



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Essie McGuire, Senior Legislative Analyst
Purpose: Receive briefing and have discussion – no vote expected
Keywords: Coronavirus, COVID-19

AGENDA ITEM #8
November 2, 2021
Discussion

SUBJECT

Update – MCPS COVID-19 Health Planning and Efforts to Address Pandemic Related Learning Loss

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

James D’Andrea, Chief of Staff, Office of the Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
Niki Hazel, Associate Superintendent, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs, MCPS
Kecia Addison, Director, Office of Shared Accountability, MCPS
Heather Dublinske, Coordinator, Student Welfare and Compliance, MCPS
Stephanie Iszard, Coordinator, Student Health and Wellness, MCPS
Dr. James Bridgers, Acting Chief Health Officer and Chief of Public Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- The Council will receive an overview presentation and have discussion with agency representatives.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The Council will receive overview information and updates from Montgomery County Public Schools in two areas related to the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. MCPS will provide an update on the 5 point COVID response plan presented on September 14, 2021, as well as update key COVID related case data.
2. MCPS will discuss learning loss experienced by students as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and provide an overview of the recently released Evidence of Learning data.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

MCPS COVID Response Plan

In a briefing to the Council on September 14, 2021, MCPS outlined five elements of a COVID response plan:

1. Appoint a chief health officer for MCPS;
2. Establish a COVID-19 Operations Advisory Committee;
3. Create a COVID-19 dashboard;
4. Launch an outreach campaign to increase the number of students who have opted in to COVID-19 screening tests in schools; and
5. Provide additional support to help with schools’ COVID-19 response efforts.

School System Medical Officer: MCPS created a position for a School System Medical Officer to “lead the school system in matters related to the health of students, staff and families within Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).” The position was advertised, and closed as of October 8, 2021.

MCPS has created a central web page with COVID-19 information:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coronavirus/index.aspx>

This page includes links to general information such as community messages and case reports; health and safety information such as testing and quarantine protocols; and operational information such as meals and transportation.

A new COVID-19 dashboard can be accessed from this page which shows the number of active cases and active quarantine across the system and at the school level:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coronavirus/dashboard/>

The Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education and Culture (E&C) Committees have scheduled a joint Committee meeting on November 4, 2021, to discuss several issues in more detail: the plans for the School System Medical Officer position and its coordination with DHHS; the COVID-19 Operations Advisory Committee; and concerns related to the impact of COVID-19 response services on school health services staff and workload.

COVID Related Learning Loss

On September 21, 2021, the Board of Education received a briefing on the 2020–2021 Evidence of Learning (EOL) end-of-year performance data for literacy and math for students in Grades 2, 5, 8, and 11. These 2020-2021 data represent the first full year view of academic performance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The written and presentation materials for the Board of Education briefing on September 21, 2021, can be found at the links below:

[https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/C74J22499CF6/\\$file/Evidence%20of%20Learning%20210921%20PPT.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/C74J22499CF6/$file/Evidence%20of%20Learning%20210921%20PPT.pdf)

[https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/C72KVH53B5A4/\\$file/Evidence%20of%20Learning%20210921.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/C72KVH53B5A4/$file/Evidence%20of%20Learning%20210921.pdf)

The presentation highlighted the following key points from the EOL data:

- Data reveal decreases for both literacy and math in comparison to pre-pandemic performance;
- The greatest impact is seen for the youngest learners, with the largest decreases observed in literacy scores for some student demographic groups in Grade 2;
- Slightly lower percentage point decreases are observed in mathematics; and
- The Grade 11 data shows some more positive aspects, with slight score increases seen in some student demographic groups.

The Board of Education materials also outline that MCPS has developed an instructional response plan that includes six components: School Improvement Planning; Literacy and Mathematics Instructional Foci; Assessment OF and FOR Learning; Acceleration of Learning; Tutoring/Intervention; and Professional Learning.

MCPS highlights that Federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds will be used to support widespread and intensive tutoring opportunities for students in the current school year as one strategy to mitigate learning disruptions and address learning recovery needs.

MCPS will review the relevant data regarding the COVID learning loss; outline the strategies and interventions being implemented to address this learning loss; and review the timeline and process for continuing to monitor and report on student progress.

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