

Date: October 26, 2017

For ACTION X
For INFORMATION X
Board Agenda: Yes X
 No

FROM: Greg Tardieu, Grants Officer

THROUGH: Lois F. Berlin, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools
Kurt Huffman, Director, Schools, Business and Community Partnerships

TO: The Honorable Ramee A. Gentry, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Title IV, Part A Grant Application

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Schools, Business, and Community Partnerships is currently completing a grant application for \$81,865.25 for student support and academic enrichment. This grant is to be awarded to Alexandria City Public Schools as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants [SSAE])—2017-2018 Grant Allocations.

This grant is part of an ongoing process in which the Virginia Department of Education (Office of Program Administration and Accountability) awards to each Virginia school division an allotment to address student populations in such categories as Free and Reduced Price Lunch and Language Minorities. The purpose of the SSAE grants program is to improve students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of states, school divisions, and local communities to:

1. Provide all students with access to a well-rounded education
2. Improve school conditions for student learning
3. Improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students

Along with these categories, the grant requirements state that at least 20% of the funding must be for number 1 and 2 and no more than 15% may be allotted to number 3. We must spend at least \$16,500 in numbers 1 and 2 and no more than \$12,500 in number 3. The grant also requires that 85% of this funding must be earmarked for professional development.

This grant will focus on four West End schools: John Adams, William Ramsay, Patrick Henry, and Polk Elementary. The focus of grant monies will be on professional development to support teachers in developing and implementing STEM lessons related to students' cardiovascular health and nutrition as well as enhanced Executive Function skills involving self-regulation and efficacy (via PBIS and Restorative Practices). The technology focus in this grant proposal includes student monitoring of their heart rates, cardiovascular fitness, muscle development, and nutritional choices.

This grant is being presented to the School Board to fulfill state and federal requirements that the Board approve the grant and that the Superintendent of Schools and Board Chairperson sign the application subsequent to the completion of that approval process.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve submission of the Title IV, Part A grant application as required by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) grants.

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