

## BOARD MEMO

Date: June 6, 2024

For ACTION  X

For INFORMATION      

**FROM:** Gregory Tardieu, Ed.D., Manager of Grants and Partnerships  
Carmen Sanders, M.S., Executive Director of Instructional Support

**THROUGH:** Pierrette Finney, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer  
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Michelle Rief, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** Continued Use of Title IV, Part A Federal Grant Funding

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation

**SY 2023-2024 PRIORITY AREA:**

Tier 1 Instruction: Alignment, Rigor, Engagement

**FY 2024 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Full Implementation of Students with Disabilities Action Plan

Safe Routes to School Coordination

**SUMMARY:**

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) has received a *Title IV, Part A* grant for the past seven years, with year eight beginning on July 1, 2024. In the first year (2017–2018), ACPS was awarded \$81,865.25. The grant's focus was on health and nutrition projects focused on fighting childhood obesity on the west side of Alexandria, where kindergarten body mass index (BMI) data revealed a greater incidence of obesity among our young learners. This funding targeted four elementary schools: John Adams, William Ramsay, James K. Polk, and Patrick Henry K–8 School.

During the second year of grant operations, the funding expanded to \$279,476.88. ACPS continued to focus on childhood obesity and funded projects relating to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) enrichment, Fine Arts enrichment, and Special Education (SPED) adaptive equipment. This brought our total elementary schools of focus to eight with the additional funding, adding the following four schools: Samuel W. Tucker, Ferdinand T. Day, Cora Kelly, and Mount Vernon Community School.

This year, our grant funding is currently up to \$326,825.73, resulting in our Title IV team expanding our emphasis on STEM improvement in elementary and middle schools. In addition,

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due to increased funding from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, the Title IV Student Academic and Health Enrichment funding reduced emphasis on the COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) and other related requests and is prioritizing more funding to academics and health.

We are currently updating our spending plan with division stakeholders. The 12-member Title IV team will work to wisely and effectively execute this grant. Collaborative departments include Teaching, Learning, and Leadership, Facilities and Operations, and School and Community Relations.

### **DETAILS:**

The Title IV, Part A grant focuses on two required areas: Well-Rounded Academics and Student Health and Safety. ACPS has provided many supplemental programs for the past seven years to align with this awarded grant. The specialists in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership have been the main facilitators in ensuring this funding is used in schools with the highest needs. ACPS has provided many supplemental materials for all subjects, including after-school programming in science, math, choir, theater, and music.

### **BACKGROUND:**

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

1. *Well-Rounded Education*, including academic enrichment programs like STEM, SPED enrichment, and Fine Arts; and
2. *Health and Safety*, including physical education, PE/health, and school nutrition services with family cooking classes.

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

- Supporting elementary STEM labs and STEM classroom supplies
- Expanding support for STEM pilot programming in the middle schools
- Supporting science teachers with professional learning for new science equipment, i.e., 3D printers
- Providing specialized instruction funding to prepare students for independent living
- Expanding the arts with after-school and summer elementary and middle school music, choir, and theater programs
- Offering Eat Smart, Move More nutrition and cooking classes to families in targeted communities and Title I schools.
- Offering *Independent Living for Specialized Instruction*—nutrition and cooking classes
- Expanding PE/health enrichment programs into our classrooms
- 2nd-grade swim lessons at the YMCA; and
- 3rd-grade bicycle lessons.

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

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### IMPACT:

This grant has effectively engaged students and their families in important projects such as: nutrition education, PE awareness and motivation, musical instruction and growth opportunities, and general academic engagement.

### REFERENCES:

[June 15, 2023 Board Memo](#)

### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Title IV, Part A - 2024-2025 - Cover Page
2. Title IV, Part A - 2024-2025 - Federal Grant

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