

BOARD MEMO

Date: June 12, 2020

For ACTION X

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes X

No

FROM: Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Tanja Mayer-Harding, Humanities Coordinator
Michael Humphreys, Instructional Specialist for Health/Physical Education and Family Life Education

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Title IV, Part A Federal Grant

ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity

Goal 2: Family and Community Engagement

Goal 5: Health and Wellness

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

Focus Area 5: Strategic Plan

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Specialized Instruction

Gap Group Achievements

Academics

Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments

Mental and Social/Emotional Health

Physical Education/Fitness

Nutrition Programs

SUMMARY

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) has been the recipient of a Three-Year Title IV, Part A grant. We will be starting Year 3 on July 1, 2020.

During our first year (SY 2018-2019), we were awarded \$81,865.25. The focus of the grant was health and nutrition projects to fight childhood obesity on the west side of Alexandria, where kindergarten BMI data revealed a greater incidence of obesity among our young learners. Four elementary schools were targeted with this funding: John Adams Elementary School; William Ramsay Elementary School; James K. Polk Elementary School; and Patrick Henry K-8 School.

During our second year of grant operations (SY 2019-2020), our funding expanded to \$279,476.88. We continued our focus on childhood obesity but also funding projects relating to Social Emotional Learning, Trauma-Informed Care, STEM enrichment, and special education adaptive equipment. With the

BOARD MEMO

additional funding, we brought our total elementary schools of focus to eight, adding four schools to our original four: Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School; Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School; Cora Kelly School for Math, Science, and Technology; and Mount Vernon Community School.

This year (SY 2020-2021), our grant has expanded to \$300,434.60. We are currently in the process of updating our spending plan with division stakeholders. In an effort to wisely and effectively execute this grant, we are involving the following departments: Curriculum and Instruction; Student Services; School Nutrition; Early Childhood Education; Gardening; PBIS; and Specialized Instruction.

BACKGROUND

This grant has many stipulations on how the money can be used. In brief, the two main areas of concern are creating a *Well Rounded Education* (which loosely translates as academic enrichment programs like STEM, health/PE, and the arts) for students, and addressing student *Health and Nutrition*.

Tentatively we are continuing with the following programs/initiatives:

1. Creating/Attending professional development in Social Emotional Learning and Trauma-Informed Care;
2. Increasing student engagement and positive interactions with PBIS projects;
3. Expanding gardening education;
4. Creating two STEM Pilot classrooms with support from Virginia Tech Thinkabit Lab;
5. Providing specialized instruction funding for academic enrichment;
6. Offering *New Families to America* – Nutrition and Cooking classes;
7. Expanding PE/Health enrichment programs; and
8. Developing Early Childhood Education professional development.

RECOMMENDATION

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

IMPACT

This grant has been effective in engaging both students and their families in several important projects such as nutrition education, physical education awareness and motivation, musical instruction and growth opportunities, and general academic engagement. In addition, many ACPS teachers and staff have received training to provide more effective academic and emotional supports needed for students to develop into healthy young adults.

We greatly look forward to continuing this positive impact on the division with the dissemination of this year's funding.

ATTACHMENT

1. 200612_Title IVA_Grant_v1

CONTACTS

1. Michael Humphreys, michael.humphreys@acps.k12.va.us
2. Gregory Tardieu, gregory.tardieu@acps.k12.va.us