

BOARD BRIEF

May 10, 2024

BOARD INFORMATION: X
MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Dr. Greg Tardieu, Grants Manager of Grants

THROUGH: Taneika Taylor Tukan, Executive Director of Community Partnerships and Engagement
Julia Burgos, Chief of School and Community Relations
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Michelle Rief, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: ACPS 2023-24 Grants Update

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 2023-2024 PRIORITY AREA:

- Academic Achievement
- Tier 1 Instruction: Alignment, Rigor, Engagement
- Student Supports
- CASEL Social Emotional Learning Competencies
- Student Connection and Attendance
- Staff Supports
- Continue Culture Building
- Recruitment and Retention
- Policies Equity Audit

FY 2024 BUDGET PRIORITY:

- Full Implementation of Students with Disabilities Action Plan
- Target Chronic Absenteeism
- Increase Support for Social and Emotional Learning
- Safe Routes to School Coordination
- Building Upgrades
- HVAC
- Safety and Security Upgrades
- Technology Upgrades
- Transportation
- Modernization
- Planning for Future Projects

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SUMMARY:

Grant funding plays a crucial role in a schools’ ability to expand resources, innovate learning models and supports and address emerging needs of both students and staff. Over the past five years, more than \$251,786,776 in grant funding was awarded to Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). The Office of Community Partnerships and Engagement’s grants team supports this success by:

- Strategically collaborating with ACPS departments by identifying and applying for grant opportunities with aligned department leadership.
- Partnering with the Alexandria City Government and nonprofit organizations to co-apply for grants.
- Facilitating, as needed, data and fiscal discussions with aligned department and building leads to ensure a high level of grant requirements are being met.

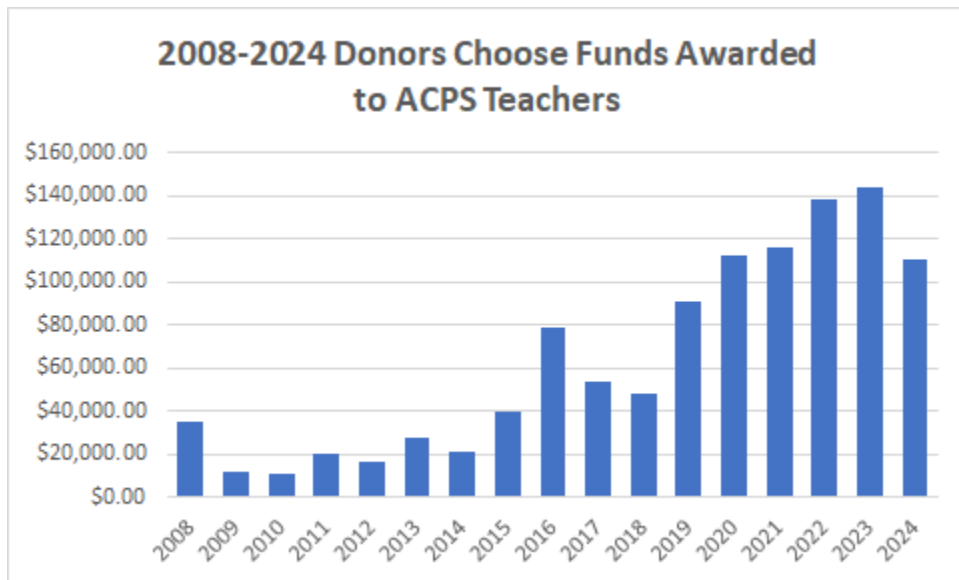
DETAILS:

The following number of winning grants that have been secured over the past five school years:

Year	# of Grants Received	Total Amount Received	Total % Change from Previous Year
2019-2020	43	\$3,444,094.01	116% increase over 2019
2020-2021	53	\$59,385,749.62	1,624% increase over 2020
2021-2022	43	\$73,153,868.58	23% increase over 2021
2022-2023	43	\$68,365,801.33	-7% decrease over 2022
2023-2024	35	\$47,437,264.11*	-31% decrease over 2023

**Year to date.*

The grants team also manages ACPS’ instance of the Donors Choose crowdfunding platform, which connects teachers and staff to donors who fund classroom project requests. ACPS has enjoyed five consecutive years of increased support through the platform. As of the date of this memo, 227 ACPS teacher projects, valued at \$114,821.71, have been fully funded this school year. 37 teacher projects are awaiting funding.



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BACKGROUND:

As part of the Office of Community Partnerships and Engagement in the Department of School and Community Relations, the ACPS grants team offers the following comprehensive services to schools, departments and community partners:

- Identify a wide range of potential funding sources.
- Ensure the division's effective competition for federal, state, local and private funds.
- Encourage and assist staff with grant seeking, writing and submitting grant proposals.
- Manage and maintain existing grants.
- Ensure compliance with grant requirements.
- Strengthen relationships with funders through timely submission of reports.
- Guide grant opportunities to programs that are most in need of funding and best fit the funders' priorities.

These support services are essential, especially given the number of grants awarded to the division and the large increase of funding over the past five years through the CARES, GEER, ESSER II, and ESSER III grants.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information in this memo.

IMPACT:

Supplemental funding is a critical element of school finances and supports a range of activities across the division from out-of-school time programming and the expansion of adult education to the acquisition of electric buses and school security preventive measures.

REFERENCES:

[230519 Board Brief 2022-2023 Grant Awards and Management v4.pdf](#)

[220121 Board Brief Update Grants Awards and Management v2.pdf](#)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2023-24 ACPS Grants Data
2. 2023-24 Donors Choose Funded ACPS Projects

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