

**BOARD MEMO**

Date: May 6, 2021

For ACTION   X  

For INFORMATION       

Board Agenda: Yes   X  

No       

**FROM:** Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership  
Theresa A. Werner, M.Ed., J.D, Executive Director of Specialized Instruction

**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:** Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grant

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL**

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

**SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA**

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

Focus Area 5: Academic Disparities

**FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY**

Specialized Instruction Audit Implementation

**SUMMARY**

Under the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA, 2004), it's federal implementing regulations, and the Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Students with Disabilities in Virginia (effective July 7, 2009), local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to submit a Local Special Education Annual Plan (Annual Plan) for providing special education and related services to children with disabilities. The FY 2022 Annual Plan serves as the formal agreement between the local school board and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) for implementing federal and state laws and regulations governing these services. Accordingly, the disbursement of state and federal funds appropriated for the education of children with disabilities is contingent upon the approval of this plan.

**BACKGROUND**

The 2021-2022 school year application delineates the required amount set aside for children with disabilities placed by their parents in private schools. The funding for this group of students is based on a formula that considers the total number of students with disabilities in the public schools and the total number of students with disabilities who are parentally placed in private elementary and secondary schools located in Alexandria. Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) was cited as disproportionately identifying black students as emotionally disturbed. Accordingly,

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ACPS must set aside fifteen percent of grant funds to provide Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) to address this issue. A plan to provide those services will be developed separately in conjunction with VDOE.

Prior to submitting the Annual Plan to the VDOE, each school division shall review the Annual Plan with the local Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and submit the Annual Plan to the local school board for approval. The Annual Plan was shared with SEAC members on April 21, 2021.

The staffing included in the Annual Plan specifically supports the main initiatives within the Office of Specialized Instruction, which are enumerated in the Office of Specialized Instruction Project Plan. CEIS services will be provided by existing staff and three new grant staff positions and funding to expand the Ruler curriculum.

In addition, funding for materials and supplies is included to primarily address the need for reading and math instructional materials and supplies, instructional supplies, software, and online charges and equipment for students with hearing impairments and visual impairments. We also plan to purchase therapy supplies and assistive technology software, as well as augmentative communication devices to support students who require these materials to benefit from their instructional program.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the 2021-2022 Annual Plan for submission to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

### **IMPACT**

The approval of the Annual Plan is essential to improve outcomes and support instructional programming for students with disabilities through the proposed funding of \$3,581,726.00 for Part B, Section 611 Flow-Through Funds, and \$95,247.00 for Part B, Section 619 Preschool Funds.

### **ATTACHMENT**

1. 210506\_Individuals\_with\_Disabilities\_Education\_Act\_Grant

### **CONTACT**

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