Current Title I Funds and Allocations

Presented by:
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Presentation Purpose

- Why is this topic on the board agenda?
  - To inform the Aurora Public Schools Board of Education of changes to Title I Funding in 2020-21
- What are we asking the board to do with this information?
  - Superintendent Munn is seeking directional guidance for purposes of budget planning.
- How is this linked to the Strategic Plan, Vision, Mission, goals & core beliefs?
  - Planning for Title I allocations and methodology for how we fund schools ensuring equitable access to learning opportunities.
Title I Allocations

How are Title I allocations determined to Local Education Agencies (LEA)?

- US Department of Education allocates funds based on the poverty estimates from the most recent census.
- CDE adjusts allocations for each LEA.
- APS uses free lunch numbers to determine the highest concentration of poverty and uses rank order in order to determine school eligibility.
Enrollment Changes

- Aurora has seen a decrease in poverty estimates over the last 4 years.
- This decrease is also demonstrated in declining enrollment of 3,354 since 2015-16
  - Largest impact is the North West Quadrant
Title I

- 2019-20
  - 10% Reduction in Title I funds
    - 2018-19 $11,566,911
    - 2019-20 $10,415,778
- 2020-21
  - Anticipated 10% reduction in Title I funds
  - Increase in number of schools above current 70% threshold
An LEA must first serve, in rank order of poverty, schools above 75% poverty based on the LEA’s chosen poverty measure.

- At a minimum, APS must serve all schools above 75% free lunch.
- APS’ chosen poverty measure is free lunch.

An LEA may only supplement state and local funding (General Fund) with Federal, Title I dollars.

- “Supplement not Supplant”
- Title I funds are meant to be additional dollars to a school budget; and not in lieu of other sources such as general fund revenue.
Current APS Allocations

- Any eligible grade span above 70% free lunch receives Title I funding.
  - Grade spans: K-5, 6-8, 9-12
  - A combined school would have two free lunch percentages.
Current Considerations and Challenges

**Compounding Challenges:** Declining Title I population and Growing Title School concentration:
- Declining Title I allocation from USDE/CDE based on poverty census.
- More schools reaching the 70% free lunch threshold.
- Two high schools are now above 70%

**Fixed Title Funds:** The pie does not get bigger based on the number of schools served.
- The addition of 9 schools above 70% will be funded at the expense of the existing Title I schools.
- Adding two high schools will result in a $1.7M reduction from current Title I elementary and middle schools.

At present we have identified four potential allocation methodologies (we will continue to review other potential methodologies).
Option 1: Status Quo

- Status Quo
  - Serve ALL schools above 70% free
    - 9 additional Title I schools
    - Year over year changes in allocations range from $60,000-$260,000 losses for current Title I schools
Option 2: Current 70%, no HS

- Serve required 75% and above, AND serve 70-74% Elementary and Middle Schools
  - 7 additional Title I schools
  - Priority focus is on K-8 students
  - Year over year changes in allocation range from $30,000-$174,000 losses for current Title I schools
Option 3: Two Tiers

- Serve required 75% and above, AND serve 70-74% at a lower differentiated per pupil allocation (PPA)
  - 9 additional Title I schools
    - Two additional schools would be funded at $660 PPA and seven additional schools would receive a lower per pupil allocation of $330.
  - Year over year changes in allocation range from $42,000-$213,000 losses for current Title I schools
Option 4: Aligning to 75% Federal Statute

- Serve ONLY required 75% and above schools
  - 2 new Title I schools
  - Year over year changes in allocation range from $19,000-$144,000 losses for current Title I schools
Forecasting

- With the continued change in enrollment and 2020 census, we are anticipating a 10% decline in Title I funds in 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- As more schools are Title I eligible we will continue to evaluate our funding methodologies.
Questions

Thank you!