

AEA PreK-5 Budget Request FY22

Thank you for letting us present our recommendations for the FY2022 Budget. Our focus in these requests is addressing the increased remediation needs in a post-pandemic world that we all hope to be in next fall.

First, it will be important to keep class sizes low so that teachers have time to give extra attention to all of their students. Therefore, we ask that you reserve as many classroom teaching positions as possible, especially given our uncertain unenrollment. There could be a surge in students re-entering in late summer that should be anticipated.

Second, we will need additional interventionists- reading, social work, speech, OT, PT, and special education. These teachers are already overloaded with students and we are anticipating increased need for these services next year. Additional staff in these areas will enable us to address any learning gaps that teachers identify due to the challenges of the past year. It will also allow more scheduling flexibility, which may be needed as students are identified for interventions at different points in the year.

Finally, we are advocating that money be reserved for staff salary increases. As we advocated last week, our teachers have been doing the impossible this year. The workload has tripled from a usual year. Many hybrid teachers remark that it feels like they are working three jobs preparing for different groups of students, and remote teachers have had to completely redesign their curriculum. They are doing amazing work to reach and teach students in extraordinary circumstances, and worthy of salary increases next year.