable program than ELO.
- The ELO program is used to prep/remediate our students for the HSA/PARCC. Schools have success but are struggling to service all students with fewer ELO teachers.

#### **Future Budget Savings:**

The allocation per 11-month position is \$6,200. Add the 10% for fringes and its \$6,820 per unit. Worksheets indicate a total of **235** positions 11-month positions (139 ES and 96 secondary). The total allocation is **\$1,602,700**. In addition, the budget for transportation costs is **\$77,000** for FY 15. Elementary schools also have 10 ELO positions funded by Title I- the total Title I allocation is **\$68,200**.