

I certify that the information provided on (1) the distribution and allocation of funds under Chapter 771 of 2019, including at the school level, and (2) other counts reported on The Blueprint for Maryland's Future reporting survey, are accurate.

Local Education Agency:

Allegany

Superintendent of Schools:

William J. Blank

Date:

11/27/19

Contact Information

In the event that any follow-up questions are necessary, please provide the following contact information.

Local School System: **Allegany**

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Date: **11/26/2019**

1. Enhanced Special Education Funding Allegany

Background

In both fiscal 2020 and 2021, an additional \$65.5 million is provided for special education services for students with disabilities, with specified allocations to each local education agency (LEA). If any of this funding is not needed to fully implement individualized education programs (IEP) and 504 plans for students with disabilities, each local board of education must use the remaining funding to implement other recommendations made in the Commission's January 2019 Interim Report.

Special Education	Total FY 2020 Allocation	Funding Allocated for IEP and 504 Plans	Funding Allocated for Other Commission Priorities
Central Office	114,003	53,681	60,322
Schools (If applicable)			
Bel Air Elementary	66,121	66,121	
Frost Elementary	66,121	66,121	
Mount Savage Elementary	103,867	103,867	
Cash Valley Elementary	103,867	103,867	
Flintstone Elementary	66,121	66,121	
Northeast Elementary	123,867	123,867	
Cresaptown Elementary	57,746	57,746	
George's Creek Elementary	37,746	37,746	
Beall Elementary	37,746	37,746	
Parkside Elementary	37,746	37,746	
West Side Elementary	37,746	37,746	
South Penn Elementary	37,746	37,746	
John Humbird Elementary	37,746	37,746	
Mountain Ridge High School	103,867	103,867	
Fort Hill High School	37,746	37,746	
Allegany High School	37,746	37,746	
Center for Career and Technical Education	37,746	37,746	
Braddock Middle School	37,746	37,746	
Washington Middle School	37,746	37,746	
Westmar Middle School	37,746	37,746	
Mount Savage Middle School	37,746	37,746	
Total	1,296,278	1,235,956	60,322

Narrative

1. How are the additional funds being used to implement IEP or 504 plans? Explain what services are being provided. For example, how many additional special education teachers were hired or are budgeted?

Overall, additional staff will include seven teachers and 18 Instructional assistants. Those staff will support the IEP and 504 plans of students at their respective schools. The allocation for Central office will be used to purchase materials of instruction to allow for the implementation of specially designed instruction.

2. If any funds were not needed to implement IEP or 504 plans, please explain why those funds were not needed for special education services.

The district believes that the additional resources allocated to the IEP and 504 plans through the hiring of additional teachers and instructional assistants will adequately meet the needs of the students requiring those services. The district will reevaluate the results at the end of the year.

3. If any additional funds are not being allocated for special education, please indicate the amount and use or planned use of the funds. Be as specific as possible.

\$9,322 will be used for professional develop and training on Restorative Practices. \$6,000 will be used for the district's equity coordinator to attend a national conference addressing improved academic and behavioral outcomes for students representing minority groups. \$45,000 will be allocated to hire an Active Learning Lab (ALL) classroom coach. This person will be instrumental in the continued rollout and support of ALL classrooms within the district. Furthermore, this position helps promote quality instructional practices which better meets the needs of special education students in a general education setting.

4. Will your LEA spend at least as much State and local funds (in total) on special education in FY 2020 as in FY 2019? Explain.

Yes. The district views this grant as additional supplemental resources to help to continue to meet the needs of the special education population within the district.

Narrative

1. If you have at least 40 qualifying schools, explain how funding was distributed. Please attach your full plan.

John Humbird Elementary is the only qualifying school within Allegany County Public Schools (ACPS).

2. If any eligible school has not hired a community school coordinator please explain why. For all other schools please provide examples of strategic partnerships that have been developed and other responsibilities of the community school coordinator.

ACPS has hired a community school coordinator. The coordinator works collaboratively with families to assist in addressing their needs. They are also developing a needs survey to better understand the needs of the school community in order that more effective partnerships may be established. The coordinator is also working with the district's Judy Center coordinator to collaborate on family service provisions and best practices.

3. Explain if any eligible school does not have full-time health coverage. Explain the implementation model to provide coverage.

ACPS contracts with the local health department to provide full-time and after school health coverage.

4. Describe any wraparound services funded provided using any extra funds. Be specific by school. (If applicable. If just getting started explain plan.)

ACPS is beginning the establishment of a community school at John Humbird elementary. Wraparound services are being planned in the following areas: Family needs, Early Childhood, Extended Learning, Physical and Mental Health, Social Emotional Learning, and Professional Development.

5. Explain plan to complete the required needs assessments by July 1, 2020.

The needs assessment is currently being developed and will be distributed to families using a variety of methods. The needs assessment will be analyzed to better inform wraparound services needed within the school community. The distribution and analysis will be completed prior to the July 1, 2020 deadline.

2. Were some tutors assigned to more than one school? If so, how many tutors worked in more than one school?

N/A

3. Please provide information about the service model used, including the selection of students.

TSI funds are being used to add a Literacy coach (half time in each school) in two of the remaining pilot schools. The coaching support will focus on increasing evidence based reading practices that target supports for struggling students as well as supports for Tier 1 instruction. A set of the Geodes materials will be purchased for each elementary school to promote carryover of Tier 2 skill based applications. By providing decodable books that align with current intervention programs, it will allow interventionists and classroom teachers to increase collaboration on reading intervention and help students have access to leveled materials throughout the day.

4. Supplemental Pre-K Grants Allegany

Background:

These grants are expanded to include State funding to a local education agency based on every four-year-old in full-day prekindergarten as of September 30 of each year, regardless of whether full-day services are available to all four-year-olds in the county's prekindergarten program. Also, the supplemental grants are extended to fiscal 2021.

Please answer the following questions

Enter responses below

1. How many total full-day four-year-old slots are being provided in fiscal 2020?	34
2. How many of the total four-year-old full-day slots were added in fiscal 2020 through this grant?	0
3. Of the slots that were funded in fiscal 2020 through the grant, how many were also funded through:	
a. Pre-K Expansion Grant (competitive grant through MSDE)	0
b. Head Start	0
4. How many slots were provided by a community provider (excluding Head Start) in fiscal 2020?	0
5. How many slots were converted from half day to full-day for fiscal 2020?	0

Additional Comments:

ACPS agrees that a high quality PreK program has tremendous benefits for students as they continue on their academic path. Historically, ACPS has provided PreK opportunities for all students, not just students meeting the priority one and two criteria for enrollment. As such, the district has utilized this grant to supplement its existing PreK programs that were already more extensive than required by law. Full day opportunities exist at South Penn elementary which was originally based upon its higher concentration of poverty and the location of the Judy Center.

5. Teacher Salary Incentive Grants Allegany

Background

This program, administered by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), provides grants to county boards to increase teacher salaries to improve recruitment and retention of high-quality teachers. In each of fiscal 2020 and 2021, the State must provide a grant to a local board if the local board provides a negotiated (or planned) and funded average salary increase for teachers of at least 3.0% in fiscal 2020. However, funding is dependent on local boards providing required documentation. A county that did not receive a State grant in fiscal 2020, may apply for the grant in fiscal 2021 and must submit documentation showing that the required salary increase will be funded in fiscal 2021.

Local boards of education may apply to MSDE for grants by specified dates. A State grant may be used only to provide an additional salary increase to teachers, as defined in the bill; priority should be given to increasing starting teacher salaries and salaries for teachers with less than five years of teaching experience. In each of fiscal 2020 and 2021 the State must distribute \$75.0 million to eligible counties for the grants, including specified allocations for each county.

Narrative

1. MSDE has provided copies of your approved application. If you have implemented your salary increases differently than your approved grant application, please explain.

The salary increases were implemented as planned with a focus on increasing starting pay for new teachers in their first five years while also increasing overall teacher pay.

2. To continue to receive the State grant in fiscal 2021, the local board must continue to provide the 3% salary increase to teachers in fiscal 2021. Please indicate if your county board will budget to continue the 3% increase in fiscal 2021. Also if your county has completed negotiations, please indicate the negotiated teacher salary increases in fiscal 2021, in addition to the 3% increase provided in fiscal 2020 and the use of the State grant in fiscal 2020 and 2021.

While it is early in the 2021 budget process, early indications are that the board will budget to continue the 3% increase from fiscal 2020 in fiscal 2021. The district has begun negotiations with its four bargaining units, but do not anticipate negotiations being completed in the near term as the entire contracts are open for all four bargaining units this year.

6. Mental Health Coordinators Allegany

Answers

1. Has the district designated or hired a mental health services coordinator? (Yes/No)	Yes
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2. If yes, did the district designate an existing staff member as the mental health services coordinator, or hire a new employee to fill that role? (Existing Employee/New Employee)	Existing Employee
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3. If yes, does the mental health services coordinator serve full-time in that position or have other responsibilities? (Full time/Other Responsibilities)	Full Time
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4. Briefly describe key accomplishments of the mental health services coordinator (e.g. , expansion of mental health services, collaboration with community resources, training for school personnel).

ACPS recently approved a budget amendment that will allow for the hiring of four licensed mental health professionals throughout the district to help meet students vast social and emotional needs. The mental health coordinator will direct the work of these professionals to ensure the efficient and effective use of resources within the district. ACPS has hired a social and emotional behavioral coach at the RESTART program. We have continued to collaborate with the Allegany county health department and Villa Maria to provide in-school counseling. The district also held a district wide student mental health fair and are futher expanding it this year to each comprehensive high school. There is also a collaboration with local law enforcement who go to each of our schools and discuss the opiod epidemic that is impacting the community. ACPS is also offering mental health first aid to staff members. A quarterly mental health newsletter is being published.