

BOARD BRIEF

Date: 1/21/2022

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION: _____

FROM: Gregory Tardieu, Ed.D., Grants Manager
Kurt Huffman, Executive Director of Community Partnerships and Engagement

THROUGH: Julia Burgos, Chief of School and Community Relations
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Update on Grant Awards and Management

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
- Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
- Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
- Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2021-2022 FOCUS AREA:

- Focus Area 1: Social Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery
- Focus Area 2: Hispanic Males
- Focus Area 3: Middle School Educational Experience
- Focus Area 4: Early College
- Focus Area 5: Talented and Gifted

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

- Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan
- K-4 Literacy Continued Implementation
- MTSS Implementation with Restorative Practices and PBIS
- Stress/Counseling Support especially around Trauma
- Customer Management System
- Continue Engagement with Hispanic Families to Improve Graduation and Chronic Absenteeism
- Professional Learning and Cultural Competency Training for all Staff and Partners

SUMMARY:

Supplemental funding is a critical element of school finances, especially through challenging times, such as the current pandemic. The mission of the grants team is to coordinate and facilitate teacher and department efforts in acquiring grant funding for unmet student and staff needs. To respond to those challenges and in alignment with the work of the Office of

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Community Partnerships and Engagement, the ACPS 2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All and the 2021-25 Strategic Communications and Engagement Plan, the grants office has continued to:

- Strategically collaborate with ACPS departments by identifying and applying for grant opportunities with aligned department leadership
- Meet with community partners to provide grant application expertise and serve as liaison for grant identification opportunities using eCivis' online software through monthly email outreach
- Facilitate, as needed, data and fiscal discussions with aligned department and building leads to ensure that a high level of grant requirements are being met.

We are also proud to announce the following increase in grant awards through the past three school years:

Year	# of Grants Managed	Total Amount Received	Amount Total % Increase/Decrease From Previous Year
2018-2019	40	\$1,591,730.59	31% increase
2019-2020	43	\$3,444,094.0	116% increase
2020-2021	53	\$59,385,479.62	1,624% increase

*As of the date of this memo, this school year we have currently been awarded 34 grants with a total of \$58,707,266.26.

BACKGROUND:

The ACPS Grants team provides the following support services to our schools, departments and community partners in alignment with the Office of Community Partnerships and Engagement as part of the School and Community Relations Department:

1. Identify a wide range of potential funding sources.
2. Ensure that the district competes effectively for federal, state, local and private funds.
3. Assist and encourage staff/teachers with grant seeking, writing and submitting of proposals.
4. Manage and maintain existing grants.
5. Cultivate a relationship with funders by meeting requirements and grant management processes.
6. Ensure that all progress and annual reports are submitted on time.
7. Build partnerships with Alexandria City Government and nonprofit organizations to co-apply for grants.
8. Guide grant opportunities to programs that are most in need of funding and best fit the funders' priorities.

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These support services have been essential, especially during the large increase of Covid relief grants that we have received through the pandemic in regards to CARES, GEER, ESSERII and ESSERIII creation, submission and management. To further support the large increase in the management, collaboration and reporting requirements of our grants, ACPS has approved and added a grants coordinator position. This position has been crucial in our ability to successfully manage these large grants and serves as a point of contact for the Financial Department and aligned leadership. In addition to the grants coordinator position, we have posted a recovery and relief grants project assistant position, which will support all aspects of the pre-award and post-award requirements for Federal CARES, ESSER, ARPA grants, including other Pandemic Relief and Recovery funding for Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). We are actively recruiting for this position.

Combined with the internal support described above, the Grants team continues to communicate various aligned grant opportunities to multiple ACPS partners through the *eCivis* Grant web platform. Lastly, our Grants team also manages the Donors Choose supplemental funding support for our staff members. This partnership has resulted in three consecutive years of increased amounts received:

DONORS CHOOSE

Year	# of Teacher Projects	Total Amount Received
2018-2019	190	\$91,135.51
2019-2020	175	\$112,205.26
2020-2021	200	\$115,827.55

*As of the date of this memo, this school year we have currently posted 178 teacher projects with a total of \$88,899.43 received.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information in this memo to understand how this team has grown and the efforts that are underway to expand the grant solicitation and management program.

IMPACT: Supplemental funding is a critical element of school finances, especially through challenging times, such as the current pandemic. To meet the needs of our students, staff and partners, the Grants team continues to coordinate and facilitate teacher and department efforts in acquiring grant funding through various support efforts. These efforts have resulted in a large increase in grant funding for ACPS over the past three years.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2021-2022 Grants Data

CONTACT:

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