

Educational Assistance Program (Tutoring) Update, 8/3/05

According to information received from PDE, our EAP III funding for 2005-06 is \$431,399. The money must be applied to two different areas of tutoring, which are:

1. Grades K-12 Tutoring = \$283,769
 - a. We would use this money as we have been in all of our prior EAP programs. The amount is the same as what we received in EAP II.
2. Grades 7-12 Tutoring = \$147,630
 - a. These monies must be used to tutor full-time enrolled students in grades 7-12.
 - b. WCSD qualified for the extra funding because the district had at least one school where 11th grade PSSA scores in 2003-04 were below the proficiency scores in both math and reading (45% and 54%)
 - c. According to PDE, WCSD had 953 juniors tested in 2004, with 396 scoring Below Proficient.
 - d. Students in grades 7-12 will qualify for tutoring if they score below Proficient on the PSSA or other assessment, or if they are recommended for tutoring by the District.

One major change to the program is that districts now have the option of having tutoring services available during school. The previous 2 years of EAP funding allowed tutoring that happened outside of the school day. PDE is stressing that in-school tutoring may not interfere with regularly scheduled classroom instruction, and may not supplant services mandated by student's IEP.

Another major change is that a student receiving EAP tutoring services must focus on either math or reading, but not both. Students must also receive a minimum of 45 hours of tutoring in the selected area. Previous EAP grants allowed a student to receive tutoring in both reading and math if

Students are eligible for tutoring based on scores from the PSSA or other district assessment, teacher recommendations, or parent request.

Dr. Sechriest, Mrs. Green, and I will be attending a mandatory Tutoring Training in Harrisburg on August 11, 2005, from 8:30am – Noon. It is our expectation that the grant application will be released on the PDE e-Grant web portal after the meeting, and that the application will have a fairly short deadline for completion.

PDE recommends that tutoring programs begin no later than October 1, 2005. The district should be able to meet this deadline.

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