

**BOARD BRIEF**

Date: May 19, 2023

**BOARD INFORMATION:**   X  

**MEETING PREPARATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** Dr. Gregory Tardieu, Grants Manager  
Kurt Huffman, Executive Director of Community Partnerships and Engagement

**THROUGH:** Julia Burgos, Chief of School and Community Relations

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

**TOPIC:** 2022-2023 Update- Grant Awards and Management

**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 2022-2023 FOCUS AREA:**

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

**FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

- K-4 Literacy
- Address Chronic Absenteeism & High School Graduation Rate Among Hispanic Male Students
- Social and Emotional Supports for Students
- Expand Access and Improve Quality of Out of School Learning
- Building Upgrades
- Safety and Security Upgrades
- Technology Upgrades
- ADA Projects
- Transportation
- Playgrounds
- Modernizations
- Capacity Projects
- Planning for Future Projects
- Communications Support

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### SUMMARY:

Supplemental funding is a critical element of school finances. The mission of the Grants team is to coordinate and facilitate teacher and department efforts in acquiring grant funding for unmet student and staff needs. To respond to those challenges and in alignment with the work of the Office of Community Partnerships and Engagement, the ACPS 2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All and the 2021-25 Strategic Communications and Engagement Plan, the grants office has continued to:

- Strategically collaborate with ACPS departments by identifying and applying for grant opportunities with aligned department leadership
- Meet with community partners to provide grant application expertise and serve as liaison for grant identification opportunities using eCivis' online software through monthly email outreach
- Facilitate, as needed, data and fiscal discussions with aligned department and building leads to ensure that a high level of grant requirements are being met.

We are also proud to announce the following increase in grant awards through the past four school years:

Year	# of Grants Managed	Total Amount Received	Amount Total % Increase/Decrease from Previous Year
2018-2019	40	\$1,591,730.59	31% increase
2019-2020	43	\$3,444,094.0	116% increase
2020-2021	53	\$59,385,479.62	1,624% increase
2021-2022	43	\$73,153,868.58	23% increase
2022-2023	48	\$68,159,321.08	Currently on track for similar as previous year. See note below.*

\*As of the date of this memo, this school year we have currently been awarded 34 (48 total managed from previous years and current) grants with a total of \$68,169,321.08. Of that total, approximately \$58,000,000 has been awarded through ESSER relief funding and approximately \$15,000,000 through various other grants (both pending and confirmed).

### BACKGROUND:

The ACPS Grants team provides the following support services to our schools, departments and community partners in alignment with the Office of Community Partnerships and Engagement as part of the School and Community Relations Department:

1. Identify a wide range of potential funding sources.

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2. Ensure that the district competes effectively for federal, state, local and private funds.
3. Assist and encourage staff/teachers regarding grant seeking, writing and submitting of proposals.
4. Manage and maintain existing grants.
5. Cultivate a relationship with funders by meeting requirements and grant management processes.
6. Ensure that all progress and annual reports are submitted on time.
7. Build partnerships with Alexandria City government and nonprofit organizations to co-apply for grants.
8. Guide grant opportunities to programs that are most in need of funding and best fit the funders' priorities.
9. Support, through writing, application review and submission requirements, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Center (LINK Club) grants. This complex support is for four continuous grants and a renewable new grant for Brent Place LINK Club.

These support services have been essential, especially during the large increase of COVID-19 relief grants that we have received through the pandemic in regards to CARES, GEER, ESSERII and ESSERIII creation, submission and management. The Manager of Grants and Partnerships, Grants Coordinator and Recovery and Relief Grants Project Assistant positions, all work collaboratively to support the management, collaboration and reporting requirements of our grants. This team and ACPS has been recognized by VDOE several times for their collaborative efforts and quality of reporting that is required by the various grants. It is important to note that the Grants Coordinator and the Recovery and Relief Grants Project Assistant positions are currently funded by ESSER until approximately June of 2024. To continue the level of impact that we are currently experiencing with the number of grants and total funding, there will be a predicted request to maintain those positions in a similar structure moving forward into the 2024-2025 school year.

Combined with the internal support described above, the Grants team continues to communicate various aligned grant opportunities to multiple ACPS partners through the *eCivis* grant web platform. Recently, ACPS expanded the subscription with *eCivis* grants management software to include post grant management functionality. ACPS has partnered with *eCivis* for six years as a pre-Grants Management platform, i.e. research. The support platform, *eCivis* provides a weekly list of every grant opportunity that becomes available in the United States. With this list, we have been more nimble at putting a team together to decide if a particular opportunity is viable. Prior to *eCivis* we typically discovered viable grants with only a week or two left before the deadline. We are currently able to maximize our time to make more thoughtful decisions on whether or not we can apply for a grant.

With the post grant management functionality, we will be able to track all financial expenditures in real time as well as properly document all invoices, communication between principal players and measurable data that are all required by funders after the grant is completed. This will enable us to systematize all grants for the entire division so that even with

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potential staff turnover, we will now have a program that anyone can be trained on and find all the necessary information in one place.

Lastly, our Grants team also manages the Donors Choose supplemental funding support for our staff members. This partnership has resulted in four consecutive years of increased amounts received:

### DONORS CHOOSE

Year	# of Teacher Projects	Total Amount Received
2018-2019	190	\$91,135.51
2019-2020	175	\$112,205.26
2020-2021	200	\$115,827.55
2021-2022	279	\$138,110.91
2022-2023	250	\$131,933.85

\*As of the date of this memo, this school year we have currently posted 250 teacher projects with a total of \$131,933.85 received. We are on track to break all records again this year.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information in this memo to understand how this team has grown and the efforts that are underway to expand the grant solicitation and management program.

### IMPACT:

Supplemental funding is a critical element of school finances, especially through challenging times, such as the current pandemic. To meet the needs of our students, staff and partners, the Grants team continues to coordinate and facilitate teacher and department efforts in acquiring grant funding through various support efforts.

### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Grant Award Data Snapshot 2022-2023
2. Grants Data 2022-2023

### CONTACT:

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