

BOARD MEMO

Date: June 3, 2021

For ACTION X

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes X

No

FROM: Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Julie Crawford, Ed.D., Chief of Student Services and Equity
Gregory Tardieu, Ed.D., Manager of Grants and Partnerships

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: Title IV, Part A Federal Grant

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

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

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA

- Focus Area 1: Reopening of School
- Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation
- Focus Area 5: Academic Disparities

FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY

- MTSS including Restorative Practices and PBIS
- Outreach to Underserved Communities to Increase Engagement

SUMMARY

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) has been the recipient of a Title IV, Part A grant for the past four years. We will be starting Year 5 on July 1, 2020. In our first year (2017-2018), we were awarded \$81,865.25. The grant's focus was health and nutrition projects to fight childhood obesity on the west side of Alexandria, where kindergarten BMI data revealed a greater incidence of obesity among our young learners. Four elementary schools were targeted with this funding: John Adams, William Ramsay, James K. Polk, and Patrick Henry K-8 School.

During our second year of grant operations, our funding expanded to \$279,476.88. We continued our focus on childhood obesity and funded projects relating to Social Emotional Learning, Trauma-Informed Care, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

BOARD MEMO

enrichment, and special education adaptive equipment. We brought our total elementary schools of focus to eight with the additional funding, adding the following four schools to our original four: Samuel Tucker, Ferdinand T. Day, Cora Kelly, and Mount Vernon.

Our grant funding is now up to \$340,285.95 – so our Title IV team expanded our emphasis into STEM Improvement in both Elementary and Middle Schools. Due to the COVID-19 shutdowns, our predicted programming for the past year was greatly reworked to repurpose our funding to acquire PPE and other protective supplies to help our nurses be ready for school reopening. Also, we compiled unspent funding to provide added support to STEM, SPED, PE/Health, and Music programming.

We are currently in the process of updating our spending plan with division stakeholders. We involve the following departments in our efforts to wisely and effectively execute this grant: Teaching, Learning and Leadership; Student Services and Equity; Facilities and Operations; and Communications and Community Relations.

BACKGROUND

This grant has many stipulations on how the money can be used. In brief, there are two main areas of concern:

1. *Well-Rounded Education* (including academic enrichment programs like STEM, SPED enrichment, and the arts).
2. *Health and Safety* (including Counseling, PE/Health, PBIS, Nursing, Family Cooking Classes).

Tentatively, we are continuing with the following programs/initiatives:

1. Creating and supporting professional development and programming and programming in the areas of Social Emotional Learning and Trauma-Informed Care;
2. Increasing student engagement and positive interactions with PBIS projects;
3. Supporting gardening education;
4. Supporting two new elementary STEM pilot classrooms.
5. Expanding support for STEM pilot programming into the middle schools.
6. Providing specialized instruction funding for academic enrichment;
7. Expanding the arts with two new pilot Choir and Drama programs;
8. Offering *New Families to America* – Nutrition and Cooking classes; and
9. Expanding PE/Health enrichment programs into our classrooms.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the continued use of Title IV, Part A grant funding.

IMPACT

This grant has effectively engaged both students and their families in several important projects such as nutrition education, physical education awareness and motivation, musical instruction and growth opportunities, and general academic engagement. In addition, many ACPS teachers

BOARD MEMO

and staff have received training to provide more effective academic and emotional supports needed for students to develop into healthy young adults. We look forward to continuing this innovative and creative programming affording our students opportunities in the areas of health and fitness and arts enrichment.

ATTACHMENT

1. 210603_Title_IV_Part_A_Grant

CONTACT

Dr. Gregory Tardieu, gregory.tardieu@acps.k12.va.us