

**Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
FY 2017 Revised and FY 2018 Request
BR-10 Narrative Information**

Narrative Information

Agency: Elementary & Secondary Education
Program: Central Falls
Subprogram: N/A

Program Description

The City of Central Falls encompasses a land area of 1.27 square miles and serves a diverse population. Central Falls School District is (CFSD), an urban school district, whose mission is to develop its diverse student population into responsible citizens, effective communicators, innovative problem-solvers, and critical thinkers who are able to fully participate in and positively contribute to society. The School District is committed to the attainment of high standards by all students by ensuring a literacy-rich learning environment and providing results-oriented educational leadership at all levels.

Chapter 312 of Rhode Island Public Laws of 1991 dictates that the State assume responsibility for the administration and operational funding of the school district effective July 1, 1991. In June 2002, R.I.G.L. § 16-2-34 established a seven member Board of Trustees to govern the CFSD and have the powers and duties of School Committees. The school district's purpose is to provide both elementary and secondary education for the residents of the City of Central Falls. The CFSD budget is created at the district level in accordance with the budget targets provided by RIDE. The CFSD is required to submit a budget to RIDE that includes a narrative and a comprehensive budget impact statement validating the request. (R.I.G.L. §16-2-34(h)(9)) Once adopted as part of the State Budget, it is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools to "report to the Board of Trustees, on a regular basis, the financial condition and operation of the schools," to make "line item budgeting decisions," "to authorize purchases consistent with the adopted school district budget." (R.I.G.L. §16-2-34(h)(6), (9)) Decisions relating to adoption of changes to the school budget during the school year are reserved to the Board of Trustees in its capacity as a school committee.

(R.I.G.L. §16-2-9(a)(10)) CFSD is reported as a separate line item in the RIDE budget and is required to submit quarterly budget to actual reports. The 2012 General Assembly expanded R.I.G.L. §16-2-34 to allow for the commissioner of elementary and secondary education to exercise in whole or in part care, control, and management over the public schools of the CFSD within the scope of authority of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Education, whenever such intervention is deemed necessary and appropriate.

Satisfaction of legal responsibilities by governmental units, including school districts, is influenced by proper oversight of their budgets and financial systems. The budget is a control device that requires a complementary accounting and reporting system in order to be effective. The budget also allows users to assess the government's ability to estimate and manage its general resources.

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Proposed Budget Impacts

The Board of Education’s FY 2018 budget requests funding for year 7 of the funding formula implementation. The major components of the formula enacted by the General Assembly in June 2010 and revised in June 2016 include a:

- Core instruction per pupil amount for every K-12 student;
- Student success factor (40% weight) for every student eligible for free and reduced price lunch;
- State/local share ratio dependent on district property values weighted for median family income and students eligible for free and reduced price lunch; and
- Categorical funding outside of the core calculation for high cost special education, career and technical education, early childhood programs, transportation for non-public, density aid, English language learners, and regional district transportation, regional district bonuses, and a stabilization fund for Central Falls school district.

The funding formula funds the basic education program, or core instruction costs. Costs outside of the formula include operations, transportation, and out-of-district tuitions. Since Central Falls is currently 100% state funded, the department has established three accounts to track Central Falls expenditures, including accounts for the formula aid, the state-funded “local” share, and the categorical stabilization fund.

The City has recently emerged from bankruptcy with a five year plan of debt adjustment monitored by the bankruptcy court. There are no plans for the municipality to begin contributing to the schools during the plan, which expires in 2017. RIDE has been analyzing the current budget and projected changes in student population. As new data becomes available RIDE will continue to compare the amount of funding available under the new formula with the needs of the district.

BR-4 Program Summary

Agency: 072 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

	FY 2015 Actuals:	FY 2016 Actuals:	FY 2017 Enacted:	FY 2017 Working:	FY 2017 Revised Budget:	FY 2018 Unconstrained Budget:	FY 2018 Constrained Budget:
Program: 06 Central Falls							
By Subprogram							
0601 Central Falls School District	\$39,010,583	\$39,520,102	\$39,100,578	\$39,100,578	\$39,100,578	\$39,351,304	\$39,351,304
By Category	\$39,010,583	\$39,520,102	\$39,100,578	\$39,100,578	\$39,100,578	\$39,351,304	\$39,351,304
70 Aid to Local Units of Government	\$39,010,583	\$39,520,102	\$39,100,578	\$39,100,578	\$39,100,578	\$39,351,304	\$39,351,304
By Source	\$39,010,583	\$39,520,102	\$39,100,578	\$39,100,578	\$39,100,578	\$39,351,304	\$39,351,304
01 General Revenue	\$39,010,583	\$39,520,102	\$39,100,578	\$39,100,578	\$39,100,578	\$39,351,304	\$39,351,304

Monday, October 03, 2016

