

# At-A-Glance: Flexibility and Funding

All schools have flexibility in all grades and subjects in the following areas: curriculum, assessments and professional learning. Any school with the available funding can select and purchase their own curriculum, interim assessments and professional learning in all grades and subjects starting in 2015-16. Schools may use carry-forward dollars for this purpose.

## What about District Funding?

We do not allocate dollars for new curriculum every year for all subjects and all grades; we do not have enough money to do so. Rather, we target our dollars to those grades and subjects most in need of new curricula. Over time, all grades and subjects will receive dollars for curriculum, but this will happen as part of a multi-year cycle.

District funding will be made available to schools in rolling cycles, in tandem with the district's offering of options in these three areas. What does this mean? Some examples may make this clearer:

**Curriculum:** In 2015-16, the district has adopted a new math curriculum in grades 6-8 (CMP3 math) and a new language arts curriculum in grades 4-8 (EngageNY). Schools may opt in to these district choices or decline the district choices and receive district funding only in these grades and subjects.

- Example 1: A 6-8 middle school leader who declines the district math option would receive \$100 per student based on student enrollment in those grades at that time. If the same school leader declined to opt in to the district's language arts choice, the leader would also receive \$100 per student based on student enrollment in those grades (6-8, in this case).
- Example 2: A K-5 school leader who declined the district's language arts curriculum would receive \$100 per student in grades 4 and 5, since those are the only grades that are part of the district option. A K-5 school leader does not have an option in math for 2015-16 so no funds would be available.
- Example: A 9-12 school leader has no grades that are part of the district curriculum option in 2015-16 so the leader would not be eligible to receive any curriculum dollars for that year.

**Professional learning:** In summer 2015, the district's professional learning "opt in" choices are language arts training in grades 4-8 and math training in grades 6-8. Schools may opt in to these district choices or decline the district choices and receive district funding only in these grades and subjects.

- Example 1: A 6-8 middle school leader who declines the district professional learning in math would receive \$22.82 per teacher per hour, up to 21 hours, to provide professional learning. A 6-8 school leader who declines district professional learning in language arts would also receive \$22.82 per teacher per hour, up to 21 hours, to provide professional learning.
- Example 2: A K-5 school leader who declines the district's professional learning in language arts would receive \$22.82 per teacher per hour, up to 21 hours, only for those teachers in grades 4 and 5, since those are the only grades that are part of the district option. A K-5 school leader does not have a district option for professional training in math for 2015-16 so no funds would be available.
- Example: A 9-12 school leader has no grades that are part of the district option for professional learning in summer 2015 so no funds would be available.

**Assessments:** Central support staff is in the process of selecting the district option for assessments for 2015-16 so information about funding for this option is not expected to be available until after June 12.

## Frequently Asked Funding Questions

- Can school leaders bank the district funding over time? Yes. For example, a school can choose not to adopt the district language arts option (EngageNY) in grades 4 and 5 for 2015-16 and save the money to adopt an entire K-5 language arts curriculum at a later date.
- Can schools use this year's district funding to adopt in a different grade and subject? Yes. For example, a school could decide not to opt in to EngageNY for 2015-16 and use the funding for math instead.

## Curriculum

| Grade Level | Flexibility                                                                         | District \$                                                        | Flexibility                                                               | District \$                                                        |  |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|             |                                                                                     | <b>LANGUAGE ARTS</b>                                               |                                                                           | <b>MATH</b>                                                        |  |
| Grades K-3  | Yes, schools have flexibility to adopt curriculum; no new district option           | No, district not adopting curriculum in these grades in 2015-16    | Yes, schools have flexibility to adopt curriculum; no new district option | No, district not adopting curriculum in these grades in 2015-16    |  |
| Grades 4-5  | Yes, schools have flexibility to adopt curriculum; new district option is Engage NY | Yes, about \$100 per student if a school leader declines to opt in | Yes, schools have flexibility to adopt curriculum; no new district option | No, district not adopting curriculum in these grades in 2015-16    |  |
| Grades 6-8  | Yes, schools have flexibility to adopt curriculum; new district option is Engage NY | Yes, about \$100 per student if a school leader declines to opt in | Yes, new district option is CMP3                                          | Yes, about \$100 per student if a school leader declines to opt in |  |
| Grades 9-12 | Yes, schools have flexibility to adopt curriculum; no new district option           | No, district not adopting curriculum in these grades in 2015-16    | Yes, schools have flexibility to adopt curriculum; no new district option | No, district not adopting curriculum in these grades in 2015-16    |  |

## Professional Learning and Assessments

|             | <b>PROFESSIONAL LEARNING</b>                             |                                                                       |                                                          |                                                                       | <b>ASSESSMENTS</b>                                       |                         |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Grade Level | Flexibility                                              | District \$                                                           | Flexibility                                              | District \$                                                           | Flexibility                                              | District \$             |
|             | <b>LANGUAGE ARTS</b>                                     |                                                                       |                                                          | <b>MATH</b>                                                           |                                                          |                         |
| Grades K-3  | Yes, schools have flexibility; no new district option    | No, no district option in 2015-16                                     | Yes, schools have flexibility; no new district option    | No, no district option in 2015-16                                     | Yes, schools have flexibility; district option available | Funding still uncertain |
| Grades 4-5  | Yes, schools have flexibility; district option available | Yes, \$22.82 per teacher per hour if school leader declines to opt in | Yes, schools have flexibility; no new district option    | No, no district option in 2015-16                                     | Yes, schools have flexibility; district option available | Funding still uncertain |
| Grades 6-8  | Yes, schools have flexibility; district option available | Yes, \$22.82 per teacher per hour if school leader declines to opt in | Yes, schools have flexibility; district option available | Yes, \$22.82 per teacher per hour if school leader declines to opt in | Yes, schools have flexibility; district option available | Funding still uncertain |
| Grades 9-12 | Yes, schools have flexibility; no new district option    | No, no district option in 2015-16                                     | Yes, schools have flexibility; no new district option    | No, no district option in 2015-16                                     | Yes, schools have flexibility; district option available | Funding still uncertain |

*This is not intended to be a comprehensive explanation of the options in these three areas or of the opting-in process; this information is available at [flexibility.dpsk12.org](http://flexibility.dpsk12.org).*