

BOARD MEMO

Date: June 15, 2023

For ACTION X

For INFORMATION _____

Board Agenda: Yes X

No _____

FROM: Gregory Tardieu, Ed.D., Manager of Grants and Partnerships
Carmen Sanders, M.S., Executive Director of Instructional Support

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: 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 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 *Title IV, Part A* grant for the past six years, with year seven beginning on July 1, 2023. In the first year (2017–2018), ACPS was awarded \$81,865.25. The grant focused on health and nutrition projects on fighting 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. This funding targeted four elementary schools: John Adams, William Ramsay, James K. Polk, and Patrick Henry K–8 School.

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During the second year of grant operations, the funding expanded to \$279,476.88. ACPS continued to 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. This 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.

This year, our grant funding is currently up to \$349,974.86, resulting in our Title IV team expanding our emphasis on STEM improvement in 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 wisely and effectively to execute this grant. Collaborative departments include: Teaching, Learning, and Leadership; Facilities and Operations; and School and Community Relations.

Details:

The Title IV, Part A grant focuses on two main required areas: Well-Rounded Academics and Student Health & Safety. For the past six years, ACPS has provided many supplemental programs to align with this awarded grant. The Specialists in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership have been the main facilitators in ensuring this funding is used in the schools identified as having the highest need. ACPS has provided many supplemental materials for all subjects, including after-school programming in science, math, choir, drama, and music.

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 to prepare students for independent living
- 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

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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.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 230615_TitleIV_PartA_22-23_Cover_Page
2. 230615_TitleIV_PartA_22-23_Federal_Grant

REFERENCES:

May 19, 2022, Board Meeting- Title IV, Part A Federal Grant

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