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May 31, 2019

The Honorable Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Gale

Dear Borough President Brewer:

At your request, IBO has estimated the cost of providing at least one social worker at every school that serves students in grades kindergarten through 12. For this school year—2018-2019—it would cost \$89.4 million to add a social worker to each of the 671 traditional public schools in Community School Districts 1-32 that currently do not have one. There are an additional 27 schools in District 75 (the citywide special education administrative district) that would require another \$3.6 million to add a social worker. Finally, there are 18 schools in Community School Districts 1-32 that share social workers and have less than full-time coverage at each school. To bring those 18 schools up to at least one full-time social worker would cost an additional \$1.4 million.

This school year, 671 schools (roughly 44 percent) of the 1,530 traditional public schools in Districts 1-32 do not have any social workers. Salary and fringe benefits for social workers currently average \$133,168: an average salary of \$94,092 plus fringe benefits averaging \$39,076. Therefore, the cost of providing 671 social workers across the city would total \$89.4 million.

Looking at the distribution by borough, 202 schools in Brooklyn do not currently have social workers—accounting for roughly 30 percent of the total need. This share is consistent with the citywide share of schools in Brooklyn. Manhattan would need 140 social workers, 20.9 percent of the required social workers, also about the same as its share schools citywide (19.2 percent). Staten Island would require the fewest additional social workers (26), accounting for almost 4 percent of the total need, which is slightly lower than the citywide share of schools in Staten Island. The Bronx’s share of additional social workers needed to meet the goal (18.2 percent) is somewhat less than the borough’s share of citywide schools (23.4 percent). Schools in Queens would require 181 additional social workers, accounting for 27.0 percent of the need citywide, while schools in Queens account for 22.5 percent of schools citywide.

The Greatest Number of Social Workers Would be Added in Brooklyn and Queens				
Borough	Number of Social Workers Needed	Total Cost (in millions)	Share of Social Workers Needed	Share of All Schools
Bronx	122	\$16.2	18.2%	23.4%
Brooklyn	202	26.9	30.1%	30.1%
Manhattan	140	18.6	20.9%	19.2%
Queens	181	24.1	27.0%	22.5%
Staten Island	26	3.5	3.9%	4.7%
TOTAL	671	\$89.4	100.0%	100.0%

SOURCE: IBO analysis of Department of Education Data, Report on Guidance Counselors Pursuant to Local Law 56 of 2014, published February 15, 2019

An additional \$3.6 million would be required to add 27 social workers across schools in District 75. As with schools in Districts 1-32, schools in District 75 in Brooklyn would add the largest number of social workers (8) and schools in District 75 in Staten Island would add the fewest (1). Brooklyn’s share of the additional social workers is just equal to its share of District 75 schools, while Staten Island’s share is somewhat less than its share of schools. Manhattan is the only borough for which the share of additional social workers needed (25.9 percent) exceeds the share of District 75 schools located in the borough (16.7 percent).

27 More Social Workers Needed to Provide at Least One Social Worker at Each School in District 75				
Borough	Number of Social Workers Needed	Total Cost (in millions)	Share of Social Workers Needed	Share of All Schools
Bronx	5	\$0.7	18.5%	23.3%
Brooklyn	8	1.1	29.6%	30.0%
Manhattan	7	0.9	25.9%	16.7%
Queens	6	0.8	22.2%	23.3%
Staten Island	1	0.1	3.7%	6.7%
TOTAL	27	\$3.6	100.0%	100.0%
SOURCE: IBO analysis of Department of Education Data, Report on Guidance Counselors Pursuant to Local Law 56 of 2014, published February 15, 2019				

Finally, an additional \$1.4 million would be needed to bring 18 traditional public schools that currently have social workers only part of the time up to full-time coverage. Citywide, it would require the addition of 10.2 full-time equivalent social worker positions across the 18 schools, with six of these positions located in Brooklyn.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at ronniel@ibo.nyc.ny.us or 212-442-0225 or Sarita Subramanian (who coordinated the study) at saritas@ibo.nyc.ny.us or 212-341-6047.

Sincerely,



Ronnie Lowenstein