

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

November 9, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Recommended Fiscal Year 2022 Supplemental Appropriation for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund III

Recommendation in Brief

Authorization is requested to receive and expend, subject to County Council approval, a Fiscal Year 2022 supplemental appropriation of \$252,242,245 for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund. The ESSER III Fund was included in the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* (ARP) that was signed into law on March 11, 2021. Under ESSER III, the U.S. Department of Education awarded grants to address the impact that the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation. ESSER III has the same allowable uses as the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* (CARES) and the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act* (CRRSA), and adds activities to address learning loss; preparing schools for reopening; and testing, repairing, and upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings. ESSER III funds do not have an equitable services requirement.

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and its ability to provide teaching and learning to its students. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in compliance with Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., and former Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Karen B. Salmon's direction, MCPS closed its school buildings beginning March 16, 2020. MCPS began to reopen school buildings to a limited number of students on March 1, 2021. MCPS instituted a Continuity of Learning plan that relied on distance learning for the remainder of the 2019–2020 school year, summer school, and the start of the 2020–2021 school year. For the 2021–2022 school year, MCPS has committed to provide in-person instruction, five days a week, for all students.

Local educational agencies (LEA) must reserve not less than 20% of their total allocation to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions; ensure that the interventions respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs; and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups. The remaining ARP ESSER funds may be used for the same allowable purposes as the CARES and CRRSA ESSER funds, including hiring new staff and avoiding layoffs. Section 2001(e) of the ARP authorizes an LEA to use ARP ESSER funds to develop strategies and implement public health protocols. This includes, to the greatest extent practicable, policies aligned with the guidance from the Centers for Disease and Prevention Control for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff. An LEA may use ESSER and ESSER II funds for this purpose, although it is not expressly listed in the CARES or CRRSA Act.

Support of Board of Education Mission

MCPS will use ESSER III funds to provide all students in all grade levels access to summer school programs including transportation; academic and enrichment tutoring programs; and districtwide leadership and enrichment programs for secondary low-income students, racial and ethnic minority students, and young women. These funds also support the staffing of the Virtual Academy, and will provide additional counselors and social workers for mental health support. In addition, these funds will be used to purchase supplemental instructional materials and technology support and resources; provide stipends for the retention and recruitment of staff, as well as professional learning; and upgrade heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.

Use of Funds

Funds will be used to provide for:

- Position salaries;
- Non-position salaries;
- Stipends;
- Associated employee benefits;
- Contractual services;
- Special education compensatory services;
- Instructional materials and technology support and resources.

Recommended Resolution

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools has received conditional approval from the Maryland State Department of Education for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund III established in the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021* for \$252,242,245; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the interim superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend, subject to County Council approval, a Fiscal Year 2022 supplemental appropriation of \$252,242,245 for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III fund in the following categories and Full-time Equivalent positions:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Positions*</u>	<u>Amount</u>
02 Mid-Level Administration	16.0	\$ 5,463,002
03 Instructional Salaries	171.0	107,511,896
04 Textbooks and Instructional Supplies		29,432,108
05 Contractual Services		19,888,000
06 Special Education	33.0	16,653,983
07 Student Personnel Services	50.0	8,087,642
09 Student Transportation	1.0	3,590,854
10 Plant Operations		5,000,000
11 Plant Maintenance		12,600,000
12 Fixed Charges		29,225,815
13 Food Services		14,788,945
<u>Total</u>	<u>271.0</u>	<u>\$ 252,242,245</u>

Positions*

<u>Position*</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Coordinator - Summer School	1.0
Coordinator – Unaccompanied Minors	1.0
Assistant School Administrators	6.0
Teacher	99.0
Resource Teacher	1.0
Paraeducator	14.0
Counselors	40.0
Social Worker	50.0
Wellness Coordinator	4.0
Wellness Coach	8.0
Director	2.0
Supervisor	2.0
Administrative Secretary	2.0
Attendance Secretary	2.0
Registrar	1.0
Coordinator	4.0
IT Systems Specialist	1.0
Resource Teacher – Special Education	1.0
Teacher – Special Education	14.0
Paraeducator – Special Education	18.0
<u>Total</u>	<u>271.0</u>

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the county executive and County Council;
and be it further

Resolved, That the county executive be requested to recommend approval of this resolution
to the County Council.

MBM:ESD:RR:iaw:amh