

BOARD BRIEF

Date: 11-06-2020

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Dominic B. Turner, Chief Financial Officer

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: CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
- Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
- Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
- Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:

- Focus Area 1: Reopening of School
- Focus Area 2: Policy Equity Audit
- Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation
- Focus Area 4: Renaming of Schools
- Focus Area 5: Academic Disparities

FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY:

- K-2 Literacy Programming
- Specialized Instruction Audit Implementation
- MTSS including Restorative Practices and PBIS
- Chronic Absenteeism among Hispanic Students
- Facilities Audit Implementation
- Outreach to Hispanic Families to Improve Attendance and Graduation
- Outreach to Underserved Communities to Increase Engagement
- Improving Customer Relationship Services and Management

SUMMARY: An additional \$2,817,833 from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) was released to Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) on October 9, 2020. Funding was allocated at \$175/pupil. There is no private school equitable services requirement associated with school division use of CRF, as well no funds supplanting prohibition in spending CRF. These CRF dollars must be spent or obligated by December 30, 2020. Any funds not expended by the deadline must be returned to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

BOARD BRIEF

Qualifying expenses include:

- Testing Supplies
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Facility Cleaning and Sanitization
- Technology to Support Distance Learning
- Staffing
- Capital Facility Upgrades
- Pupil Transportation
- Emphasize Special Student Populations

To ensure ACPS fully utilizes the CRF dollars in a manner that will best benefit the school division, the funds have been added to the overall financial strategy for FY 2021 and beyond. With these funds having an expiration date of December 30, 2020, they will be used to support the technology infrastructure, and learning kit investments to support the Virtual+ environment. This strategy will exhaust the CRF dollars by the deadline, while making available other funding sources to support future reopening plans.

BACKGROUND: On October 9, 2020 Governor Northam approved \$220.8 million in awards from the federal CRF to each school division and other local education agencies. CRF were provided to states under the CARES Act, and a portion is being made available directly to school divisions to help cover costs in preparing for, responding to, and mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These CRF awards are intended for costs incurred related to COVID-19 in reopening and operating public schools during the first months of the 2020-2021 school year, but can be used for qualifying costs back to March 1, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the contents of this memo and attachments.

IMPACT: Utilizing CRF dollars to support technology infrastructure and learning kits ensures all funds will be exhausted by the deadline, and provide students with needed devices and supplemental material to enhance the Virtual+ environment.

ATTACHMENTS:

VDOE Superintendent's Memo # 273-20

VDOE FAQ - CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)

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