

Per-Pupil Spending

The Resource Allocation Review (RAR) includes a district self-assessment. One area of the self-assessment asks the district to describe and provide evidence of the district's per pupil spending including the process to request additional support from the district beyond traditional site allocations.

The example below was provided as evidence for the per pupil spending process during the previous review cycle.

Budgeting Support: A process is in place for schools to have autonomy over federal dollars with the district offering support and guidance. All district directors meeting at one location to talk through budgeting scenarios is helpful to school leaders in making informed decisions based on need.

The practice of having all district directors together in one location creates efficient use of time in creating budget plans. Providing district level support with fiscal resources in this time-saving manner allows schools to utilize funds to meet their unique needs.

Collaboration Structures: Allocation meetings are scheduled with individual schools during a specific date and time. Meetings include school administration along with the superintendent, assistant superintendent, directors of human resources, finance, curriculum and instruction and special education. The allocation meetings provide opportunities for each school's principal to collaborate with district administration to make budgeting decisions, including the use of state and federal funds, staffing allocations and other resource distributions. This collaborative structure allows school leaders to prioritize expenditures that directly address achievement gaps, intervention supports and school improvement goals. District support and guidance help schools ensure alignment with district expectations and funding requirements while making decisions that best support their unique school needs.

Learning from These Examples

- Having all district officials present at a single event allows for efficiency in consultation for use and requests for additional funds. School leaders can easily shift from one official to another to offer support in creating spending plans based on each school's unique needs.
- Creating and utilizing collaborative structures ensure that school leaders operate within a clear framework of district goals and accountability, while maintaining the flexibility to make timely, data-informed decisions that best support their individual school communities.