



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 #14.5
September 20, 2022
Public Hearing/Action

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the FY23 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Public Schools, \$8,631,072 for the Maryland Leads Grant Program (Source of Funds: State funds)

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 FY23 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Public Schools, \$8,631,072 for the Maryland Leads Grant Program. The source of funds is State funds.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Board of Education requested this appropriation on August 26, 2022. The Council introduced this item on September 13, 2022.
- This special appropriation is needed because MCPS applied and received funding in six of the seven high-leverage strategies in this new State grant initiative aimed at supporting local school systems in overcoming learning loss, closing achievement gaps, and supporting underserved students and their communities. MCPS will utilize the funds to support staff and activities in the six identified strategic areas: Grow Your Own Staff; Staff Support and Retention; The Science of Reading; Reimagining the Use of Time; Innovative School Models; and Transforming Neighborhoods through Excellent Community Schools.
- MCPS will utilize these funds for additional staff, instructional materials, and summer programs for students. In addition, it will support family and community engagement. Approximately 32.8 FTE positions will be funded: classroom teachers, instructional specialist, and wellness coaches.

This report contains:

Draft Resolution, BOE Transmittal
Racial Equity Statement

©1

Alternative format requests for people with disabilities. If you need assistance accessing this report you may [submit alternative format requests](#) to the ADA Compliance Manager. The ADA Compliance Manager can also be reached at 240-777-6197 (TTY 240-777-6196) or at adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov

Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: September 13, 2022
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the FY23 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Public Schools
Maryland Leads Grant, \$8,631,072
Source of Funds: Maryland State Department of Education

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 \$8,631,072 for the Montgomery County Public Schools' FY23 Operating Budget for a Maryland Leads Grant from the Maryland State Department of Education:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$3,327,915	\$5,303,157		\$8,631,072	State Funds

3. This appropriation is needed to provide spending authority for the use of grant funds received from the Maryland State Department of Education. 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 FY23 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>
\$3,327,915	\$5,303,157		\$8,631,072	State Funds

This is a correct copy of Council action.


Judy Rupp
Clerk of the Council

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

August 26, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Marc Elrich, County Executive
The Honorable Gabe Alborno, President,
Montgomery County Council

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Transmittal of Board of Education Agenda Item #6.12

Recommended Fiscal Year 2023 Supplemental Appropriation for the Maryland Leads Grant Program.

BOE Meeting Date:	August 23, 2022
Amount:	\$8,631,072
Type of Action:	Approval

MBM:MBH:RR:jp

Attachment


Copy to:
Mr. Hull
Mr. Reilly
Montgomery County Office of Management and Budget

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

August 23, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Recommended Fiscal Year 2023 Supplemental Appropriation for the Maryland Leads Grant Program

Recommendation in Brief

Authorization is requested to receive and expend, subject to County Council approval, a Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 supplemental appropriation of \$8,631,072 for the Maryland Leads Grant Program. The Maryland Leads Grant Program is funded through the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) portion of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III Fund, which was included in the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* signed into law on March 1, 2021.

Background

Maryland Leads is a grant initiative designed to support local education agencies (LEA) in utilizing federal funds to overcome the learning loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, accelerate student learning to narrow opportunity and achievement gaps, and provide more targeted support for historically underserved students and their communities. This grant supports LEAs in addressing short- and long-term challenges related to the current labor shortage and attends to the longstanding need to establish and strengthen teacher pipelines and development. There are seven high-leverage strategies included in the Maryland Leads Grant Program. LEAs were eligible to apply for funding to support a minimum of two and a maximum of seven strategies. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) elected to apply for funding in six of the seven areas: Grow Your Own Staff, Staff Support and Retention, The Science of Reading, Reimagining the Use of Time, Innovative School Models, and Transforming Neighborhoods through Excellent Community Schools. MCPS did not apply for funding in support of tutoring as there already is a robust tutoring program in place.

MCPS engaged in a comprehensive planning process to develop the application that included meetings with leadership and specialists as well as gathering stakeholder feedback. The total award includes funding for contractual work to be provided by MSDE-approved partners that will

support the implementation of the local work through a series of three-party Memorandums of Understanding executed by MCPS, MSDE, and the partner. All strategy areas, except for Staff Support and Retention, require the use of at least one MSDE-approved partner.

Support of Board of Education Mission

MCPS will use the Maryland Leads Grant Program funds to support activities in the six identified strategic areas. The Grow Your Own strategic area funding will be used to create programs for high school students to pursue careers in education, enable teaching assistants to become teachers, and build programs to support individuals in changing careers and entering the education field. The Staff Support and Retention strategic area will focus on redesigning professional development models to increase job-embedded coaching and implementation, and develop a co-teaching program. The Science of Reading strategic area will use the funding to support early readers and mitigate learning loss for elementary students in priority schools, train kindergarten and first grade teachers in priority schools, and train Spanish facilitators in kindergarten through Grade 3 in one- and two-way immersion programs. The Reimagining the Use of Time strategic area will make innovative and impactful programming available at no cost to students in elementary grades on five non-instructional days during the 2022–2023 school year, and strengthen the current online out-of-school-time platform to reach students across the district. The Innovative School Models strategic area will, with partners, design the first MCPS wall-to-wall early college high school, provide students with access to digital coursework in career programs, and expand opportunities for students to engage in work-based learning opportunities including internships and apprenticeships with industry partners. The Transforming Neighborhoods Through Excellent Community Schools strategic area will increase restorative justice and mindfulness practices in community schools to decrease negative behaviors and office referrals, as well as establish partnerships to create and maintain in-school grocery stores for four community schools.

Use of Funds

Funds will be used to provide for:

- Position salaries;
- Non-position salaries;
- Associated employee benefits;
- Contractual services;
- Supplies and materials; and
- Equipment.

Recommended Resolution

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools has received notification from the Maryland State Department of Education that it will receive \$8,631,072 for the Maryland Leads Grant

Program funded through the Maryland State Department of Education portion of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III Fund, which was included in the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend, subject to County Council approval, a Fiscal Year 2023 supplemental appropriation of \$8,631,072 for the Maryland Leads Grant Program in the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Positions</u>	<u>Amount</u>
03 Instructional Salaries	32.8	\$ 3,327,915
04 Textbooks and Instructional Supplies		100,787
05 Other Instructional costs		2,558,052
12 Fixed Charges		2,644,318
<u>Total</u>	<u>32.8</u>	<u>\$ 8,631,072</u>

<u>Positions</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Classroom Teacher	4.8
Instructional Specialist	12.0
Wellness Coach	16.0
<u>Total</u>	<u>32.8</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:MBH:RR:iaw

Council Sponsored Special Appropriation: Racial Equity and Social Justice

SUBJECT

- Special Appropriation to the FY23 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Public Schools, \$8,631,072 for the Maryland Leads Grant Program. (Source of Funds: Federal E-Rate Reimbursement)
- Board of Education requested: August 26, 2022
- Council introduced: September 13, 2022
- Public Hearing and Action: scheduled September 20, 2022

Description and Background

The Maryland State Department of Education announced a new program where local education agencies can apply for grant funding in seven high leverage strategies to combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic: Maryland Leads Grant Program. The program is funded through federal relief funding to the State. The seven high-leverage strategies are:

- 1. Grow Your Own Staff**
- 2. Staff Support and Retention**
- 3. The Science of Reading**
- 4. Reimagining the Use of Time**
- 5. Innovative School Models**
- 6. Transforming Neighborhoods through Excellent Community Schools**
7. Tutoring Support

MCPS successfully applied for six of the strategies (bolded). The requested appropriation will programs and positions such as:

- Student-to-teacher pipeline
- Redesign of professional development models
- Support early education (K-Grade 3) in reading and Spanish two-way immersion
- Implement programming on non-instructional days for elementary students and strengthen online out of school time platform
- Develop the first wall-to-wall early college high school
- Increase restorative justice and establish in-school grocery stores in community schools

The positions funded by this grant are all new positions. Some of the positions may continue to support community schools through the Blueprint for Maryland's future. Other positions are only for the grant term. The grant ends on September 2024.

Data

The Office of Racial Equality and Social Justice has referenced the following data in analyses of related MCPS appropriations:

As of September 30, 2021, MCPS had a total enrollment of 160,564 students¹, operating 209² schools in the 2020-2021 school year. The majority of MCPS students are students of color with the following distribution by race and ethnicity: 21.8% Black/African American; 14.3% Asian; 32.8% Hispanic/Latino; 25.8% White; .1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 5% two or more races; no students reported being Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Students in MCPS also have diverse socioeconomic characteristics and are represented in the following service groups in 2021: 16.4% were enrolled in English as a Second language (ESOL) programs; 38.7% were in Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) programs; and 12.5% received special education instruction. Trends in MCPS student enrollment reveal that the school system has become more diverse and is largely a socioeconomic and racially segregated system³.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, students of color experienced disparities in resources, opportunities, and outcomes across educational settings (K-12 and post-secondary)⁴. These disparities are explored in a 2019 Montgomery County Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) report, MCPS Performance and Opportunity Gaps⁵. A growing body of evidence suggests that racial, ethnic, and service group disparities have been exaggerated by the pandemic. The US Department of Education explained in a June 2021 report how the pandemic has impacted students of all ages and backgrounds, noting the following challenges for students of color, students with disabilities, and students experiencing the destabilizing effects of new or persistent financial insecurity:

- Live in households where adults are more likely to experience job losses or covid-19 exposure, creating or exaggerating economic constraints and negative health outcomes.
- Disparities in access to mental health services or the full range of academic and wrap around services that a school provides.
- Barriers in access to technology or necessary supports to stay connected to school and educational opportunities.
- Amplification of language barriers for students and households with English-language learners.

¹ MCPS Data Dashboard. Learning Accountability and Results. "Enrollment: Individual Measures". Available at: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/data/LAR-charts/enrollment.html>

² "About MCPS". Available at: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/about/>

³ Elaine Bonner-Tompkins. MCPS Performance and Opportunity Gaps. Report Number 2019-4. December 2019. Available at: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2019%20Reports/OLOReport2019-14.pdf>

⁴ Education in a Pandemic: The Disparate Impact of Covid-19 on America's Students. US Department of Education Office for Civil Rights. June 2021. Available at: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/20210608-impacts-ofcovid19.pdf>

⁵ Elaine Bonner-Tompkins.

- Disrupted educational opportunities for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and;
- Overall, the report noted for all groups slow to non-existent recovery in academic achievement due to preexisting resource and opportunity gaps that produce disparate student performance outcomes.

Council Staff Comments

As stated in the Board of Education resolution, “MCPS engaged in a comprehensive planning process to develop the application that included meetings with leadership and specialists as well as gathering stakeholder feedback.” This special appropriation will support students in concentration of poverty zones, students impacted by pandemic related learning loss, in-school stability, and college and career readiness. Low-income students and students of color will most likely benefit from these programs as reflected in other Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice impact statements for MCPS grant appropriation requests.