



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Craig Howard, Senior Legislative Analyst
Purpose: To receive testimony/final action - vote expected
Keywords: MCPS

AGENDA ITEM #2
May 12, 2020
Public Hearing/Action

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the FY20 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Public Schools, \$303,094 for a Comprehensive School Safety Initiative Program Grant (Source of Funds: RAND Corporation Grant)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The County Council will hold a public hearing and consider action on a special appropriation to the FY20 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Public Schools, \$303,094 for a Comprehensive School Safety Initiative Program Grant. The source of funds is a RAND Corporation Grant.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Board of Education requested this appropriation on March 23. The County Executive recommended approval on April 22. The Council introduced this appropriation on May 5.
- This appropriation will provide funds to support a study, conducted jointly by MCPS and the RAND Corporation, on effective school discipline practices. The study will examine the effectiveness of combining the existing Restorative Justice practice with the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports method. If the new approach is successful, the program will be implemented district-wide.

This report contains:

County Executive Recommendation (April 22, 2020)	©1
Draft Special Appropriation Resolution	©2-3
Board of Education Request (March 23, 2020)	©4-8

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Marc Elrich
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

April 22, 2020

TO: Sidney Katz, President, County Council

FROM: *Arcy Klein for*
Marc Elrich, County Executive

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation #20-461 to the FY20 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Public Schools
Comprehensive School Safety Initiative Program Grant, \$303,094

I am recommending a supplemental appropriation to the FY20 Operating Budget of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) in the amount of \$303,094 for the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative Program Grant. This appropriation will provide funds to support a study, conducted jointly by MCPS and the RAND Corporation, on effective school discipline practices. The study will examine the effectiveness of combining the existing Restorative Justice practice with the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports method. If the new approach is successful, the program will be implemented district-wide.

This supplemental appropriation is needed to provide spending authority for grant funds received from the RAND Corporation. As a grant award, there is no effect on the County's current or future maintenance of effort requirements.

I recommend that the County Council approves this supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$303,094 and specify the source of funds as Grant.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

ME:rh

Attachments

Resolution No: _____

Introduced: _____

Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #20-461 to the FY20 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Public Schools
Comprehensive School Safety Initiative Program Grant, \$303,094

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 County Executive has requested the following FY20 Operating Budget appropriation increases for Montgomery County Public Schools

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$196,324	\$106,770	\$0	\$303,094	RAND Corporation Grant

3. This increase is needed to provide spending authority for the use of grant funds received from the RAND Corporation. As a grant award, there is no effect on the County's current or future maintenance of effort requirements.
4. The County Executive recommends a special appropriation to the FY20 Operating Budget in the amount of \$303,094 for the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative Program Grant and specifies that the source of funds will be grant funds from RAND Corporation.
5. Notice of public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

Action

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

A special appropriation to the FY20 Operating Budget of 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>
\$196,324	\$106,770	\$0	\$303,094	RAND Corporation Grant

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council

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

March 24, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Marc Elrich, County Executive
The Honorable Sidney A. Katz, President,
Montgomery County Council

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Transmittal of Board of Education Agenda Item #3.15

Recommended Fiscal Year 2020 Supplemental Appropriation for Comprehensive
School Safety Initiative Program Grant

BOE Meeting Date: March 23, 2020

Amount: \$303,094

Type of Action: Approval

JRS:DKM:jp

Attachment

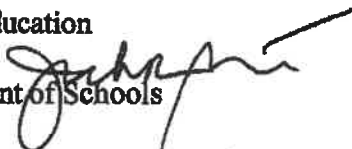
Copy to:
Mr. Marella
Montgomery County Office of Management and Budget

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

March 23, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Recommended Fiscal Year 2020 Supplemental Appropriation for Comprehensive School Safety Initiative Program Grant

Recommendation in Brief

Authorization is requested to receive and expend, subject to County Council approval, a supplemental appropriation of \$303,094 from the National Institute of Justice through the RAND Corporation for the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative program grant for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020.

Background

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) implemented a new Code of Conduct beginning with the 2014–2015 school year. This Code of Conduct envisions a new approach to student conduct and discipline, and specifically, wrongdoing and the actions that follow. The Code of Conduct was predicated on the belief that addressing student behavior with fairness and equity through clear, appropriate, and consistent expectations and consequences supports an educational environment that is safe, orderly, and conducive to learning. Simultaneously, MCPS began providing information and training on Restorative Justice. Restorative Justice is an ideology that seeks to change how a community views wrongdoing and responds to someone who has harmed a member of the community. Restorative Justice is a focused approach on school climate and discipline that centers on wrongdoing and the harm it causes to a member or members of the school community. Restorative Justice aims to teach the student(s) who committed the harm to acknowledge that one's actions affects others in the community, to recognize the harm caused, to accept responsibility and accountability, and to ultimately work to repair the harm in order to reintegrate with the community. Additionally, Restorative Justice is a focused approach to student and staff well-being centering on self-care and restoration, addressing issues such as compassion fatigue, isolation, and marginalization and providing structured and proven practices to mitigate these challenges.

We agree that a student who causes harm must be held accountable; however, arguably as important, Restorative Justice teaches the student how to empathize with those he or she harmed and to learn the skills needed to avoid making similar choices in the future. Historically, suspensions fill the need for accountability through retribution; however, suspensions fall short in their efforts to reduce recidivism or encourage prosocial behavior. The social-emotional learning that occurs implicitly in Restorative Justice provides therapeutic responses to wrongdoing to address the issues that often are the root of harmful student behavior. Furthermore, schools in which Restorative Justice is implemented with fidelity have successfully reduced the disproportionate suspension rate of Black or African American and Hispanic/Latino students and the overall suspension rate for all students.

MCPS in collaboration with the RAND Corporation and in partnership with the National Institute of Justice proposed a Comprehensive School Safety Initiative Category 2 efficacy and cost/benefit study to test the effects of combining the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program with Restorative Justice practices to improve school safety and discipline. This study addresses the “Implicit Bias, School Discipline, and School Coordination with the Criminal Justice System” section of the initiative. We hypothesize that these two programs are complementary and are more effective together to improve school safety and discipline, and the prosocial approach shared by both programs will reduce racial disparities in the application of consequences. The proposed study builds on that research base to determine the effects of combining the two programs in randomly assigned elementary and middle schools in MCPS. We expect this study will produce important evidence on the effectiveness of these common interventions and the potential synergies between the two programs. In FY 2019 MCPS received a three-year grant from the RAND Corporation through National Institute of Justice as a component of its Comprehensive School Safety Initiative grant for the period July 17, 2017, through December 2020.

MCPS has received an amendment increasing the grant funding by \$303,094 and extending the end date to December 31, 2021. The total grant funding is \$1,628,484. The RAND Corporation will evaluate the fidelity of implementation of the programs, evaluate their cost-effectiveness, and assess their impact on school climate and safety as well as racial disparities in disciplinary practices. MCPS is an ideal school district to test the implementation and effectiveness of PBIS and Restorative Justice programs, and the combination of the two. The school district has 207 schools; it is the largest school district in Maryland and the fourteenth largest district in the United States.

Objectives of the Project

1. Improve behavioral outcomes, as measured by:
 - Student and staff perceptions of school safety;
 - Incidents of behavioral infractions;
 - Incidents of violent behavioral infractions; and
 - Incidents of juvenile justice involvement.

2. Reduce use of exclusionary practices, such as out-of-school suspensions.
3. Reduce racial disparities in punishments for misbehaviors.
4. Improve students' conflict resolution skills.
5. Improve student attendance.
6. Improve academic outcomes.

Support of Board of Education Mission

The proposed study will result in the implementation of a Restorative Justice program in a diverse, rapidly changing district in need of additional solutions to promote school discipline and reduce racial disparities. If the combination of PBIS and Restorative Justice programs or Restorative Justice alone is successful, MCPS will benefit from enhanced school climate and safety, prosocial development among students and staff, and an improved learning environment throughout the district. The results of the research will further be used to determine if the programs should be expanded to non-treatment schools. In this way, in addition to the students and staff in the treatment schools who may benefit directly from the grant, the study has the potential to benefit all schools in the district in the next several years.

Use of Funds

Funds will be used to provide for:

- Administrative and instructional salaries;
- Associated employee benefits;
- Administrative overhead;
- Supplies and materials; and
- Contractual services.

Recommended Resolution

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools has received notification from the RAND Corporation that it received an additional \$303,094 for the National Institute of Justice's Comprehensive School Safety Initiative program grant; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools has numerous students participating in Restorative Justice and Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports programs, now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend, subject to County Council approval, a Fiscal Year 2020 supplemental appropriation of \$303,094 for the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative program grant; in the following categories:

	<u>Category</u>	<u>Positions</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	Administration	0.5	\$ 43,110
3	Instructional Salaries	1.0	153,214
4	Textbooks and Instructional Supplies		
5	Other Instructional Costs		71,431
12	Fixed Charges		35,339
	<u>Total</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>\$ 303,094</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.

JRS:DKM:amh:jp