

BOARD MEMO

Date: May 19, 2022
For ACTION x
For INFORMATION
Board Agenda: Yes x
No

FROM: Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Gregory Tardieu, Ed.D., Manager of Grants and Partnerships
Gerald Mann Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director of School Improvement
Kurt Huffman, Executive Director of Community Partnerships and Engagement

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

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

TOPIC: Title IV, Part A 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 2021-2022 FOCUS AREA

- Focus Area 1: Social Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery
- Focus Area 3: Middle School Educational Experience

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY

- Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan
- Implement Monitoring System for Specialized Instruction Action Plan
- Stress/Counseling Support especially around Trauma

SUMMARY

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) has been the recipient of a *Title IV, Part A* grant for the past five years. We will be starting year six on July 1, 2022.

In our first year (2017–2018), we were awarded \$81,865.25. The grant's focus was health and nutrition projects to fight childhood obesity on the west side of Alexandria, where Kindergarten body mass index (BMI) data revealed a greater incidence of obesity among our young learners. With this funding, four elementary schools were targeted: John Adams, William Ramsay, James K. Polk, and Patrick Henry K–8 School.

During our second year of grant operations, our funding expanded to \$279,476.88. We continued our focus on childhood obesity and funded projects relating to Social Emotional Learning; Trauma-Informed Care; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) enrichment; and Special Education (SPED) adaptive equipment. We brought our total elementary schools of focus to eight with the additional funding, adding the following four schools: Samuel W. Tucker, Ferdinand T. Day, Cora Kelly, and Mount Vernon Community School.

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Our grant funding currently is up to \$351,567.01, resulting in our Title IV team expanding our emphasis into STEM improvement in both elementary and middle schools. In addition, due to increased funding from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, the Title IV Student Academic and Health Enrichment funding reduced emphasis on the COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) and other related requests and is prioritizing more funding to academics and health.

We are currently updating our spending plan with division stakeholders. Multiple departments will work to wisely and effectively execute this grant. Collaborative departments include: Teaching, Learning and Leadership; Facilities and Operations; and Communications and Community Relations.

BACKGROUND

This grant has multiple stipulations on how the money can be utilized. In brief, there are two main areas of concern:

1. *Well-Rounded Education*, including academic enrichment programs like STEM, SPED enrichment, and the arts
2. *Health and Safety*, including physical education (PE)/health and school nutrition with family cooking classes

Tentatively, we are continuing with the following programs/initiatives:

- Supporting elementary STEM labs and STEM classroom supplies
- Expanding support for STEM pilot programming into the middle schools
- Supporting 5th grade teachers with professional learning for new science standards
- Providing specialized instruction funding for virtual academic enrichment
- Expanding the arts with after-school and summer elementary and middle school music choir and drama programs
- Offering *New Families to America*—nutrition and cooking classes
- Expanding PE/health enrichment programs into our classrooms

RECOMMENDATION

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

IMPACT

This grant has effectively engaged both students and their families in several important projects such as nutrition education, PE 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 supports needed for students to develop into healthy young adults. We look forward to continuing this innovative and creative programming affording our students opportunities such as swim lessons and music lessons as well as participation in after-school enrichment clubs, including choir and drama.

ATTACHMENT

Title IV, Part A - 2022-2023 - Cover Page

Title IV, Part A - 2022-2023 - Federal Grant

CONTACT

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