



Department of Desegregation
1010 E. 10th St.
Tucson, Arizona 85719
520-225-6426

*Recommendations in red were received after the District's June 18 Submission of the Final Draft Budget and Cover Letter (which included all recommendations below except those in red). Subsequent to June 18, 2015, District staff held teleconferences with the Special Master, Fisher Plaintiffs, and Mendoza Plaintiffs to clarify any remaining issues, and to ensure mutual understanding of each party's final recommendations. Based on the teleconference discussions, and based on subsequent communications, the District took additional steps to ensure that the final recommendations are accurate as presented to the Governing Board on July 14, 2015.

I. SPECIAL MASTER AND PLAINTIFF RECOMMENDATIONS ACCEPTED BY THE DISTRICT

Over the past few months, the District has received comments, concerns, questions, and understandings from the Special Master and Plaintiffs. The District hereby makes a good faith effort to identify the recommendations (either directly stated or implied) based on the communications received. On Monday June 22, 2015, we will discuss the following recommendations with the Plaintiffs and Special Master to ensure mutual understanding:

Recommendation 1 (Fisher and Mendoza Plaintiffs 3/26/15) – Implement Mandatory GATE Testing.

Response: The District has agreed to fund testing for all students in two grades for GATE participation for SY 2015-16 as part of Activity 501.

Recommendation 2 (Fisher Plaintiffs 3/26/15) – Eliminate 910(G) Funding for the UHS LSC/Recruiter.

Response: The District will not fund the UHS LSC/Recruiter with 910(G) funds for SY 2015-16.

Recommendation 3 (Mendozas 5/7/15) – Eliminate 910(G) Funding for Non-Theme-Related Music and Art Teachers in Magnet Schools.

Response: The District has transferred funding for non-theme-related band and orchestra teachers in magnet schools from 910(G) to other District funds.

Recommendation 4 (Mendozas 5/7/15 and 6/4/15) – Do Not Expand LSCs from 55.5 to 65.

Response: The District will not expand LSCs from 55.5 to 65 positions for SY 2015-16.

Recommendation 5 (Mendoza 5/7/15; Special Master 5/19/15) – 910(G) Fine Arts Expenditures.



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Response: The District “fine arts” expenditures are supported by M&O and other District funds. The District will continue to supplement fine arts by offering OMA with 910(G) funds.

Recommendation 6 (Mendoza 5/17/15) – Reduce Funding for Transportation.

Response: The District reduced 910(G) funding for bus passes were reduced by \$200,000 (\$100,000 each for activity codes 301 and 302). The District further reduced other 910(G) transportation costs by an additional \$270,000. In total, the District reduced approximately \$470,000 from the 910(G) transportation allocations.

Recommendation 7 (DOJ 5/8/15) – Specify Funding for In-School Intervention / Life Skills Expansion (DPG Plan):

Response: The District is funding approximately \$900,000 to support the In-School Intervention (ISI) program (see section titled “Positive Alternatives to Suspension”), and by adding approximately \$450,000 to expand the Life Skills Alternative to Suspension Program (renamed the District Educational Alternative Program “DAEP” at the high school level) beyond the description in the Dropout Prevention and Graduation Plan (see section titled “Positive Alternatives to Suspension”).

Recommendation 8 (Special Master 5/19/15) – Justify or Remove Funding for Deseg-Funded Preschools:

Response: The District eliminated these positions. In SY 2013-14, the Mendoza Plaintiffs brought attention to the limited funds allocated to increasing student access to early childhood programs. In response, the Special Master recommended that the District examine the feasibility of further expanding such programs. In response to the Special Master recommendation, the District created three preschools, located at elementary sites with relatively large Latino and/or African American student populations. In the wake of new objections, these positions are being eliminated. As a result of eliminating these positions, these programs have been discontinued.



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III. SPECIAL MASTER AND PLAINTIFF RECOMMENDATIONS NOT ACCEPTED BY THE DISTRICT

Recommendations provided to the District by the Special Master and Plaintiffs, but not accepted by the District, are listed below:

Recommendation 1 (Mendoza 5/7/15) – Eliminate 910(G) Funding for Utterback Attendance Clerk.

Response: The District funds a second attendance clerk at Utterback from M&O as it does at other schools, the 910(G)-funded clerk supplements funding provided by M&O. The Utterback has unique magnet-related needs justifying a 910(G)-funded attendance clerk (high mobility rate, high percentage of magnet students)

Recommendation 2 (Mendoza 5/7/15) – Split Fund Family Engagement Director Between 910(G) and Title I.

Response: In SY 2015-16, the District will fund this USP-mandated position with 910(G) funds.

Recommendation 3 (Fisher 6/25/15) – Place LSCs Back in Classrooms, Especially in Schools with an Achievement Gap for Minority Students

Response: TUSD is in the process of evaluating LSC effectiveness and, based on the results of said evaluation, will determine whether to maintain LSCs at their current function, eliminate LSCs altogether, or modify the functions of LSCs.



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IV. PLAINTIFFS' FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED JULY 13, 2015

Mendoza Plaintiffs

- 1. Align the budget entries to the 910(G) funding at the individual magnet schools**
- 2. Provide additional funding for Holladay, Ochoa, Robison, and Utterback directed at enhancing achievement and improving integration**
- 3. Allocate additional funding to expand dual language programs**
- 4. Allocate additional funding for family engagement**
- 5. Object to the use of 910(G) funds for consultants and related activities in anticipation of a “November 2016 bond” (in the absence of a showing that these expenditures directly support a portion of the facilities plan intended to ensure equal access to facilities at Racially Concentrated schools)**
- 6. Reduce and/or justify OMA/Fine Arts/Multicultural allocations**

Fisher Plaintiffs

- 7. The Director of Planning Services position should not be fully funded by desegregation funds**
- 8. Separate UHS funding allocations to indicate the percentages that support the USP versus the percentages that support out-of-district students**
- 9. Eliminate magnet coordinators at Ochoa, Cragin, Mansfeld, and Robison**
- 10. Reduce the 910(G) funding level for GATE classes**
- 11. Eliminate 910(G) funding for ISI/DAEP and convert it to funding for additional training related to disproportionate suspension**
- 12. Eliminate 910(G) funding for the Pan Asian Studies Department**