

BOARD MEMO

Date: August 3, 2021
For ACTION _____
For INFORMATION X
Board Agenda: Yes X
No _____

FROM: Dominic B. Turner, Chief Financial Officer

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Stephen M. Wilkins, Ed.D., Chief of Staff
Dr. Alicia Hart, Executive Director of Facilities and Operations
Dr. Terri Mazingo, Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Dr. Anthony Sims, Executive Director of School Improvement
Dr. Elizabeth Hoover, Chief of Technology
Dr. Julie Crawford, Chief of Student Services and Equity
Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Executive Director of Human Resources
Julia Burgos, Chief of School and Community Relations
Clinton Page, Chief of Accountability and Research

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

TOPIC: ARP ESSER III Public Hearing

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Reopening of School
Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation
Focus Area 5: Academic Disparities

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

- Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan - Alignment of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and metrics across all schools, and continued implementation and review of those aligned metrics
- Implementation of Equity audit of school board policies
- K-2 Literacy continued implementation (adjusted for Covid learning loss)
- Reduce disproportionality in TAG and advanced courses
- Complete educational programming design for HS project and begin building the program (academic and career counseling adjustments, CTE expansion, Industry Advisory Board collaboration, etc.) and community partners to provide more internships
- Implement monitoring system for Specialized Instruction Action Plan

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- Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) implementation with restorative practices and PBIS
- Stress/counseling support especially around trauma - extra support for students to compensate for COVID loss, especially K-2, EL and SWD
- Continue engagement with Hispanic families to improve graduation and chronic absenteeism

SUMMARY:

As we continue our journey to recover from the pandemic, while keeping our students' and staffs' safety in the forefront, ACPS is approaching the 2021-22 School Year with the mission to "Recover, Retain and Reignite" our community. It is through this lens that we developed our American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund Plan for Public Comment. In addition to seeking feedback on our plan, we are hoping that our Public Hearing will provide a venue to gather new ideas and uncover additional unaddressed needs so that we can best tailor our plan to our Alexandria community.

ACPS has received several federally funded programs that have been authorized to support public and non-public schools during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. The overarching purpose of these programs is to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools in Virginia. ACPS Federal COVID-19 Relief Funding has, so far, been estimated at approximately \$56.7 million. The ARP ESSER III Fund allocations for ACPS is \$34.8 million. The allocation is based on ACPS' relative share of Title I, Part A, Federal Fiscal Year 2020 funds.

Our ARP ESSER III funds will be used to drive the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan **ACPS 2025: Equity for All** and the plans outlined in our **Continuity of Learning Plan 6.0 Fall 2021 Reopening Playbook**. We will ensure that students are engaged in classroom instruction, utilize educational resources needed to enhance their learning, and participate while in safe, friendly, and welcoming learning environments. We are committing funds to division-wide priorities and programs that will eliminate opportunity and achievement gaps as well as ensure that all students graduate ready for college, military service, careers and life.

Our ARP ESSER III plan is based on the outputs of our four Focus Area teams, who are working collaboratively to identify specific initiatives that complement and extend successful strategies in place throughout ACPS schools and our community. These teams include: Social, Emotional Support and Equity, Academic Learning; Technology Infrastructure; COVID-19 Mitigation Projects; and our Human Capital Needs. These teams have been meeting, prioritizing, planning, and preparing to release our plan on July 29, 2021 and to solicit public comment at our upcoming Public Hearing on August 3, 2021. It is our intent to submit the ACPS application on August 25, 2021, prior to the September 1, 2021 deadline.

BACKGROUND:

The American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law on March 11, 2021. Virginia's ARPA Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III award was \$2.1 billion, with 90

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percent of this award to be distributed to local educational agencies (LEAs) based on each LEA's relative share of Title I, Part A, FFY 2020 funds.

ACPS will receive approximately \$34.8M in funding through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III grant program. The purpose of the ARP ESSER III Fund is to help reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools, as well as to address the impacts of COVID-19 on students' social, emotional, academic and mental health needs.

ACPS is required to develop and make publicly available a Plan for the Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services and the ARP ESSER III Plan (refer to ACPS' Continuity of Learning Plan 6.0). In developing the ARP ESSER III Plan, the Division must conduct consultation with stakeholders, seeking and considering public input. The Division must ensure the ARP ESSER III Plan is clear, in a uniform format, and available to all, which may require written or oral translations for non-English speakers or providing the document in an accessible format for individuals with disabilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the ESSER III Proposal Board Presentation and elicit public engagement during the Public Hearing.

IMPACT:

Utilization of these funds will help ACPS "Recover, Retain, and Reignite".

ATTACHMENTS:

Att_1_210803_Att_1_Presentation_ESSER III Proposal_080321
Att_2_210803_Att_2_ESSER_III_ACPS_Plan_for_public_comment
Att_3_210803_Att_3_Continuity_of_Learning_Plan6.0

REFERENCES:

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