



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Nicole Rodriguez-Hernandez, Legislative Analyst
Purpose: To receive testimony/final action - vote expected
Keywords: #MCPS

AGENDA ITEM #7
June 15, 2021
Public Hearing/Action

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Public Schools, \$995,984 for Governor's Emergency Education Relief II (GEER II) Fund Grant (Source of Funds: Federal Grant)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The County Council will receive testimony and consider action on a special appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Public Schools, \$995,984 for the GEER II Grant. The source of funds is a Federal grant.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Board of Education requested this appropriation on May 13. The Council introduced this appropriation on May 18.
- This special appropriation is needed because MCPS received funding from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) of 2021.
- MCPS plans to use these grant funds for the F.A.S.T Track to Recovery Program (First-year Administrators, Supporting Services, and Teachers). This program will support a cohort of staff during the next two school years to attain professional development aimed at mitigating learning loss and accelerating the recovery of students in the post-COVID-19 pandemic era.

This report contains:

Board of Education Document (May 11, 2021)
Draft Special Appropriation Resolution

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

May 11, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Recommended Fiscal Year 2021 Supplemental Appropriation for Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act Governor's Emergency Education Relief II Fund – Innovative Approaches to Connecting with Students Grant

Recommendation in Brief

Authorization is requested to receive and expend, subject to County Council approval, a Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 supplemental appropriation of \$995,984 for the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act* (CRRSA) Governor's Emergency Education Relief II (GEER II) Fund – Innovative Approaches to Connecting with Students Grant. Under this GEER II Fund grant, the U.S. Department of Education awards grants to governors for the purpose of providing local education agencies with emergency assistance as a result of the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Background

The purpose of this grant is to transform the support and professional development provided to first-year employees in the district's most highly impacted elementary schools through the First-year Administrators, Supporting Services, and Teachers (F.A.S.T.) Track to Recovery Program. The F.A.S.T. Track to Recovery Program takes an innovative and unique approach to address academic learning loss due to school closures from the COVID-19 pandemic by investing in onboarding and induction of new employees within Montgomery County Public Schools.

Support of Board of Education Mission

The CRRSA GEER II Fund – Innovative Approaches to Connecting with Students grant supports the district's strategic priorities of Focus on Learning, Accountability, and Results, and aligns with the strategic objective to meet the professional growth and development needs of employees in high impact schools. The F.A.S.T. Track to Recovery Program will support the professional development of staff in a cohort of schools during the next two school years, aimed at mitigating learning loss and accelerating the recovery of our students in the post-COVID-19 pandemic era. During

the 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 school years, the F.A.S.T. Track to Recovery Program will mitigate student learning loss by elevating the quality of the student experience and instruction by increasing the skill set of first-year, school-based professionals through a new professional development approach focused on the following:

- Transforming the culture of school communities so that students are able to develop positive social identities through the dismantling of discriminatory practices, structures, and policies by increasing the effective use of antiracist practices by school-based professionals;
- Preparing school-based professionals with strategies to address the social emotional learning needs of all students with a specific focus on incorporating trauma-informed practices to support students as they navigate the post-COVID-19 pandemic society and reentry into schools;
- Equipping school-based professionals with effective and equitable strategies to increase student engagement and access to opportunities by supporting the movement of school-based professionals through the “Conscious Competence Ladder”;
- Developing a cohort professional learning community and structure where school-based professionals will have opportunities to collaboratively engage in cross-collaborative peer-to-peer discourse within their own school communities to assist in identifying and solving problems of practice;
- Growing the capacity of school-based professionals through the offering of multi-tiered and differentiated professional learning opportunities based on job responsibilities; and
- Cultivating a reflective practitioner mindset by using an inquiry and action research-based approach.

The grant activities will promote racial equity and social justice by providing additional opportunities for professional growth and development to employees serving in high-impact schools with diverse populations.

Use of Funds

Funds will be used to provide for:

- Instructional salaries;
- Supporting services salaries;
- Associated employee benefits;
- Contractual services; and
- Supplies and materials.

Recommended Resolution

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools has received notification from the Maryland State Department of Education that it will receive \$995,984 for the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act* Governor’s Emergency Education Relief II Fund – Innovative Approaches to Connecting with Students Grant; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend, subject to County Council approval, a Fiscal Year 2021 supplemental appropriation of \$995,984 for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief II – Innovative Approaches to Connecting with Students Grant in the following categories:

Category	Positions*	Amount
03 Instructional Salaries	1.5	\$691,886
04 Textbooks and Instructional Supplies		\$118,000
05 Other Instructional Costs		\$45,000
12 Fixed Charges		\$141,098
<u>Total</u>		\$995,984

*Positions:

1.0 Instructional Specialist

0.5 Administrative Secretary

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.

JRS:MBM:DKM:HAN:pbr

Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: May 18, 2021
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Public Schools
Governor's Emergency Education Relief II Fund Grant, \$995,984
Source of Funds: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations
Act

Background

1. Section 308 of the County Charter provides that a special appropriation is an appropriation which states that it is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency, or to act without delay in the public interest. Each special appropriation shall be approved by not less than six Councilmembers. The Council may approve a special appropriation at any time after public notice by news release. Each special appropriation shall specify the source of funds to finance it.
2. The Board of Education has requested a special appropriation of \$995,984 for the Montgomery County Public Schools' FY21 Operating Budget for a GEER II Grant from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) of 2021:

<u>Personnel</u> <u>Services</u>	<u>Operating</u> <u>Expenses</u>	<u>Capital</u> <u>Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source</u> <u>of Funds</u>
\$832,984	\$163,000	\$0	\$995,984	Grant

3. This appropriation is needed to provide spending authority for the use of grant funds received from the CRRSA of 2021. As a grant award, there is no effect on the County's current or future maintenance of effort requirements.
4. Notice of public hearing was given and the public hearing was held.
5. The County Council declares this request is in the public interest to be acted upon without delay as provided for under special appropriation requirements described in Article 3, Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

A special appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Public Schools is approved as follows:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$832,984	\$163,000	\$0	\$995,984	Grant

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council