

Date: April 25, 2019
For ACTION
For INFORMATION
Board Agenda: Yes
No

FROM: Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Theresa A. Werner, M.Ed., J.D., Executive Director, Office of Specialized Instruction

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grant

SUMMARY

Under the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004), its federal implementing regulations, and the Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Students with Disabilities in Virginia (effective July 7, 2009), local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to submit a Local Special Education Annual Plan (Annual Plan) for providing special education and related services to children with disabilities. The 2017-2018 Annual Plan serves as the formal agreement between the a local school board and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) for implementing federal and state laws and regulations governing these services. Accordingly, the disbursement of state and federal funds appropriated for the education of children with disabilities is contingent upon the approval of this plan.

BACKGROUND

The application for the 2019-2020 school year delineates the required set aside amount for children with disabilities placed by their parents in private schools. The funding for this group of students is based on a formula that takes into account the total number of students with disabilities in the public schools and the total number of students with disabilities who are parentally placed in private elementary and secondary schools located in Alexandria. Additionally, this year, ACPS was deemed to disproportionately identify black students as emotionally disturbed. Accordingly, ACPS must set aside fifteen percent of grant funds to provide Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) to address this issue. A plan to provide those services will be developed in conjunction with VDOE.

Prior to submitting the Annual Plan to VDOE, each school division shall review the Annual Plan with the local Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), and submit the Annual Plan to the local school board for approval. The Annual Plan was shared with SEAC members on April 10, 2019. The staffing included in the Annual Plan specifically supports the main initiatives within the Office of Specialized Instruction, which are enumerated in the Office of Specialized Instruction Project Plan. CEIS services will be provided by existing staff and two new grant staff positions.

In addition, funding for materials and supplies is included to primarily address the need for reading and math instructional materials and supplies; instructional supplies; software and online charges; as well as equipment for students with hearing and visual impairments. We also plan to purchase therapy supplies, assistive technology software, and augmentative communication devices to support students who require these materials in order to benefit from their instructional program.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the 2019-2020 Annual Plan for submission to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

IMPACT

The approval of the Annual Plan is essential to improve outcomes and support instructional programming for students with disabilities through the proposed funding of \$3,264,69.00 for Part B, Section 611 Flow-Through Funds and \$84,601.00 for Part B, Section 619 Preschool Funds.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 190425_Individuals_with_Disabilities_Education_Act_Grant

CONTACT INFORMATION

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