

Response to Questions on the FY 2006 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Chairman Connolly

Question: Has the Club 78 pilot program in Holmes Middle School been successful? If so, what is the estimated cost to implement the Club 78 program in one additional school?

Response: In FY 2001, due to growing concerns that middle-school students were left alone after school until their parents returned from work, the Department of Family Services (DFS) began a pilot program targeting services to seventh and eighth graders at Holmes Middle School. Known as Club 78, the SACC program at Holmes Middle School operates at full enrollment with 60 students. The program also has a waiting list which averages around 14 students throughout the year.

The Club 78 program promotes education, socialization, skill-building, community awareness, life skills, and responsibility. It provides a safe and caring environment and gives youth constructive activities to occupy their time. The success of the program is evident in the evaluation information gathered from both Holmes Middle School families and participants. This evaluation information includes full enrollment reflecting satisfaction of the enrolled youth and their families, improvement in SOL scores, and decisions by youth not to participate in local gang activity.

The total cost of funding the Club 78 program at one school with 60 slots is \$221,682. After revenue of \$166,262 from parent fees, the net cost is \$55,420, including support for 4/3.24 SYE positions.