

**BOARD BRIEF**

Date: June 2, 2023

**BOARD INFORMATION:**   X  

**MEETING PREPARATION:**       

**FROM:** Gregory Tardieu, Ed.D., Manager of Grants and Partnerships  
Pierrette Finney, Ed.D., Executive Director of School Leadership

**THROUGH:** Wendy González, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership  
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

**TOPIC:** National Institute of Health AIM-AHEAD 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 2022-2023 FOCUS AREA:**

- Social Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery
- Hispanic Males
- Middle School Educational Experience
- Early College
- Talented and Gifted
- Strategic Plan Implementation

**FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Expand Access and Improve Quality of Out of School Learning

**SUMMARY:**

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) has been the recipient of a National Institute of Health Grant beginning on September 16, 2022. This grant has a main focus to encourage young girls from underrepresented communities to become more involved in STEM as a career pathway; namely a Health Sciences STEM pathway.

This grant has provided after-school middle school activities in conjunction with George Washington University and the Immersive Lab Center that was recently highlighted in the ACPS Insider.

ACPS has been invited to reapply for this grant for another year of this pilot program and to propose an expansion of this program and to be a leader in providing high technology STEM-H

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opportunities to other school divisions with high numbers of disadvantaged inner city youth and students in rural communities.

We are proposing two mobile units to be built for this purpose and in partnership with both George Washington University and Virginia State University. George Washington has played the role of researcher and monitor of data while ACPS has played the role of Principal Investigator in this effort. We have invited Virginia State University into this partnership because they have been a great partner to ACPS in the past and they are poised as a Historically Black University with connections to rural school divisions around the Richmond area.

We are requesting funding for this expansion grant at about \$1,000,000.00 for one year. ACPS will continue to provide more After School STEM programming while also incorporating more and more high-tech equipment and supplies for our middle school science teachers to use in their regular classes.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The purpose of this grant program is to assist students from disadvantaged backgrounds to enter and successfully complete health professional schools. The STEM Club created this year was proposed to prepare students to be exposed and encouraged to continue in STEM in order to continue to the next level of their education and strongly consider health professions as a viable pathway. The goals of this grant are to:

- Improve recruitment into STEM-H pathways,
- Matriculation,
- Retention, and
- graduation rates

By implementing STEM enrichment programming designed for students from disadvantaged backgrounds ACPS can better provide for their academic and social needs.

ACPS is providing opportunities for community-based experiential health professions training, emphasizing experiences in underserved communities.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the board review the information in this brief.

### **IMPACT:**

This grant has effectively engaged both students and their families in the future of STEM-H. Along with providing great academic enrichment, this prestigious grant has placed ACPS at the forefront of STEM-H leadership in the Commonwealth.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

None

### **CONTACT:**

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