

BOARD MEMO

Date: May 4, 2023

For ACTION X

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes X

No

FROM: Theresa A. Werner, M.Ed., J.D, Executive Director of Specialized Instruction

THROUGH: Wendy González, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Interim 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 2022-2023 FOCUS AREA:

Implementation of Student with Disabilities Plan

Continuous Improvement in KPI Disparities

FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Special Instruction Evaluation Implementation as a part of the Strategic Plan

SUMMARY:

Under the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA, 2004), its 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 application for the 2023-2024 school year delineates the required set aside amount 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

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Schools (ACPS) was cited for disproportionately identifying black students as emotionally disturbed. Accordingly, ACPS must set aside fifteen percent of grant funds to provide Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS) 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 March 15, 2023.

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. Existing funded staff positions will provide CCEIS services. A new transition specialist was added to enhance and expand transition services.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the 2023-2024 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 \$3,795,576.00 for Part B, Section 611 Flow-Through Funds, and \$95,907.00.00 for Part B, Section 619 Preschool Funds.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 230504_IDEA_Grant_Annual_Plan

CONTACT:

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