

Title II Funds Needs Assessment: Amsterdam School

Amsterdam is a rural farming community that has experienced steady growth alongside the countywide population growth over the past decade or so. Currently, Amsterdam School has 165 students (K-6) enrolled. Although Amsterdam is a K-8 district, seventh and eighth grade students attend the neighboring district of Manhattan School (with a tuition agreement).

Of Amsterdam's K-6 population, 0.6 % are English language learners. For the current school year, 35 students have completed the Free-and-Reduced lunch application. Ten qualified for free lunch (including 5 out-of-district students) and 5 qualified for reduced lunch. Collectively, that's 9% of the student body. One reason the district's return rate of applications is low may be due to not having a hot lunch program available for students. The percentage of the 165 students receiving special education services is 6.1%. Amsterdam also coordinates special education speech services for nearby Manhattan Christian School, serving 6 additional students. Lastly, there is one child pre-K with an IEP whom Amsterdam will be serving in 2023-2024.

Amsterdam School's mission states: The Amsterdam School community fosters positive social and academic performance, which encourages staff and students to be respectful, responsible, and ready to learn. Amsterdam relies on a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) to ensure students thrive in the learning environment. Benchmark assessments are performed three times/year, and interventions are implemented based on assessment results and teacher observation. For this and the district's other teaching needs, there are 8 classroom teachers employed at 1 F.T.E. and one classroom teacher employed at FTE 0.8. There is one special education teacher (1 F.T.E.) and one Title teacher (0.8 F.T.E.). Additionally, the district has specials classes consisting of library/technology (1 F.T.E.), counseling (0.6 F.T.E.), P.E. (0.5 F.T.E.), and music (0.6 F.T.E.). Two paraprofessionals round out our educator team (1.8 F.T.E.).

Having small class sizes is one way Amsterdam builds positive relationships between staff and students and promotes strong academic performance; this aligns with the district's mission. In particular, small classes are beneficial when students are learning to read in grades K-3. Instead of having one large first grade class and one large second grade class, Amsterdam has one first grade class, one second grade class, and one 1st/2nd grade combination class. This structure ensures the class sizes remain small (sixteen or fewer students in each class). The Title II funds are needed to fund the 1st/2nd grade combination teacher's salary.